

# DIOCESE OF LIMERICK

# VOCATIONS



MAY 2020

"Do whatever  
He tells you."

-Mary, Mother of God

## IN THIS ISSUE...

Our Lady and the Priesthood

The Call of St. Faustina

We Go Together or We Risk Not Going at All:  
Supporting your Friend in Discernment

Upcoming Discernment Events

Films on Discernment and Vocations

Recommended Reading



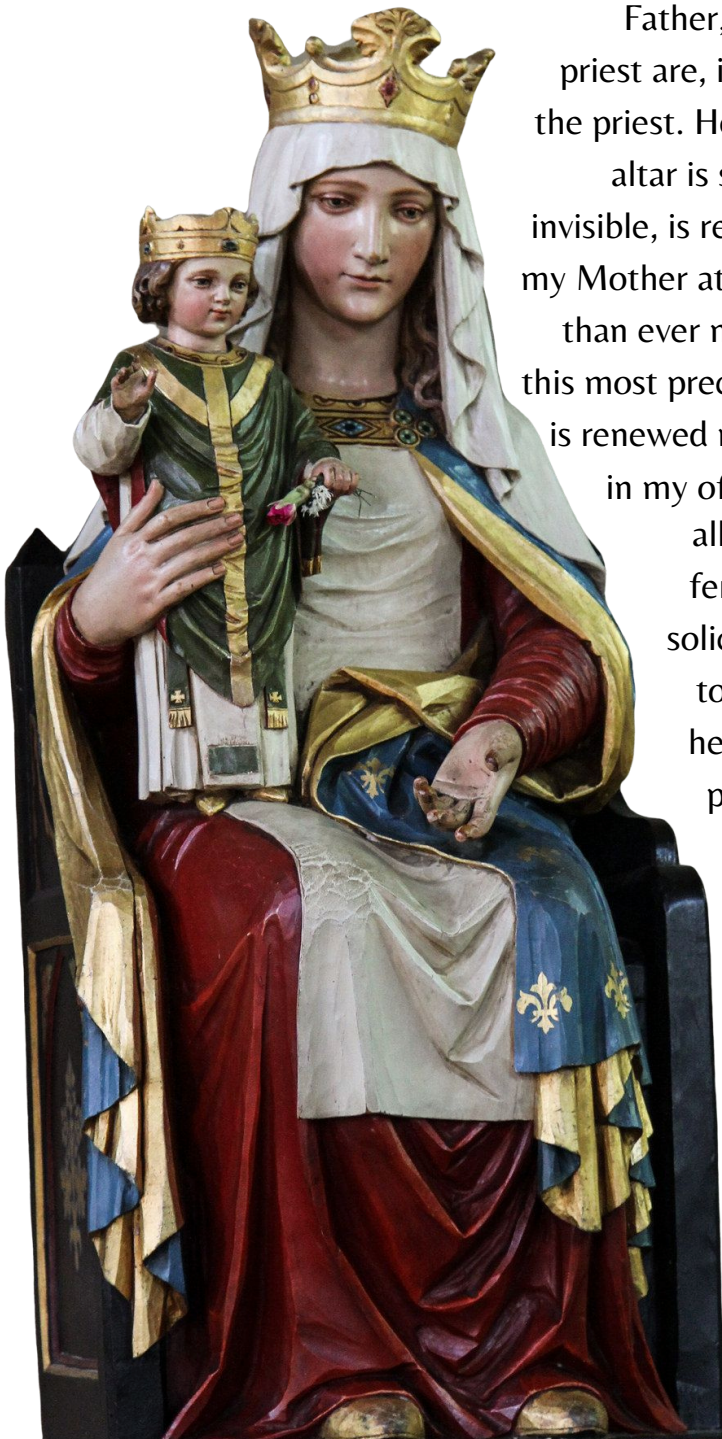
# OUR LADY AND THE PRIESTHOOD

My Mother is at the service of all my priests. She is their Mother, but she is also the humble handmaid of the Lord. My Mother is attentive to the ministry of the priest and to his personal spiritual needs, as she was attentive to my ministry and to all my needs during my life on earth. I Myself chose to have my Mother at my side at the Hour of my Supreme Sacrifice. I gave her to my beloved disciple John so that all my priests would understand that my Mother's place is at the side of every priest of mine, especially when he stands at the altar to offer my Sacrifice to the

Father, and to speak and act in my Name. The hands of every priest are, in some way, held in my Mother's hands. She acts with the priest. Her participation in the Holy Sacrifice renewed upon the altar is silent but efficacious. Her presence at the altar, though invisible, is real. My Church has long acknowledged the presence of my Mother at every offering of my Holy Sacrifice, but it is now more than ever necessary that priests should deepen their awareness of this most precious gift. She is the Coredemptrix. Just as my Sacrifice is renewed mystically in every Mass, her offering, her participation in my offering, is also renewed. The priest who knows this and allows it to penetrate his heart will be graced with a holy fervour in every Mass he celebrates. My Mother is full of solicitude for all her priest sons. She wants to see them go to the altar clothed in humility, in purity, in innocence of heart, and in profound adoration. She accompanies every priest in the sacred actions of his ministry. She sustains every priest by means of her all-powerful intercession.

My Mother is the guardian of all priests and it is my desire that she be recognized as such. The priest who knows this will have a refuge in temptation; he will be safe under her protecting mantle. If he should fall out of weakness, or negligence, she will be there to raise him up and to direct his steps into the way of penitence and of holiness.

-FROM "IN SINU JESU," THE JOURNAL OF A PRIEST





# THE CALL OF ST. FAUSTINA



From the age of seven, I experienced the definite call of God, the grace of a vocation to the religious life. It was in the seventh year of my life that, for the first time, I heard God's voice in my soul.

[In] the eighteenth year of my life [I made] an earnest appeal to my parents for permission to enter the convent. My parents [gave a] flat refusal. After this refusal, I turned myself over to the vain things of life, paying no attention to the call of grace, although my soul found no satisfaction in any of these things. The incessant call of grace caused me much anguish; I tried, however, to stifle it with amusements. Interiorly, I shunned God, turning with all my heart to creatures. However, God's grace won out in my soul.

Once I was at a dance with one of my sisters. While everybody was having a good time, my soul was experiencing deep torments. As I began to dance. I suddenly saw Jesus at my side, Jesus racked with pain, stripped of His clothing, all covered with wounds, who

spoke these words to me: How long shall I put up with you and how long will you keep putting Me off? At that moment the charming music stopped, [and] the company I was with vanished from my sight; there remained Jesus and I. I took a seat by my dear sister, pretending to have a headache in order to cover up what took place in my soul. After a while I slipped out unnoticed, leaving my sister and all my companions behind and made my way to the Cathedral of Saint Stanislaus Kostka. It was almost twilight; there were only a few people in the cathedral. Paying no attention to what was happening around me, I fell prostrate before the Blessed Sacrament and begged the Lord to be good enough to give me to understand what I should do next.

Then I heard these words: Go at once to Warsaw; you will enter a convent there. I rose from prayer, came home, and took care of things that needed to be settled. As best I could, I confided to my sister what took place within my soul. I told her to say good-bye to our parents, and thus, in my one dress, with no other belongings, I arrived in Warsaw.

When I got off the train and saw that all were going their separate ways, I was overcome with fear. What am I to do? To whom should I turn, as I know no one? So I said to the Mother of God, "Mary, lead me, guide me." Immediately I heard these words within me telling me to leave the town and to go to a certain nearby village where I would find a safe lodging for the night. I did so and found in fact that everything was just as the Mother of God told me.

Very early the next day, I rode back into the city and entered the first church I saw. There I began to pray to know further the will of God. Holy Masses were being celebrated one after another. During one of them I heard the words: Go to that priest and tell him everything; he will tell you what to do next. After the Mass I went to the sacristy. I told the priest all that had taken place in my soul, and I asked him to advise me where to take the veil, in which religious order.

The priest was surprised at first, but told me to have strong confidence that God would provide for my future. "For the time being," he said, "I shall send you to a pious lady with whom you will stay until you enter a convent." When I called on this lady, she received me very kindly. During the time I stayed with her, I was looking for a convent, but at whatever convent door I knocked, I was turned away. Sorrow gripped my heart, and I said to the Lord Jesus, "Help me; don't leave me alone." At last I knocked on our door.

When Mother Superior, the present Mother General Michael came out to meet me, she told me, after a short conversation, to go to the Lord of the house and ask whether He would accept me. I understood at once that I was to ask this of the Lord Jesus. With great joy, I went to the chapel and asked Jesus: "Lord of this house, do You accept me? This is how one of these sisters told me to put the question to You." Immediately I heard this voice: I do accept; you are in My Heart. When I returned from the chapel, Mother Superior asked first of all, "Well, has the Lord accepted you?" I answered, "Yes." "If the Lord has accepted, then I also will accept."

This is how I was accepted.



# WE GO TOGETHER OR WE RISK NOT GOING AT ALL

## SUPPORTING YOUR FRIEND IN DISCERNMENT

### KEEP IT ON THE DOWN-LOW

If you hear on the grapevine that a friend or acquaintance is discerning a vocation, keep it to yourself. It is their business, not yours, or anybody else's. They need the space, the time, and the freedom to properly discern without feeling like the whole world is watching them. And it can feel like that.

### PRAY FOR HIM/HER REGULARLY

This is the best thing you can do for a friend who is discerning their vocation. Prayerfully accompany them as they seek to follow the Lord and listen to the gentle whispers of the Holy Spirit in the depths of their hearts.

### TREAT DISCERNMENT WITH REVERENCE

if they do share their discernment with you, treat this knowledge with reverence. They have shared the promptings of the Holy Spirit in their life, and of their generous response to this call. This is holy ground. Please treat it as such.




### KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

You are so excited for them. But remember, it is their call and their vocation. It is their life. Let them share it with those whom they wish to. You are filled with excitement and joy for them and the Church, but let them share their news with whom they wish, and when they wish.

from <https://aleteia.org/2017/11/03/your-friend-is-considering-a-vocation-ssssh/>



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Vigil of Prayer for Vocations

Saturday 2nd May

Please join in praying for vocations to the  
priesthood and religious life

Visit [www.limerickdiocese.org](http://www.limerickdiocese.org) for resources

Click on the icon to visit the website



want to know more about  
Religious Life?

**CLICK**  
Come and See

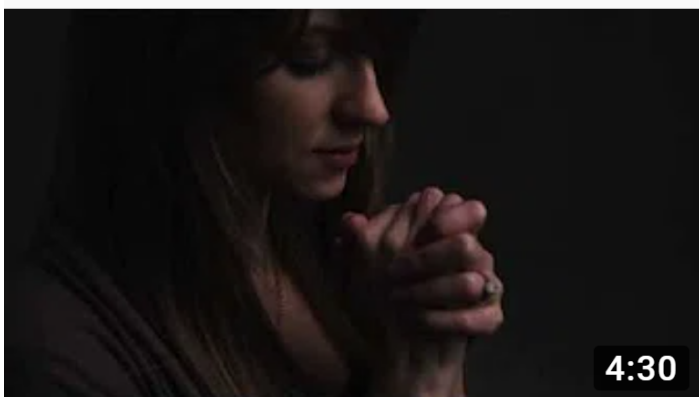
JOIN THE ONLINE DISCUSSION  
WITH THE Dominican Sisters

FOR SINGLE CATHOLIC  
WOMEN AGES 16-30

Saturday, May 2nd at 7:30pm

EMAIL [LIMERICK@OP-TN.ORG](mailto:LIMERICK@OP-TN.ORG) TO REGISTER

# FILMS ON DISCERNMENT



3 Spiritual Exercises to Discern Your Vocation



The Day My Life Changed Forever





What Does God Want Me to Do?



National Vocation Awareness Week

# RECOMMENDED READING

## IN SINU JESU



*When Heart Speaks to Heart*

THE JOURNAL OF A PRIEST AT PRAYER

A BENEDICTINE MONK

Click on the icon to order this book from Amazon

In 2007, Our Lord and Our Lady began to speak to the heart of a monk in the silence of adoration... He was prompted to write down what he received, and thus was born *In Sinu Jesu*, whose pages shine with an intense luminosity and heart-warming fervour that speak directly to the inner and outer needs of our time with a unique power to console and challenge. The pages of this remarkable record of spiritual communication range across, and plunge into, many fundamental aspects of the spiritual life: loving and being loved by God; the practice of prayer in all its dimensions; the unique power of Eucharistic adoration; trustful surrender to divine providence; the homage of silence; the dignity of liturgical prayer and the sacraments; the mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; priestly identity and apostolic fruitfulness; the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints in our lives; sin, woundedness, mercy, healing, and purification; the longing for heaven and the longed-for renewal of the Catholic Church on earth. Given the harmony of its content with the teaching of Sacred Scripture, Catholic Tradition, and well-known works of the mystics, it is eminently fitting that *In Sinu Jesu* be published in full at this time (it has been granted the imprimatur). Passages from this journal have already influenced the spiritual lives of priests, religious, and laymen—may it now give light and warmth, consolation and renewed conviction, to readers throughout the world. Author: A Benedictine Monk.

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**VOCATION OFFICE**

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