

**Catholic Diocese of Youngstown**  
*Office of Vocations*

**Planting the Seeds**  
**Vocation Ideas for Adults to Use at Home or School**

*How can adults encourage vocations? Some directly talk about vocations. Others simply try to help youth to learn Christian values. Both kinds of encouragement are helpful!*

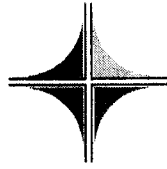
*No person can do all the things listed below. But what one or two things can you do?*

1. Talk positively and enthusiastically about the activities of priests, lay ministers, sisters, permanent deacons and brothers.
2. Encourage role-playing for the very young; help them to think about ways in which they can care for people.
3. Make prayer a normal part of family decision making.
4. Watch the way each child chooses a style of being with people. Some children are organizers (teachers, doctors, lawyers, homemakers, etc.). Some children like to play alone (researchers, writers, etc.). Help them develop their particular gifts. Compliment them on their gifts.
5. Take part in parish activities as a family. Give children a sense of joy that comes from belonging and serving.
6. Look for opportunities to share with those who have less. Teach them to share.
7. What is your response when a neighbor is hospitalized? Unemployed? Lonely? Misunderstood?
8. Encourage them to volunteer their time, energy, and gifts.
9. Discuss items in the news that speak of a commitment to values, service or Church stances on issues.
10. Pray with and for members of the family, parish, and neighborhood.
11. Watch for television shows or movies that present heroic lifestyles. In particular watch shows on Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, etc. Help them to realize these are important people with special dreams.

**(OVER)**

12. Know/discuss your feelings about children choosing to give their lives in Church ministry.
13. Encourage school projects that are service oriented.
14. Speak of your life as a vocation.
15. Set aside a "family time" each week - give each child time to share.
16. Encourage children to make birthday/Christmas presents for one another - love and concern is more important than a costly gift.
17. Give children opportunities to lead prayer and to pray in their own words.
18. Tell stories about your "falling in love." Let children see the care you have for one another. Share equally in the tasks of creating a Christian home.
19. Invite priests, brothers, sisters and permanent deacons into your home.
20. Plan an adult evening with 4-5 couples and a priest, brother, sister or permanent deacon to have your questions answered.
21. Challenge young adults to look at a Church related vocation, tell them about the gifts of ministry you see in them.
22. Share with your children why you chose the profession that you did and how your lifestyle choice helps you to live it well.
23. Dream with them about what the church of the future can be like.
24. Another idea you know of?

[www.YoungstownVocations.org](http://www.YoungstownVocations.org)



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**QUALITIES TO LOOK FOR IN A YOUNG PERSON WHO MAY HAVE A VOCATION  
TO THE PRIESTHOOD OR RELIGIOUS LIFE**

As one of the faithful you may be the way by which a young man or woman is able to hear God's call. When you recognize some of the following characteristics in a person, have the courage to approach him or her and invite that person to consider a calling to the religious life or the priesthood.

Such qualities include, but are not limited to:

- An ability to help others and to relate well with peers and adults.
- A growing relationship with God that is demonstrated through prayer, service to others, and involvement in parish ministry.
- Is a believing, practicing member of a Catholic community.
- Has a gift of leadership that draws others in and promotes a spirit of collaborative teamwork which affirms and challenges.
- Courage to take a stand to "do the right thing", even when it is not popular.
- Exhibits good intelligence and has done well academically.
- Has a thirst to know Christ and wants to bring His teachings to the world
- A witness to others by word, action and deed on how to live as a disciple of Christ.
- A concern for issues that affects others, such social justice and peace. A willingness to serve to help right these issues.
- Demonstrates good people skills, lives with a sense of hope and joy, and possesses a good sense of humor.
- The young person is dependable and trustworthy.
- Lives as a good Christian man or woman who shows stability in his or her lifestyle.
- Others see in the young man or woman the potential for a calling to the priesthood or religious life.

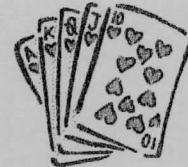
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# WINTERFEST FAMILY GAME NIGHT

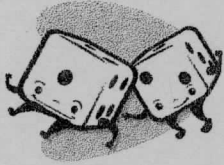
Sunday, January 15, 2012

5:00 - ???

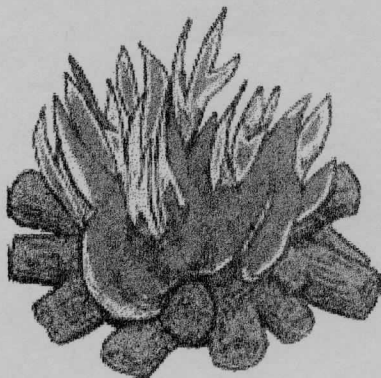
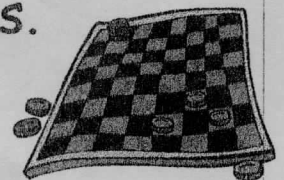
IHM Parish Center



One game, two games, old game, new games.  
Board games, card games, dice games, floor  
games....just bring your favorite.



Come join us for our 1<sup>st</sup> Family Game Night.  
We'll supply tables, pizza and beverages.



There will also be a nice warm bon-  
fire outside sponsored by the  
Knights of Columbus.

## Blessing of your Home

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 8th, the Magi went into the House, saw the child with Mary His Mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. The door to Our Homes is also the door to Where God Lives. Begin the New Year by saying a prayer of blessing with your loved ones.

### Instructions

With a piece of chalk or a lump of charcoal, inscribe this above a door to your home:

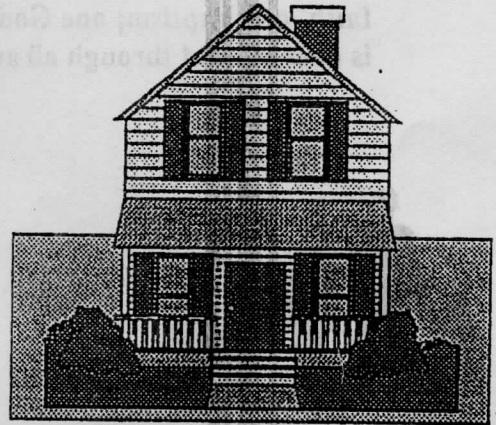
Legend has it that these letters stand for the names of the Magi -- Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The letters C, M, and B are also an abbreviation for "Christ Bless This Dwelling" -- in Latin ("Christus Mansionem Benedicat.")

Blessing the doorway is appropriate in this month since January opens the door to the whole year.

### Prayer

--Sign of the Cross

--Scripture Reading - Luke 19:1-9



Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a Sycamore Tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham."

--Our Father

--Prayer of Blessing

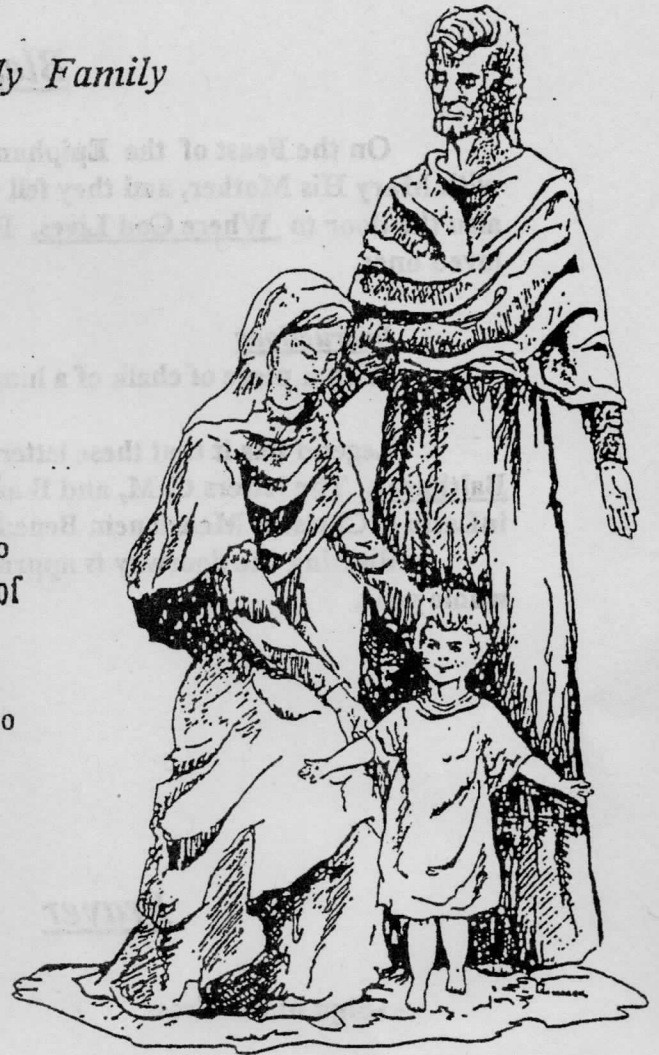
Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only - begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a Star. Bless this house and all who live here. Fill us with the light of Christ that our concern for others may reflect your love. May this home truly be a place where love is present this New Year -- 2012 Amen.

## Blessing of your Family

### Feast of the Holy Family

Paul to the Ephesians:

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



#### PRAYER OF BLESSING

O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church.

Show your blessings on us gathered here in your name.  
Enable us who are joined by one love to support one another by our fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer.  
Make us responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all we say and do.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.



**2011 CONTRIBUTION FORMS**

Please send my 2011 contribution records to:

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop in the collection baskets or mail.

All forms will be mailed out on February 1, 2011