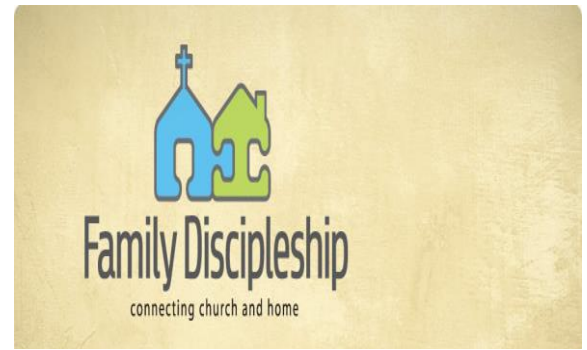


June 2019 PNCC Future Direction Message Sacred Vocations: A Fruit of Family Discipleship:

As we begin Sacred Vocations Month across our Holy Church this first weekend in June is Clergy Appreciation Weekend. Make sure to show appreciation to your pastor and allow that to serve as an example for those men discerning God's call to the ordained ministry. This month our Future Direction message Sacred Vocations: A Fruit of Family Discipleship was prepared by Fr. Scott and Shelley Lill.



As we now approach the end of a quickly passing Easter Season and rush headlong into the summer months, it seems that we cannot help but pause from time to time to contemplate the beauty of God's creation now sprung fully into life. It is right and good to do so, lifting up hearts that are grateful to God for all that he is doing right before our eyes. This is also a most appropriate moment to glance inwardly and honestly evaluate whether the seeds of this year's discipleship renewal have also come to life and are beginning to bear greater fruit for the Lord through his holy Church. While we must do this as individuals, we can and should also do this together as parishes, Church organizations and most especially within our own families, because there is definitely such a thing as *family discipleship*.

What sort of things make up family discipleship? Well...everything! Yes, everything and anything that the family does is an expression of their discipleship. Of course, this presumes that Jesus is recognized as *the most important* member of every Christian family and is invited to participate in each aspect of the family's common life. A few simple ways to extend the invitation to Jesus include praying together before meals--whether at home or in a restaurant; displaying images of the Lord, his Mother (his greatest disciple) and the Saints (our discipleship role models) in our homes and paying them special respect; praying the Rosary together each evening; and most especially attending and participating at Holy Mass together each weekend and on Holy Days. Then, rooted in these sources of spiritual strength, the family members together express their collective discipleship through service to others in different ways such as volunteering at a soup kitchen, collecting items for food banks throughout the year and helping out in charitable outreach projects within their own parish. While it is definitely important for all of us to engage in such endeavors individually, it is a particularly beautiful and powerful witness to Jesus when families embrace their discipleship like this together.

Another important way by which family discipleship takes shape is through encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry. While this is naturally done when families make their relationship with Jesus of the greatest importance, families can also *actively* work to help create a culture of respect for the clergy. Parents can role model the reverence that all of us should have for our clergy and the important work that they do for our Church, by speaking well of their bishops, priests and deacons and by extending simple gestures of appreciation to them and their own families—we can't forget them!—from time to time. Such family to family gestures can have a lasting impact.

Of course, prayer plays an important part in this aspect of family discipleship, as members together ask the Lord to strengthen their clergy as they serve God by ministering in the Church. Perhaps each morning, parents can offer "A Parents' Prayer for their Children's Vocations" and help their children recite "A Prayer for Discerning my Personal Vocation." Maybe after family dinner each day, they can all pray the "A Polish National Catholic Prayer for Vocations," asking the Lord to provide more clergy for the Church.

Finally, parents can teach their children, from their earliest years, to ask God daily what He wants them to be when they grow up and help them start to imagine the ways they can live out their discipleship with Jesus every day. Of course, every family should encourage their men - of all ages - to discern whether the Holy Spirit might be calling *them* to serve as a priest or deacon in the Church, help them to recognize a call to the ordained ministry as a gift from God and an admirable and worthwhile pathway to walk in this life, and offer the loving support they need to be able to respond to the Lord's call,



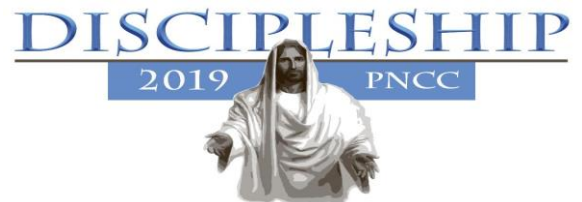
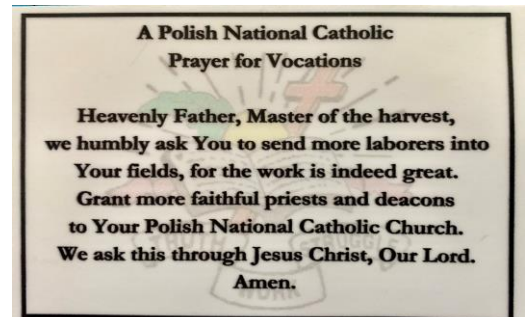
telling them just how proud they would be to have a priest or deacon come from their family!

Clearly, affirmative responses to a call to a Sacred Vocation will mostly come from families who are consistently striving together to be authentic followers of the Lord Jesus. Children learn to love, value and respect what their parents love, value and respect, heeding their words but, even more, following their good example. During this year when we Polish National Catholics are pursuing a renewal of our discipleship and especially during this month of June when we pay special attention to Sacred Vocations, may each individual family of the Church - parents and children - find one new way by which they can more fully commit themselves to Jesus and one new way to engage their family's unique role in promoting vocations to the ordained ministry.

Jesus taught that "every good tree bears good fruit" (Matthew 7:17). May the families of our Polish National Catholic Church become more like such good trees, deeply rooted in the Holy Spirit, drawing their collective life from Jesus so that each branch will steadily grow in the ways of true discipleship and bear much fruit for God, some of the sweetest of which are vocations to the priesthood and diaconate.

During this Sacred Vocations month may our example of discipleship inspire the men of our Holy Church to consider God's call to the ordained ministry. Let us pray that the Lord of the Harvest may send more laborers into His vineyard for the sake of His Holy Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee
 Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, *Prime Bishop*
 Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., *Chairman*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2019</h1> <p>Eastern Diocese PNCC Mission / Evangelism Prayer</p> <p>The Disciple: Living the Great Commission - Disciples Making Disciples</p>					Pray each day for all who are being called to serve God in sacramental ministry.	1 May bishops, priests & deacons be zealous in their ministry to God's people.
2 May all who teach seek God's truth with a sincere heart and share it effectively.	3 May the laity embrace their role in Christ's royal priesthood. (See 1 Peter 2:9) ***	4 Father, send Your Holy Spirit to teach, refresh and strengthen us for service.	5(Boniface) "Let us stand fast in what is right and prepare our souls for trial. Let us wait..."	6.. upon God's strengthening aid... Let us trust in Him who has placed this burden upon us..."	7 "Anyone who is so "progressive" that he does not remain rooted in Christ's teaching..."	8 ...does not possess God; whoever remains...has the Father and the Son." (2 John 1, NABRE)
9 PENTECOST Holy Spirit, unite all on earth to proclaim God's glory.	10 Make your faith in Jesus a part of your conversation. Start with other believers.	11 May we show reverence, love, and patience as we guide those who are weak in faith.	12 May Jesus' message shine out through our words and actions. (See Matthew 5)	13 "The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak..."	14...and brings to perfection those who are making progress."~ St. Basil the Great	15 Spirit of Truth, reveal what is in our hearts; cleanse and renew us. May we help others grow.
16 Triune God, open our eyes to the truth and show us how to apply it in our lives today.	17 "Through Christ we received new life & consecrated ourselves to God." ~St. Justin, martyr	18 Who has helped me to grow in the faith? Who am I mentoring?	19 Perform an anonymous act of kindness. Your Heavenly Father sees!	20 Thank our Lord Jesus for the Eucharist, the gift of His Body & Blood.	21Read Matthew 6:19-23. Where is your heart? What do you treasure? Is it evident to all?	22Jesus, You know my heart, its fears and doubts. Help me to trust in You. (See Mt.6:24-34)
23 Jesus can provide spiritual sustenance beyond our imagining. (Sacred Space)	24 Every life is full of potential: Lord, who can I encourage in the faith today?	25 What changes should I make in order to follow Jesus more closely - to be holy?	26 Honor Christ & be ready to give the reason for the hope you have in Him. (1 Peter 3:15)	27What sacrifices am I making to invest in the lives of others, disciplining them?	28 Jesus' Sacred Heart is tender toward His lost sheep. Is my heart like His?	29 Do my actions show my love for Jesus, or are other things more important to me?
30 Share your experience of Jesus with someone who is "younger" in the faith.	"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing other in all wisdom."	***"Discipling is really just a bunch of church members taking responsibility..."	...to prepare one another for glory. It's one way we see the New Testament idea...	that we are a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9)." ~ Mark Dever ***	Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. (Heb.10:24)	"GO, therefore, and make disciples..." ~JESUS, Matthew 28:19