



Wednesday, November 9, 2016

Dear Friends in Christ,

This is Vocations Awareness Week, a time when our Church places extra emphasis on the importance of supporting and praying for vocations to the priesthood. Supporting and praying for more vocations, especially for more priests for our parishes, goes to the heart of who we are as missionary disciples. We are called to holiness – to live lives given fully to the Lord and His Church. While many continue to give of themselves in support of the holy work of the Church, the particular vocation to priesthood and religious life gives witness to us that the only lasting happiness comes through a deep friendship with Christ. We need good, holy priests today more than ever, not only to replace the priests who will retire, as well as to meet the spiritual needs of the growing number of Catholics, but most especially because we live in a culture that equates happiness with worldly success and material gain. Thus, we must make it our priority to pray for vocations, not just this week, but throughout the entire year.

I'd like to take the first step to facilitate an archdiocesan-wide prayer effort in support of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. I write to invite your participation in a digital prayer campaign called the **Invisible Monastery**, a free website that helps organize prayer for vocations. By registering at [www.invisiblemonastery.com](http://www.invisiblemonastery.com), you will be joining thousands of Catholics by pledging to pray daily or weekly for vocations. I am grateful to the 60 men and women of our Archdiocese who have already pledged to pray.

Members of Invisible Monastery:

- Pledge to pray daily or weekly for vocations;
- Choose their type of prayer – Mass intention, rosary, private prayer, etc.
- Renew their pledge annually;
- Receive a quarterly e-newsletter with prayers, resources, and ideas for promoting vocations; and

- May receive occasional communication from the Archdiocesan Vocation Director with prayer requests or other information.

As part of my own commitment to pray for vocations (and especially for our 33 wonderful seminarians), I have committed to offer Mass weekly for this intention. Thank you for considering this unique opportunity to help the Church meet this growing need by praying for more priestly vocations.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ William E. Lori". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore