

# ON THE ROAD TOGETHER

The Critical Role Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Play in Discerning God's Call



USCCB

# PRESENTERS

- ▶ **Fr. John Guthrie**  
**Associate Director, Secretariat of Clergy,  
Consecrated Life and Vocations, USCCB**
- ▶ **Fr. Brian Bashista**  
**Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry,  
Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia**
- ▶ **Ms. Margaret Motto**  
**Pastoral Associate, St. Mary Immaculate Parish,  
Plainfield, Illinois**



# PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS

- ▶ **What is your motivation for attending this workshop?**
- ▶ **What possibilities excite you?**
- ▶ **What challenges have you faced?**



**PowerPoint available at:**

**[www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)**



# BASIC FOUNDATIONS

- ▶ **God has a dream for every person**
- ▶ **Youth and Young Adult Ministry leaders have a privileged role in helping young people DISCERN the divine call**
  - **Discernment vs. Recruitment**



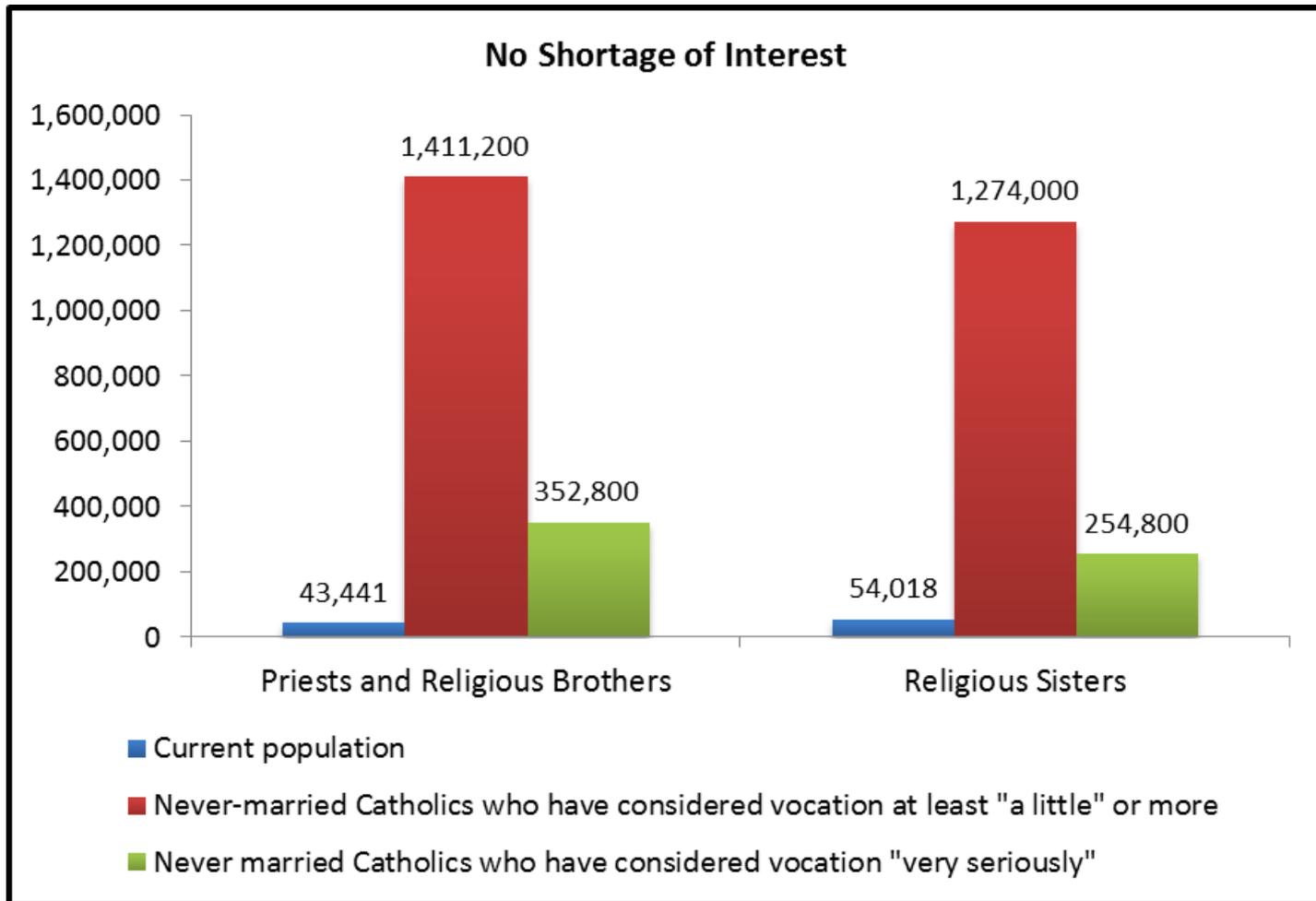
# 2012 CARA STUDY

- ▶ On consideration of a religious vocation by never-married youth and young adults

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/survey-of-youth-and-young-adults-on-vocations.cfm>



# NO SHORTAGE OF INTEREST



# KEY FACTORS FOR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

- ▶ Those who attended Catholic educational institutions at any level
- ▶ Those who were encouraged to consider a vocation by any type of person
- ▶ Those who personally know priests and men and women religious
- ▶ Those involved in parish youth and young adult groups



# THE BOTTOM LINE

**RELATIONSHIPS**

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# YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- ▶ **For men, participation in youth group at primary school level increases serious vocational consideration by 5 times**
- ▶ **For women, participation in youth group at high school level increases serious vocational consideration by 9 times**



# ENCOURAGEMENT

- ▶ If one person encourages another to consider a religious vocation, he/she is **TWICE** as likely to do so
- ▶ If three persons encourage, he/she is more than **FIVE** times as likely to do so
  - **THREE IS KEY!**



# THE OPPORTUNITY

**In the relationship with youth:  
talk with them about  
discernment**



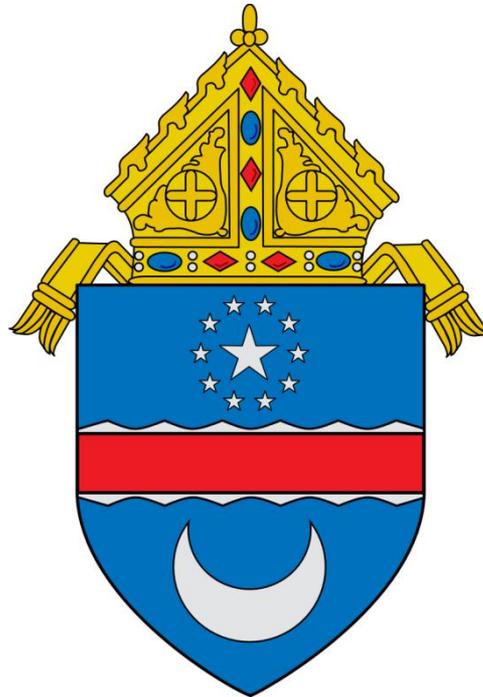
# THE CHALLENGE

**Rather than staying within our own silos in Church ministry, we learn to work together more effectively**



# FROM A VOCATION DIRECTOR

**Fr. Brian Bashista**  
**Diocese of Arlington, VA**



# DISCIPLESHIP & VOCATIONS

- ▶ ALL are called!
- ▶ General and particular call
- ▶ Vocation and career
- ▶ All about love, offering of self as a gift, and other directed
- ▶ Vocations are discovered, not chosen. Essential freedom is rooted in a response, not a choice

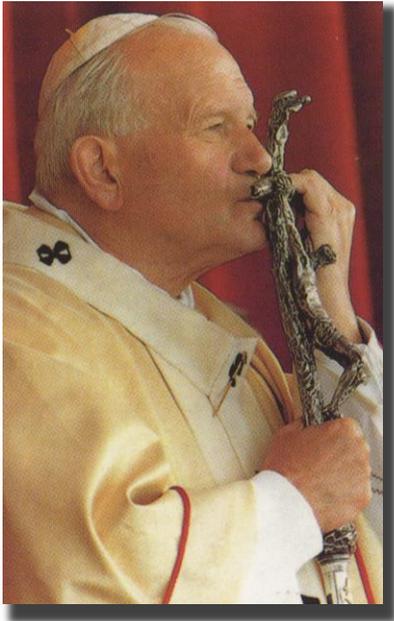


DISCERNING GOD'S CALL  
PRAY. LISTEN. ACT. REPEAT!

Seekholiness Video



# FIVE PASTORAL PRIORITIES



- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Evangelize
- ▶ Experience
- ▶ Mentor
- ▶ Invite



When our youth have a **deeper encounter with Christ and draw closer to Him**, then they can come to know and love Him more personally. The more they are convinced of the goodness of this, **then they want to know and love Him more.**

Out of this, and the **joyful example of priests, brothers and sisters**, they are more willing to perhaps consider the idea that they **might be called to a similar vocation.**



# OPPORTUNITIES



- ▶ **Relationship of Trust:** Get to know one another, interaction is very important, we are in this together
- ▶ **Collaborate:** Value distinct, yet complementary roles
- ▶ **Speak the ‘language’** to foster and atmosphere of openness to talk and actively encourage discernment



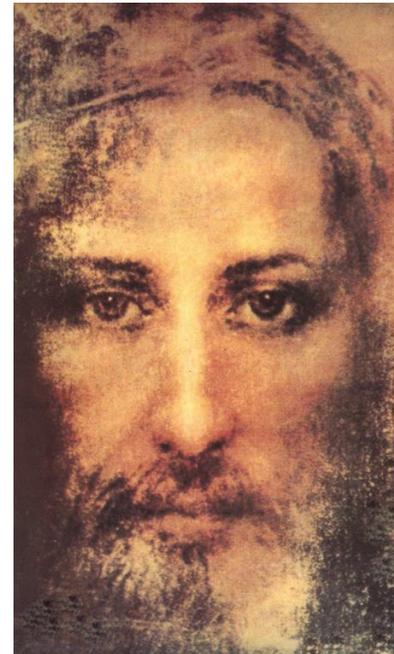
# COLLABORATION

- ▶ In-Service Day
- ▶ **Work-Camps**
- ▶ High School Rally  
& Jr. High Bash
- ▶ **World Youth Days**
- ▶ Seminary Visits  
& Nun Runs
- ▶ **Quo Vadis &  
Fiat Days**
- ▶ Speakers
- ▶ Handbook



# CHALLENGES

- ▶ **Communication** is key, keep in close contact
- ▶ **Not a new 'program'** look at what is already being done with an added or broader awareness
- ▶ **Ultimately about Christ**, and making disciples of Jesus, not us and following His plans, not *necessarily* our own



# ROLE AS A 'FISHER' OF MEN & WOMEN

- ...be patient and alert
- ...be persistent
- ...trust your intuition
- ...know the right moment
- ...keep 'out of sight'

*Master we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing. But, if you say so Lord, I will do it.”*

*Luke 5:5*



# FROM A YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT MINISTER

**Ms. Margaret Motto**  
**Diocese of Joliet, IL**



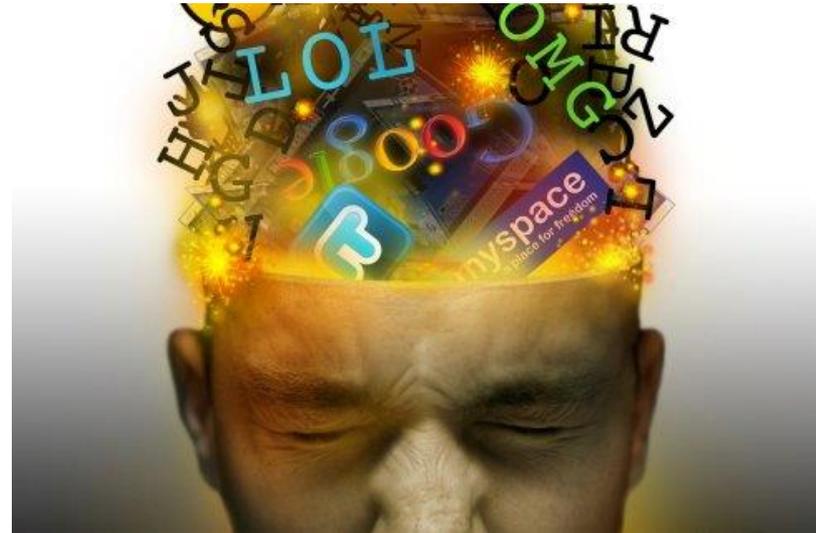
# MINISTRY MODELS THAT APPLY THE 5 PRINCIPLES

- ▶ **Spirit and Truth**
- ▶ **Youth Leadership Conference**
- ▶ **Created and Redeemed Series**



# PRAYER

- ▶ "I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of his presence?" - Pope John Paul II
- ▶ The Eucharist is the "Summit of Evangelization"
- ▶ Silence is attractive to youth because it is so countercultural





# MENTORING

- ▶ “People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care”
- ▶ Start of conversion is relationships and trust
- ▶ Youth and Young Adults want to see Seminarians, Priests, Religious and Catholic Married Couples who are authentic, normal, joyful and fulfilled in their vocation!





# HOW TO COLLABORATE WITH VOCATIONS OFFICE

- ▶ **Schedule Sharing**
- ▶ **Mutual Promotion**
- ▶ **Frequent presence of Mentors**
- ▶ **“Vocations” as Underlying Theme**





*Young Adult Theology of the Body/ Vocations Series*



# SKIT AT YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Diocese of Joliet Video



# DIALOGUE

- ▶ **What did you learn that will enhance what you already do?**
- ▶ **What is one new idea you might consider with regard to your local context?**
- ▶ **How can you advocate this approach with youth, young adult or other pastoral ministers?**



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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