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Vocations

The Priestly Vocation: An Invitation to Life (DVD, 73 min.) Paraclete Press, 2010. Through the stories of priests of varying backgrounds in this powerful DVD, see firsthand how their lives of love and self-sacrifice are more fulfilled than you could imagine.

Why I Am A Priest: Thirty Success Stories (Book) Boadt, Lawrence, Paulist Press, 1999. This short book gathers the witness of a wide variety of priests who are able to share with the reader their insights into being a priest, their identities, their awareness of weakness, their hopes and their dreams.

Simple Priesthood (Book) Connolly, Sean, St. Pauls Publishing, 2001. A young priest’s reflects honestly on his vocation the shock of being catapulted into parish life as a curate and how he coped with the demands and expectations on him. He is revealing about the workload and the strain of living a celibate life, yet ultimately his enthusiasm is infectious and his zeal to serve God as he feels called an inspiration.

Fishers of Men (DVD, 19 min.) Grassroots Films, 2006. This film is intended to renew priests' sense of fulfillment in their vocation and to encourage them to draw on that satisfaction to invite other men to pursue the priesthood. This fast-paced film shows many of the facets of a priest's daily life. Several priests provide testimony to the importance they place on their own vocation. A dramatic re-enactment portrays how a priest can inspire a vocation through his service to someone in need of priestly ministry. This film is also intended to be used by priests in discussions with men considering the priesthood.

You Could Make a Difference (DVD, 17 min.) United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2006. Aids groups interested in the priesthood and religious life. Viewers can examine what is needed for public ministry and see if they know people, even themselves, who might be urged to pursue life as a priest or religious. The vocation question comes to life in the work of Father Mike Schwarte in Petersburg, Alaska; Sister Janet Gidlea, SC and Sister Peggy Deneweth, SC, in El Paso, Texas; Sister Mary Claudina Sanz, OSP, in inner-city Baltimore; and Father Agustin Mateo in Washington, DC.

The Catholic Priest Today: A Man of Faith, A Man of Tradition, A Man of God (DVD) Midwest Theological Forum, 2007. This film is a complement of "Fishers of Men", produced by the USCCB. It is about priests living the great adventure of a life completely dedicated to Christ in His Body, the Church. It shows that the mission of a priest is built on a life of daily prayer and centered on the Eucharist. It illustrates the divine nature of his calling and how the priesthood is not a profession, although a priest pursues the highest professional standards in his pastoral work.

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation (Book) Palmer, Parker J., Jossey-Bass, 2000. With wisdom, compassion and gentle humor, Parker J. Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose. Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others who have made a difference, he shares insights gained from darkness and depression as well as fulfillment and joy, illuminating a pathway toward vocation for all who seek the true calling of their lives.

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LEVEL: P (Primary Grades K-3) I (Intermediate Grades 4-6) J (Junior High Grades 7-8) S (Secondary Grades 9-12) A (Adult)
**Sustaining the Spirit: Callings, Commitments, & Vocational Challenges** (Book) Carotta, Michael, Twenty Third Publications, 2005. Offers us fresh insights into the meaning and reality of vocation. Traditionally, a vocation has been understood to be related to our life's work. In this book, however, you will discover how vocation expands far beyond work to encompass the essence, purpose, and direction of each individual life.

**Parents Speak Out - Children and Church** (VHS, 15 min.) National Religious Vocations Conference, 2000. Engaging interviews with parents who have an adult child in priesthood or religious life. Parents describe their experiences and offer advice to Catholic parents about children and church vocations. Excellent resource for Parish Vocation Committees, DRE’s, and Catholic School Principals.

**Heroic Living: Discover Your Purpose and Change the World** (Book) Lowney, Chris, Loyola Press, 2009. Chris Lowney combines the proven practices of Ignatian spirituality with his business expertise to help each of us discover our mighty purpose in life and develop a personal life strategy to achieve it. By merging Ignatian Spirituality with astute business knowledge, Lowney provides the tools and strategies needed to make practical, long-term life changes that move us away from our fractured, compartmentalized lives and toward the satisfaction and wholeness that each of us desires so deeply.

**Lifeworks : Finding God's Purpose** (Book) Life-Work Press, 1997. God has a unique and wonderful plan for your life - a vocation and mission divinely chosen just for you. But how do you know exactly what God is calling you to be? Can you pursue both God's calling and a career? The answers to these questions and more are found in this video, which will help you discover God's call through challenging advice and inspiring commentary. Based on the book by Rick Sarkisian.

**Getting a Life: How to Find your True Vocation** (Book) LaReau, Renée M., Orbis Books, 2003. How do we discover what our gifts are and where to best use them? Is it valid to make a bundle on Wall Street? Do we have to love our job all the time? What can we learn from the setbacks that always seem to follow opportunities and joy? Renee LaReau addresses all of these questions and more with honesty and grace in this spiritual and practical map to discover what to do with the rest of your life.

**Vocations: An Inside Look Series**

**Married Life: An Inside Look** (Book) Manion, Andrew P., Saint Mary's Press, 2001. A story of one couple's marriage, expressed in light of their Catholic faith. Andrew and Amy Manion reflect upon their marriage vows, which provide a context within which all other marriages exist. These vows, when lived daily, sustain a relationship through the challenges that married life presents.

**Brothers: An Inside Look** (Book) Schatz, Larry. Saint Mary's Press, 2002. Br. Larry Schatz reflects upon his ministerial journey in light of the vows that he made upon entering his community. He describes the requirements, the opportunities, the work, the rewards, and the challenges of being a brother.

**Single Life: An Inside Look** (Book) Kamann, Donna, Saint Mary's Press, 2002. The author discusses how she recognized God's calling for her to live as a single person and describes how this has shaped her life.

**Sisters: An Inside Look** (Book) Rooney, Kathleen, Saint Mary’s Press, 2007. Sr. Kathy Rooney reflects on her ministerial journey in light of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience that she made upon entering her community. She describes the requirements, the opportunities, the work, the rewards, and the challenges of being a sister.

**Priests: An Inside Look** (Book) Mack, John P., Saint Mary's Press, 2001. Rev. John Mack reflects upon his ministerial journey in light of the sacrament of Holy Orders and the Rite of Ordination. He describes the requirements, the opportunities, the work, the rewards, and the challenges of the priesthood.