

upcoming events

the vocation centre runs or supports the following events

Sunday 21 May	Fuel 7:00-9:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley Praise and worship with prayer, teaching & Reconciliation. Run by Emmanuel Youth Outreach.
Friday 26 May	Leaven Hour 5:10-6:30pm at St Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane A place for youth and young adults to experience growth and energy through the power of Mass and Adoration.
Sunday 4 June	Young Adult Mass 7:30pm at St Stephen's Cathedral Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and followed by refreshments in the Cathedral grounds.
Thursday 15 June	Priest Jubilee Celebrations
Sunday 18 June	Fuel 7:00-9:00pm at St Patrick's Church, Fortitude Valley Praise and worship with prayer, teaching & Reconciliation. Run by Emmanuel Youth Outreach.
Friday 23 June	Leaven Hour 5:10-6:30pm at St Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane A place for youth and young adults to experience growth and energy through the power of Mass and Adoration.
Saturday 24 June - Sunday 25 June	GOD Talks... in my needs 5pm Sat - 4pm Sun at Canossa Care, Oxley A weekend retreat for single men and women (18-35). Run by Sr Rosa Covino FdCC - phone 3398 3555.
Sunday 2 July	Young Adult Mass 7:30pm at St Stephen's Cathedral Celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and followed by refreshments in the Cathedral grounds.
Saturday 8 July - Sunday 9 July	Test Your Call - Vocation Weekend A weekend retreat for men discerning a vocation to Priesthood. Full details tba, or contact Mark Lysaght - phone 3336 9203.

Visit the Vocation Centre website: www.catholicpriesthood.com

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priesthood > it's your call



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GOD OR THE GIRL? REALITY TV SHOW!

A new five-part reality TV show called 'God or the Girl?' has just screened in the US. It follows the journey of four young men in the final weeks leading up to their decision whether or not to become Catholic priests.

Travelling with his brother to the Catholic celebration of World Youth Day in Germany, **JOE** also looks forward to reconnecting with Anna, the love of his life. In Columbus, **DAN** leads his youth group of high schoolers in protest prayer outside an abortion clinic. **MIKE** is thrilled to see his girlfriend Aly, but her visit stirs up tensions with his mentor, Father Pauselli. And **STEVE** makes a nerve-wracking journey home, finally telling his best friends about his aspirations toward the priesthood.

As its website says, "The series is a serious exploration of some of the big questions surrounding religious vocation in an aggressively secular culture. What drives a man to become a priest? How does he initiate the process, and where does it end? What would he give up by becoming a priest? And, perhaps more importantly, what would he give up by not becoming one?" (www.aetv.com/godorthegirl)

The Vocation Office will purchase the series on DVD when it becomes available in July. In the meantime, we will feature one of the guys from the show in each issue of "The Call". (see left)



Mike Lechniak, 24, grew up idolizing his parish priest, Fr Pauselli. But his deepening relationship with girlfriend Aly has brought Mike to the breaking point. With two paths - priesthood and marriage - laid out before him starkly and in need of immediate action, Mike knows that he must make his choice between which vocation God is calling him to.

A Brief Note...

It has been an interesting couple of months in the Vocation Office with the discovery of the reality TV show "God or the Girl" as well as an excellent video presentation called "Fishers of Men" - both coming out of the US. These programs remind us that vocations to the Priesthood are very real vocations today - men in our Church are still saying **YES** to the challenge and call of Priesthood! Are you one of the men God is calling to serve Him in Brisbane?

We also recently celebrated **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** on Sunday 7 May. We have enclosed Pope Benedict's message for your reflection.

Luke Plant

Field Officer, Brisbane Vocation Centre

**TEST
YOUR
CALL
VOCA
TION
WEEK
END
8-9 JULY**

A weekend for men to look more closely at whether God might be calling them to Priesthood.

SEE INSIDE...

priesthood > it's your call



A Royal Priesthood

1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-12

Rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, insincerity, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk so that through it you may grow into salvation, for you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ...

You are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were "no people" but now you are God's people; you "had not received mercy" but now you have received mercy.

Beloved, I urge you as aliens and sojourners to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against the soul. Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that if they speak of you as evildoers, they may observe your good works and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Reflection:

This scripture reminds us that we are God's people - we belong to Him. When we turn our focus away from Him, it's easy to get caught up in living for ourselves; giving into physical, spiritual or emotional temptations; dealing negatively with stresses of work or study; responding to situations and people with anger, spite, deceit... (and the list goes on!)

But Christ calls us to a higher living, to become 'living stones' that build up the Church. He has chosen us to be a 'royal priesthood' set apart for Him and living our lives according to our call.

As we continue to discern God's call, our challenge is to recognise the areas in which we are susceptible to 'worldly desires', and to seek God's grace and strength to follow Him each day. Will we let Him form us into His people?

Priest Jubilee Celebrations

The Vocations Office congratulates the following priests celebrating a jubilee this year. They are a model to us of faith, faithfulness, service and commitment.

Golden Jubilee (ordained 1956)

- » Fr Joe Flannery
- » Fr Brian Burke
- » Fr Kevin Burman OSA

Silver Jubilee (ordained 1981)

- » Fr Gerry Kalinowski

Jubilee Celebrations will happen in June.

GOD TALKS

... IN MY NEEDS

24-25 JUNE

(5PM SAT - 4PM SUN)

CANOSSA CARE, OXLEY
169 SEVENTEEN MILE ROCKS RD

God Talks are overnight retreats for young adults (18-35), and an opportunity to pray, discover, listen and share your journey.

Cost \$20 - incl accommodation and meals. BYO sleeping bag and pen. Mass is included.

For info, contact Sr Rosa:
3398 3555 or 0419 779 262

**WALKING WITH GOD IS
ALWAYS AN ADVENTURE!**

LEAVEN HOUR

*Every Fourth Friday of the Month
in St Stephen's Chapel*

26 May - 23 June - 28 July

Mass 5:10pm Adoration 5:40-6:30pm

WORDS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

"In order to respond to the call of God and start on our journey, it is not necessary to be already perfect. We know that the prodigal son's awareness of his own sin allowed him to set out on his return journey and thus feel the joy of reconciliation with the Father. Weaknesses and human limitations do not present an obstacle, as long as they help make us more aware of the fact that we are in need of the redeeming grace of Christ."

"Throughout the centuries many men and women, transformed by divine love, have consecrated their lives to the cause of the Kingdom... These men and women, who knew the mystery of the love of the Father through Jesus, represent the variety of vocations which have always been present in the Church."

"Within the framework of this universal call, Christ, the High Priest, in his solicitude for the Church calls persons in every generation who are to care for his people. In particular, he calls to the ministerial priesthood men who are to exercise a fatherly role, the source of which is within the very fatherhood of God (cfr Eph 3,14). The mission of the priest in the Church is irreplaceable. Therefore, even if in some regions there is a scarcity of clergy, it should never be doubted that Christ continues to raise up men who, like the Apostles, leaving behind all other work, dedicate themselves completely to the celebration of the sacred mysteries, to the preaching of the Gospel and to pastoral ministry."

Excerpts from:

Message for the 43rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations (Sunday 7 May 2006)

View his whole message at www.vatican.va.

Click on 'Latest Updates' then 'XLIII World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2006'.

TEST YOUR CALL - VOCATIONS WEEKEND

8-9 July 2006

Yeah yeah yeah - you've heard it all before. Maybe someone has said to you, "I think you'd make a great priest!". Maybe your own priest has asked you, "Have you considered your vocation?". Or maybe you've just asked the question of yourself, "What is God calling me to?".

This might be a new question for you, or perhaps you've been thinking about it for months, even years. So what have you done about it? Have you tested it? What has God said?

"Test Your Call" is a weekend for young men discerning a vocation to the Priesthood. It's a chance to look more closely at this vocation, to learn ways of discerning your call, and to share some time with other young men exploring the same issues.

Mark this weekend in your diary (full details available soon). For information, contact Mark Lysaght: 3336 9203 or lysaghtm@bne.catholic.net.au.