

# FUTURE FATHERS

SUPPORTING YOUR SEMINARIANS

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## Supporting Your Seminarians LIFE NIGHT OUTLINE

### CATECHISM REFERENCE

# 1562-1568  
# 2634-2636

### GOAL

The goal of this Life Night is to facilitate a culture of discernment in your youth ministry. This night will also provide opportunities to build up the Church by connecting teenagers and those preparing for the priesthood in your diocese through intercessory prayer and support.

### ABOUT THIS NIGHT

This simple resource can be used in a Life Night setting or in a prayer group/Bible Study setting. The premise of the night is to introduce intercessory prayer by empowering the teenagers to specifically pray for those young men discerning the priesthood. This night will give the teenagers a more detailed look into the life of seminarians and what they are truly saying YES to. Along with this insight, the teenagers will be allowed to connect personally with seminarians through prayer by taking the time to write prayer cards to specific seminarians from their Diocese. The night has a great potential to confirm the power of prayer and to affirm both seminarians and teens in their openness to Christ and His calling in their lives.

### MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

Video: "Fishers of Men" can be downloaded from [www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)  
Websites: [www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)

## GATHER *25 Minutes*

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (5 min)

The youth minister should welcome everyone to the Life Night and introduce any teens there for the first time. In the introduction, the youth minister should explain that this night is not to exclude the women and those amazing sisters and religious, but to focus specifically on those discerning the call to the priesthood.

### “FISHERS OF MEN” VIDEO (20 min)

This powerful video was created for the USCCB by Grassroots Films. It explores the call to the priesthood and those who were brave enough to answer that call.

The “Fishers of Men” Video can be downloaded from [www.usccb.org/vocations](http://www.usccb.org/vocations)

## PROCLAIM *15 Minutes*

### “UNSHAKABLE FAITH”

#### TEACHING (10 min)

The goal of the Proclaim is to give the teens a personal story about discernment, priesthood and the power of prayer. This talk should empower the teenagers to intercede in prayer for the local seminarians. Studying, Praying, and Discerning can be times of great joy, but also great loneliness. There are many options for this talk, depending on the availability:

#### OPTION #1:

It would be best to have a Seminarian from your parish share about their personal discernment and the need for others to intercede for them in prayer.

#### OPTION #2:

You can have the Vocation Director of your Diocese attend and share how important intercessory prayer is for those young men discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

#### OPTION #3:

You can have your parish priest attend and share how their vocation is the result of the prayers of many people.

#### OPTION #4:

The youth minister can share about the importance of praying for those discerning.

## BREAK *20 Minutes*

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER CARDS (20 min)

Hand out card(s), envelope(s) and a pen to the teenagers. Give each of them the name of a specific seminarian from their diocese (someone currently in the seminary). Ask the teens to take time to write a prayer letter and place it in the envelope. You will need to provide the teenagers with a sample letter to give them some ideas on what to write. Have them write the full name of the seminarian on the outside of the envelope.

See sample letter on page 5.

See prayer card template on page 6.

**NOTE TO THE YOUTH MINISTER:** You will need to contact the Vocation Director for your Diocese ([http://www.ncdvd.org/vocation\\_directors.asp](http://www.ncdvd.org/vocation_directors.asp)) and get a list of the seminarians from your diocese and the addresses where to send the letters. Make sure that you have this done prior to the night so that specific seminarians can be addressed in the cards. Write the names of each seminarian on a small index card that the teenagers can keep after the night so that they can continue to pray for that seminarian.

## SEND *15 Minutes*

### INTERCESSION (5 min)

Invite the teens into a time of prayer for the seminarians. You can either have one person read all the names of the seminarians or have the teens say the name of the seminarian they just wrote a letter to. After all the names are read, invite the teens to offer a prayer for these men either silently or aloud.

### PRAYER FOR

#### OPENNESS TO GOD’S CALL (10 min)

At the end of the night invite all the male teenagers in the room into the middle of the room to be prayed over. Reassure that they are not praying for all of them to become priests, but to be open to the Lord’s call. Encourage the men to enter into this prayer time by opening up their hands and closing their eyes. Have the youth minister explain that all of us are called to discern God’s call in our life. Some in the room may have a calling to the priesthood, so we simply pray for these men to be open to where the Lord is calling them to serve.

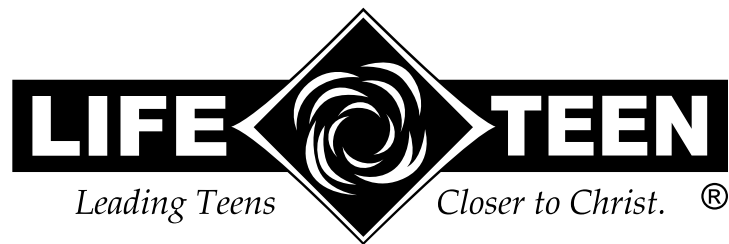
Open up this time for any of the women in the room that are surrounding the men to offer up any prayers aloud. Close the night by praying the Hail Mary and Ave Maria.

## **AFTER THE LIFE NIGHT** (5 min)

The following week, send the Prayer Cards accompanied by a letter to the Rector of the Seminary and the Vocation Director from the youth minister & Pastor of the parish. This letter should simply thank them for the role that they play in the lives of seminarians and briefly explain the letters from teenagers.

Lastly, email Steve Allgeyer (VP of Ministry Development for Life Teen) at [sallgeyer@lifeteen.com](mailto:sallgeyer@lifeteen.com) to let him know which Seminary you have adopted through prayer so that we can try to cover all of our Seminarians in prayer.

# SAMPLE PRAYER CARDS



**Dear (Seminararian Name),**

**Tonight during Life Teen at (parish name) we were given the opportunity to pray for specific seminararians and I chose your name. I know that you may not know me, but I wanted to write to you and say thank you. Thank you for listening to the call of Christ in your life. You are an inspiration to me and I hope that I will have the courage to act like you did when I hear Christ calling me to serve. I pray that the Lord continues to strengthen you during your time of discernment. Be not afraid, and know that I am praying for you.**

**In Christ,  
(Teen's name)  
(Teen's address)**

# PRAYER CARD TEMPLATE

PRINT ON CARDSTOCK

