



# MARY

## QUEEN of FAMILIES



A TRI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION OF FAMILY VOCATION MINISTRIES / AUGUST 2012

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**YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013**

## The Upcoming Year of Faith: Pray for the Primary Instruments...

We should accept with great joy this upcoming Year of Faith that Pope Benedict XVI has declared in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20th Anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In my own preparation for this upcoming year, one quote comes to mind that was said during a retreat in August of 2011: "Faith is measured by how REAL God is in your life." Fr. Andrew Apostoli, the retreat master that year, mentioned this sentence during a conference talk and it has lingered in my mind since. We should continually ask ourselves, "How 'Real' is God in my life?" "How 'Real' is He, whether in the 'small things' or the 'big things'?" God-willing for everyone reading this, He is as Real as it gets! But with this in mind, we also have to take into account what St. Paul said in his letter to the Romans about the gift of faith:

*But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. (Romans 10:14-17)*

Thus, according to St. Paul the faith we receive after Baptism is nourished by what is heard. We, as Catholics, **should** hear the Faith

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# Our First Apostolate: Family Vocation Days

We have had three events within the past three months:

- Family Vocation Day at San Anthony Catholic Church in San Jacinto, CA
- Family Vocation Day at St. Lawrence O' Toole Catholic Church in Brewster, NY
- Spiritual Motherhood Conference at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rancho Cucamonga, CA

After being founded in June of 2007, Family Vocation Ministries has hosted over 35 Family Vocation Days and a "Year for Priests" Family Conference! By the grace of God and by the help of a limited staff, we have been able to accomplish a lot in a little amount of time. We hope and pray to expand our apostolate nationally across the United States, as well as have a full time staff working around the country. Here are some statistics of where and who we have ministered to within the past three years:

## Four Archdioceses

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA, Archdiocese of Hartford, CT, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA, and the Archdiocese of New York, NY.

## Seven Dioceses

Diocese of Providence, RI; Diocese of Owensboro, KY; Diocese of Springfield, MA; Diocese of Norwich, CT; Diocese of San Bernardino, CA; Diocese of Orange, CA; and the Diocese of Lafayette, IN.

## Religious Communities

Over 30 solid orthodox Religious Communities have helped since we started our ministry. We now add one new religious community that has assisted us with the past Family Vocation Days:

- Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY  
*Please pray for and support them!*

## Upcoming Events

We currently have two Family Vocation Days and one Spiritual Motherhood Conference around the country:

- Family Vocation Day at the Fathers of Mercy, Auburn, KY - Aug. 18, 2012
- Spiritual Motherhood Conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help - New Franken, WI - Oct. 13, 2012
- Family Vocation Day at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Charlotte, NC - Oct. 20, 2012

Here is a complete list of all the religious communities that have been involved in our ministry since we started in June 2007; please pray for and support them!

### Men's Communities

- Benedictine Monks of Prince of Peace Abbey (Oceanside, CA)
- Canons Regular of St. John Cantius (Chicago, IL)
- Discalced Carmelite Friars, Province of St. Joseph (San Jose, CA)
- Fathers of Mercy (Auburn, KY)
- Franciscan Brothers of the Eucharist (Meriden, CT)
- Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (Bronx, NY)
- Friars of the Immaculate (Griswold, CT)
- Marians of the Immaculate Conception (Stockbridge, MA)
- Missionaries of the Holy Apostles (Cromwell, CT)
- Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (Oxnard, CA)
- Oblates of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Boston, MA)
- Order of Preachers, Dominican Friars of The Holy Name of Jesus Province (Oakland, CA)
- Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, Pauline Fathers, (Doylestown, PA)

### Women's Communities

- Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Hamden, CT)
- Daughters of Mary of the Immaculate Conception (New Britain, CT)
- Daughters of St. Paul (Boston, MA)
- Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (Ann Arbor, MI)

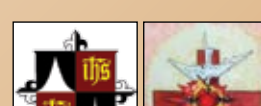
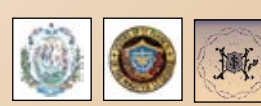
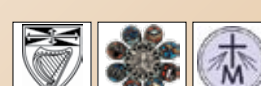
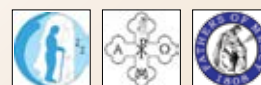
- Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm (Germantown, NY)
- Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus (St. Louis, MO)
- Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart (Alhambra, CA)
- Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy (Dorchester, MA)
- Congregation of the Sisters of the Resurrection (Castleton, NY)
- Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi (Holyoke, MA)
- Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist (Meriden, CT)
- Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (San Fernando, CA)
- Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal (Bronx, NY)
- Little Sisters of the Poor (Enfield, CT)
- Order of Preachers, Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia (Nashville, TN)
- Order of Preachers, Dominican Sisters of St. Rose of Lima (Hawthorne, NY)
- Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate (Monroe, NY)
- Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (Santa Ana, CA)
- Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco (Newton, NJ)
- Sisters of Christian Charity, Daughters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception (Mendham, NJ)
- Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity (Hopewell Junction, NY)

- Servants of Mary, Ministers of the Sick (Kansas City, KS)
- Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church (Baltic, CT)
- Sisters of Life (Yonkers, NY)
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George (Alton, IL)
- Trinitarians of Mary (Tijuana, B.C., México)

Family Vocation Ministries also would like to mention six monasteries of nuns, who have many of their sisters praying for our apostolate:

- Benedictine Nuns of St. Scholastica Priory (Petersham, MA)
- Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of the Angels (Los Angeles, CA)
- Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration (Hanceville, AL)
- Poor Clare Nuns of Perpetual Adoration (Portsmouth, OH)
- Benedictine Nuns of Regina Laudis (Bethlehem, CT)
- Dominican Nuns of Our Lady of the Rosary Monastery (Summit, NJ)

Please note that the ministry does not limit the amount of religious communities we invite to our vocation days. As the ministry expands, we plan on requesting many more Catholic religious communities faithful to the magisterium to speak and witness at our vocation days. -☺



# Family Vocation Days

Here are selected pictures from the Family Vocation Days we have recently organized. These and additional pictures and video are available to download from our website: [www.familyvocations.org](http://www.familyvocations.org).



## Thank You!

We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable help we received from these solid Catholic religious organizations:



Councils: 06, 2431, & 3041



Catholics United for Life,  
Third Order Dominican  
Community of St. Martin  
de Porres, New Hope, KY

Please support our patrons and pray for them as they continue to minister to thousands and thousands of people throughout the world!





# On The Role of Spiritual Guides

By Pope Benedict XVI

On January 16, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI spoke about the importance of “Spiritual Guides” directing people to the vocation that God is calling them to. He highlighted the importance that not only priests play in this vital role, but also parents. Here is a translation and shortened excerpt of Pope Benedict XVI’s Angelus address:



proclamation and witness: in fact they consist in adhering to the good news that Jesus of Nazareth is dead and risen, that he is God. And thus the call to follow Jesus closely, renouncing a family of one’s own to dedicate oneself to the great family of the Church, normally passes through the witness and the suggestion of an “older brother,” usually a priest. But this is not to forget the fundamental

Dear brothers and sisters!

In the biblical readings of this Sunday – the second in Ordinary Time – the theme of vocation emerges: in the Gospel it is the call of the first disciples by Jesus; in the first reading it is the call of the Prophet Samuel. In both accounts there comes to the forefront the importance of the figure who plays the role of mediator, helping the persons called to recognize the voice of God and follow it. [...] In the light of these two texts, I would like to underscore the decisive role of the spiritual guide in the journey of faith and, in particular, in the response to the vocation of special consecration for the service of God and his people. The very Christian faith in itself presupposes

role of parents, who with their genuine and joyful faith and their marital love show their children that it is beautiful and possible to build a whole life on the love of God. Dear friends, let us pray to the Virgin Mary for all teachers, especially priests and parents, that they have complete awareness of the importance of their spiritual role to help young people not only in human growth but also in answering God’s call and saying: “Speak Lord, your servant is listening.”

On the Internet :

Pope Benedict’s full address may be found at:

<http://www.zenit.org/article-34123?l=english>

## The Spiritual Motherhood Apostolate is Expanding!

Along with Family Vocation Days, Family Vocation Ministries also promotes Spiritual Maternity. Now, after completing three booklets on Spiritual Motherhood, we are now working on a “Frequently Asked Questions” pamphlet regarding Motherhood according to the Spirit and also a “How to start your own Spiritual Motherhood Woman’s Group” guide to help ladies in their special vocation of being Spiritual Mothers. We also have videos of lay women, active religious and cloistered nuns being recorded, so they can give testimony and catechize women regarding the special call of Spiritual Maternity. Please visit our website periodically for updates. If you have not already, please download the booklets written on Spiritual Motherhood and familiarize yourself with it so we can strengthen our busy priests!

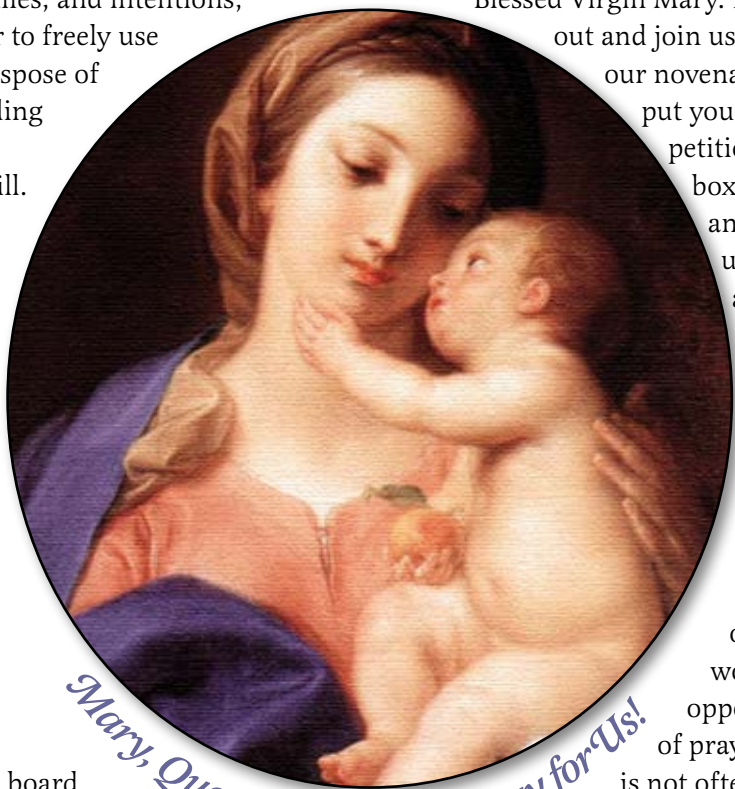
Here are some of the materials we have published.



# Novena of Masses and Devotional Prayers: Uniting Priests, Religious and Families

*A Novena will be offered for your intentions beginning on August 14<sup>th</sup> and ending on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Queenship of Mary.*

Family Vocation Ministries is consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title "Queen of Families." We give to our Lady, all our works, graces, merits, families, and intentions, allowing her to freely use them and dispose of them according to God's almighty Will. Therefore, it is a great honor and pleasure for *Family Vocation Ministries* to offer a nine-day novena of Masses for the intentions of all the members, benefactors, board members, religious communities, dioceses and families who have attended our vocation days. Along with the nine-day novena of Masses, we have asked each religious community, diocesan vocation director, member and family in our ministry to offer during the days of the novena: Holy Communion; rosaries; holy hours of adoration; and liturgical hours of the Divine Office. With so many priests, religious and families praying the novena, we can be assured that our prayers will certainly be heard. Now is



*Mary, Queen of Families, Pray for Us!*

the time to ask God for the conversion of your family and friends; for religious orders and dioceses to petition to God for more vocations to their community or diocese; for an end to the culture of death; and for any of your personal intentions. Accompanying this newsletter is a paper asking you to write your intentions for our novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please fill it out and join us in praying our novena. We will put your written petitions in a boxed container and place it under the altar, upon which the nine-day novena of Masses will be celebrated. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity of prayer; it is not often we have so many religious communities, priests, and families, all praying at the same time for the intentions of one novena. If you desire, please pass this newsletter to your extended family and friends who need prayers offered for their intentions. A form may also be filled out online (at [www.familyvocations.org](http://www.familyvocations.org)) if you are unable to distribute the printed newsletter and intention insert. May God grant our petitions if it be in accord with His will, through Christ our Lord. ☩

## *Novena to the Queen of Families*

*O Mary, Queen of Families, our refuge and our strength, we come to you as your children, placing our hope and confidence in you. As you interceded for the family at the wedding feast of Cana, please intercede for us now. We venture through difficult times, facing a culture of death and lukewarm Catholicism, but we trust in your powerful mediation, and know you will present our petitions to your Son, who will grant them according to His holy will. We ask you to pray for the needs of our families, religious communities and dioceses involved in our ministry and we commend to you these specific intentions, (mention petitions here). We ask all these things in the Name of Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*

*Mary, Queen of Families* is published tri-annually by *Family Vocation Ministries*.

*Family Vocation Ministries* is a non-profit organization founded for the purpose of promoting and praying for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life by sanctifying family life.

If you would like more information or would like to join our mailing list, please contact us at:

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## Join Our Ministry

We are always in need of families to join our ministry and help us in our mission to promote vocations through the sanctification of family life. Joining is easy and free! Simply fill out a form online, or complete the form in our *Family Vocation Ministries* brochure and mail it to us. We will add you to our mailing list and send you a kit to foster and promote vocations through the family, as well as additional devotional and reading material about finding holiness in ordinary life. ☺

## Request a Family Vocation Day

Are you interested in scheduling a Family Vocation Day or learning more about our apostolate? Visit us online! When you visit our web site you can listen to vocational talks, and hear music and testimonies from our Family Vocation Days. Our brochures, pamphlets, and contact information are also provided online, so if you know of a parish, retreat center, or an organization that would like to host a vocation day, please don't hesitate to pass the information along. Donations are also accepted online via credit card or check.

Our calendar of events is also regularly updated on the web site so you can stay informed about the many events we are organizing and sponsoring. ☺

## Expanding the Apostolate: Help Needed

Since beginning Family Vocation Ministries in 2007, we have had numerous requests to host our Family Vocation Day apostolate around the country. Many parishes, shrines and retreat houses nationwide have requested help to promote vocations in their areas. In order to expand our apostolate and help these communities, we humbly seek monthly donors to our ministry. Our goal is to have a full-time staff traveling across the country to set up these vocation days. Through your generosity, we will be able to utilize the many faithful to help in the New Evangelization. You can easily donate online from our web site, [www.familyvocations.org](http://www.familyvocations.org), or mail in a donation. Donation envelopes are available – just ask us. All donations are tax-deductible and will be used toward our ministry and apostolate of renewing the family. May God reward you for all your financial help! ☺

*Year of Faith...continued from page 2*

preached to us! “*Woe to me if I don’t preach the Gospel*”, St. Paul said to the Christians in Corinth. Priests have a grave duty to preach the Truth of Christ in Love. The world and the Church would certainly be a better place if the True Faith was spoken of more often than it currently is, especially in our own Churches. Therefore, it is very crucial, vital, and essential that we pray for our priests during this “Year of Faith!” How can we celebrate such a beautiful year without thinking about, supporting, sacrificing and praying for

those who are *primarily responsible* for spreading the faith?! May God have mercy on all priests, and by our constant prayers and support, may we become the saints that God is calling us to be.

Sincerely in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
Jonathan Aytona  
Managing Director ☺