

The ELIJAH CUP

Praying for Vocations in Our Homes



The Elijah Cup Program ... The purpose of the Elijah Cup is to provide a focal point for prayer. We are all aware of the need for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and to the religious life. We are somewhat less aware of the need to discern God's will for all vocations ... religious and laity ... married and single ... career and work ... ministry and service. We forget just how powerful and necessary praying for discernment of vocations can be. If we pray with the faith of the widow of Zarapeth, our cup will never run dry! If we pray, we will always have priests to bring us Jesus in the Eucharist. If we pray, we will always have Catholic parents nurturing their families and children. If we pray, we will always have Christian servants answering God's call to minister to others.

Widow of Zarapeth ... The Elijah Cup is so named after the prophet Elijah who visited a poor widow and her son who had little or no food. In 1 Kings 17, during a drought, Elijah tells the poor widow of Zarapeth that if she makes him a small loaf of bread with the last of her flour and oil, her "jar of flour will not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the Lord sends rain upon the earth." In faith, the widow baked the bread and fed Elijah. For the next year, the widow, her son, and Elijah ate bread made from the bowl of flour and jug of oil.

How the Program Works ... Each weekend at one of the Masses, a family is presented with the Elohah Cup for as the focal point for pray for vocations. Each day for a week, during prayer time (morning, bedtime or at meals), they pray for an increase and perseverance in vocations. The following Friday, they return the Elijah Cup to the Church office for presentation at Mass during the upcoming weekend.

Prayer Journal Accompanies Elijah Cup ... A prayer journal also travels with the Elijah Cup. Each week the family, individual, or couple that has the cup enters a thought, prayer, or scripture verse. Over time, this diary becomes a spiritual journal for the parish.



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A vocation is a call from God to a state of life in which one can reach holiness.

More generally, all are called to communion with Christ, to peace, liberty and sanctification. The idea of being called is not limited to the religious life.

Every role in life if carried out in the right spirit, say the saints, has an element of consecrated service.

"The Wisdom of the Saints, An Anthology of Voices," edited by Jill Haak Adels, PHD

YES, I want to join with Blessed Sacrament Parish members to pray for vocations in our homes, in our parish and in our diocese.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

I prefer to receive the Elijah Cup at:

Saturday 6:15 pm Mass _____ Sunday 9:00 am Mass _____

Sunday 11:00 am Mass _____ Sunday 6:15 pm Mass _____

INDICATE DATE PREFERENCE IF YOU HAVE ONE:

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

_____ **NO DATE PREFERENCE. FIRST AVAILALE WEEK IS OKAY!**

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