

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF A VOCATION TO DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD?

This past May 29, 2010 during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass Father Christopher Paul Feeney was ordained to the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ for service here in the Diocese of Norwich Connecticut by Bishop Michael Cote! All praise and Glory to God for this blessing upon our diocese! May those who also are being called by our Lord to serve as one of His priests also step forward for the work of bringing souls to Christ!

What exactly are the signs and characteristics of those Christ is calling to serve as one of His priests? In a recently published book, **TO SAVE A THOUSAND SOULS**, written by Fr. Brett A. Brannen we now have a book that answers many questions about discerning specifically a vocation to Diocesan Priesthood! Chapter five focuses on very specifically a list of signs and characteristics one can identify as pointing towards having or being called to this particular vocation. They are listed below and during the next few months, this space will be dedicated to summarizing and reflecting on what exactly Father Brannen discusses about each of these signs and characteristics in his book.

I think it is important to begin with the quote Father Brannen uses at the beginning of chapter five which says; *“God does not always call the best to be his priests, but he does expect the best of those he calls”*.

“How does one know they may be a good candidate for a vocation to priesthood? The signs and characteristics are:

1. One who wants to know and love Jesus Christ and has a thirst to bring Jesus and His teachings to the world.
2. A man who is a believing, practicing Catholic.
3. A man who is striving to live a life of prayer.
4. A man who lives and desires a life of service to others.
5. A man who has a desire to be a priest.
6. A man who often will have other people validated by suggestion or encouragement that they would make a good priest.
7. A man who will find his calling validated in Sacred Scripture
8. A man striving to live a life of virtue
9. A man with good people skills
10. A man with above average intelligence
11. A man who is physically, emotionally and psychologically stable
12. A man who is joyful and has a good sense of humor.
13. A man who has a “priest’s heart”

- 14. A man who has self possession and self-mastery**
- 15. A man must show stability in lifestyle**
- 16. A man should be a Christian gentleman**
- 17. A man in whose life certain events point toward priesthood**
- 18. A man who is able to accept both success and failure peacefully**
- 19. A man with a healthy psycho-sexual development and orientation**
- 20. A man who is truly open to the Will of God for his life”**

If you know a man with many of these characteristics and think they might have this special call pray for them and ask them to consider the possibility. The priesthood is a wonderful life.