

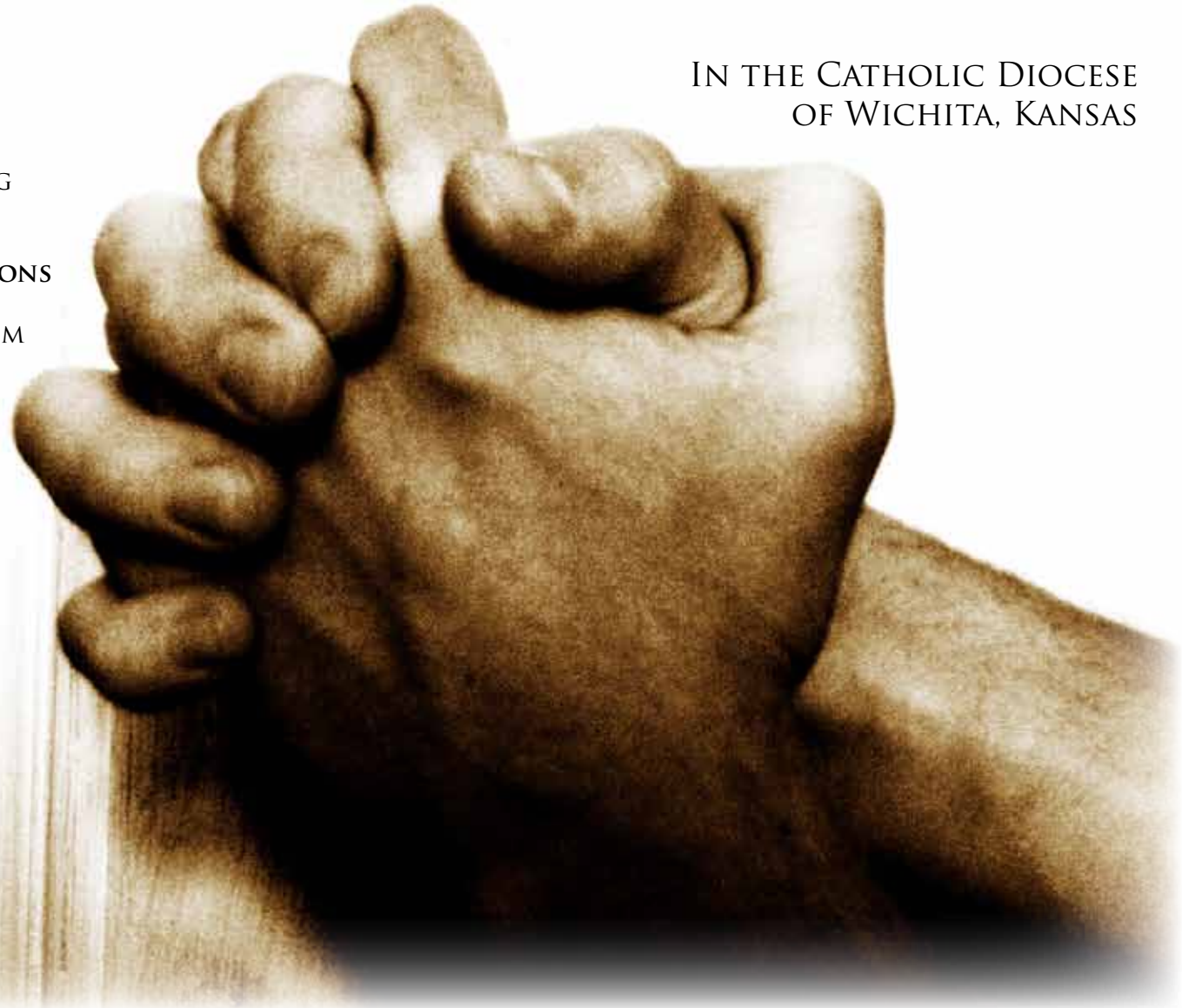
A GUIDE TO

Discerning a
VOCATION

IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF WICHITA, KANSAS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING
ONE OF THESE EVENTS CONTACT:

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HOW DO I DISCERN A VOCATION?

God desires every man and woman to follow a particular path in life. Men are called to serve God and others through the priesthood, religious life, or marriage. How does a young man discern his vocation? While there is not one certain answer to this question, there is a common path that each man can take to aid in authentically discerning his vocation. This path includes:

- Cultivating a life of prayer
- Receiving spiritual direction
- Living a life of virtue
- Frequenting the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confession
- Forming holy friendships
- Daily prayer
- Talking to a priest
- Fostering a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Eucharistic adoration
- Spiritual reading

How can we repay God for His gift of life? St. Catherine of Siena says the most cherished thing we can give God is our free will through our self-gift of obedience. We obey when we seriously consider and follow God's call in our life.

Here in the Diocese of Wichita, the Office of Vocations sponsors many opportunities for young men to discern a vocation including:

FINDING GOD'S CALL

Finding God's Call is a discernment program sponsored by the Office of Vocations. A young man can contact the Director of Vocations to:

- Be referred to a spiritual director
- Receive assistance in discerning his vocation
- Learn how to deepen his prayer life, including:
 - * An introduction to the *Liturgy of the Hours*
 - * How to pray a *Lectio Divina*
 - * How to pray during a holy hour
 - * Various methods of meditation
- Receive guidance about entrance into the seminary
- Be prepared to live his vocation

DISCERNMENT GROUP

The discernment group meets once each month in a small and confidential setting. A priest leads the men in this group in prayer and discussing questions related to discerning their vocation, such as:

- What are the signs God is calling me?
- How do I discern a vocation?

- What are common fears?
- Is there a difference between the call to seminary and the call to the priesthood?
- What if I feel unworthy?
- What is seminary formation?
- What qualities are needed for a young man to enter formation?
- What about my own hobbies and interests?
- What about celibacy?
- What are some common elements in each man's path to the priesthood?

QUO VADIS RETREAT

JANUARY 6 - 8, 2012

The *Quo Vadis* Retreat is an opportunity to examine where your life is going and ask the Lord if you are going in the right direction. This retreat is designed for young men to discern a vocation to the priesthood, to religious life, or to marriage. On this retreat, you will take time to ask the Lord where He desires to lead you.

The name *Quo Vadis* refers to a story about St. Peter that occurred a few days before his crucifixion. Legend tells us that as Peter was walking away from Rome he encountered Jesus carrying His cross on the Appian Way. Peter was leaving Rome in discouragement due to the persecutions, thinking that Christ's Church would never be founded. When he encountered Jesus, Peter asked Him, "Quo Vadis Domine?" or "Where are you going Lord?" Jesus replied, "I am going to Rome to be crucified once again." At that moment, St. Peter's discouragement turned to courage. He turned around and walked back to Rome, knowing what he had to do. A few days later he bore witness to Christ and was crucified upside down in the area of the Vatican Hill, planting the seed where the Church would grow.

(Open to men who are High School Seniors through 30 years of age.)

SEMINARY VISITS

Each year the Office of Vocations sponsors two visits to College seminaries so that men can experience life in the seminary for a weekend. There is one visit in the fall and one in the spring.

(Open to men who are High School Juniors through College Seniors.)

ENCOUNTER WITH GOD'S CALL

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2011 AND MARCH 24-26, 2012

CONCEPTION SEMINARY COLLEGE | CONCEPTION, MISSOURI

Twice a year Conception Seminary College hosts the *Encounter With God's Call* weekend. Young men considering a possible call to the priesthood are welcome to spend a weekend geared toward helping them with their discernment. Participants are able to experience a seminarian's daily routine and gain a fuller understanding of what life as a seminarian entails. It is an opportunity to meet and interact with other young men who are seeking God's will in their lives and struggle with the same fears and anxieties. Join us for this weekend of prayer and fellowship!

www.conception.edu/vocations/encounter-with-gods-call-weekend