



## LEARNING ABOUT VOCATIONS

Parents, this may be a great way to teach your children about vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

For those who think the Lord may be calling them, it could be a good place to start for further discernment.

Visit the websites [calledbychrist.com](http://calledbychrist.com) and [romancatholicvocations.blogspot.com](http://romancatholicvocations.blogspot.com) for more information about vocations.

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### Why Elijah?

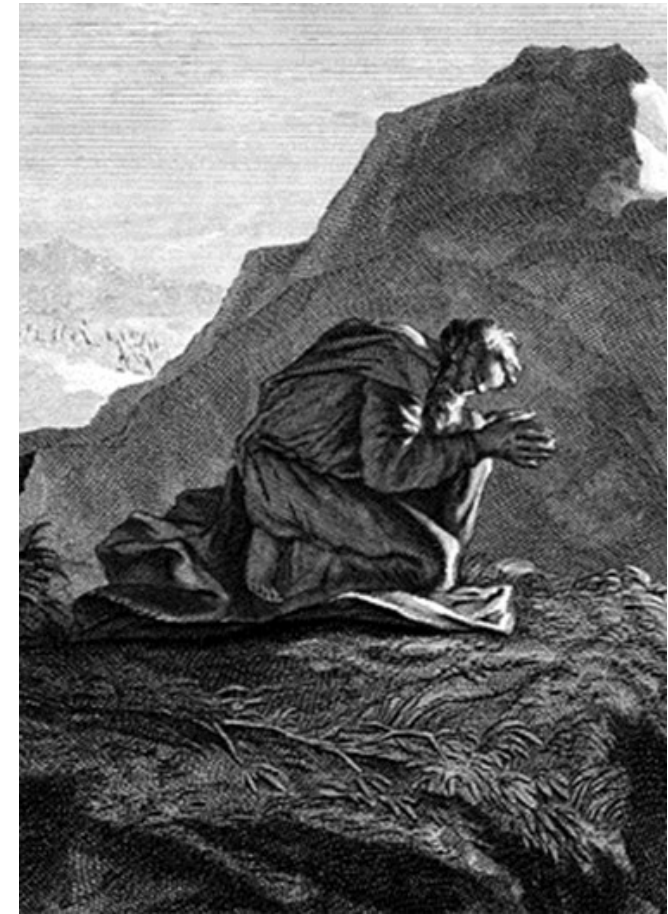
In the Old Testament (I Kings 17), the prophet Elijah invites himself into the home of a poor widow and her son, and imposes upon their hospitality. A great drought is upon the land and the widow has only enough food for one last meal. But the presence of the prophet brings about miraculous providence so that their staples of flour and oil never run out. Thus, Elijah is a blessing to the home, and the widow and her son survive because of his presence. • Similarly, we as Catholics might imagine that there is a drought of vocations, and that we shall all soon have to do without the Eucharist, because there are no priests. But the Lord does call men to be priests, even today. He wants to provide for us. Therefore, in the Elijah Cup ministry, we pray to the Lord for an increase in priestly and religious vocations, and to ask that those called will have the courage to respond. Our prayers, then, affirm God's providence. • Each week, a family, couple, or individual will receive the Elijah Cup at the end of one of the Masses. For that week, the Elijah Cup will remain with them as a focal point of prayer in their homes, the prayers dedicated specifically for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. At the end of the week, they will return the Elijah Cup before Mass starts. The Cup may then be handed over to the next person or family. • When your family prays around the Elijah Cup, remember the Eucharist that sustains us, and that God's providence is great, and that He has not forgotten us or left us without priests.

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## OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAINS THE ELIJAH CUP

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The jar of flour did not go empty,  
nor the jug of oil run dry,  
as the LORD had foretold  
through Elijah.

1 Kings 17:16

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS  
SUNDAY, MONDAY, & TUESDAY

O God, Father of all Mercies,  
Provider of a bountiful Harvest,  
send your Graces upon those  
You have called as priests  
to gather the fruits of your labor.  
Preserve and strengthen them  
in their lifelong service of You.

Open the hearts of your children  
that they may hear your call  
and discern your Holy Will.  
Inspire in them a love and desire  
to surrender themselves  
to serving others in the name  
of your son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Teach all your faithful to follow  
our respective paths in life  
guided by your Divine Word and Truth.

Through the intercession of  
the Most Blessed Virgin Mary,  
all the Angels, and Saints,  
humbly hear our prayers  
and grant your Church's needs,  
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS  
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

Father, we are your people,  
the work of your hands.  
So precious are we in your sight  
that You sent your Son, Jesus,  
to be our Redeemer and Savior.  
The Lord Jesus calls us to heal  
the broken-hearted, to dry the tears  
of those who mourn, to give hope  
to those who despair, and to rejoice  
in your steadfast love.

We, the baptized, realize our call to serve,  
but help us to know *how* we are called.

Father, call forth from among us priests,  
sisters, brothers, and deacons.  
Help us to have the courage to trust  
that You are calling us all to be saints,  
and to follow the paths of righteousness  
that You set before us as individuals.

We ask this through our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with You,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS  
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, & SUNDAY

Loving God, your Son, Jesus,  
has told us that He is the Way.  
Help us to find our way in this world.  
Keep our hearts open to following your  
Son's way of serving others in love.  
Give us the courage to accept the guidance  
you offer us through our family,  
our friends, and our parish community.

We know that through the Holy Spirit,  
You call us each to a particular way of life.  
If it is the way of a priest, sister, brother,  
or deacon, then help us to walk it  
in joyful service to your people.

If you call us to married life, help us to be  
holy partners to our spouses, to be open  
to life, and to raise up Godly children in a  
house of prayer. We know that no matter  
what our individual calls may be, you call  
us to holiness. Help us to be saints, Lord,  
of your Church.

We make our prayer in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit. Amen.

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