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From +John...

Kia tau te Rangimarie kia koutou

This is a difficult time in our history to be asking people to think about vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The sexual abuse scandals have rocked the Church throughout the world and continue to do so. It is hard to talk to young men about the possibility of priesthood when they hear so much about how so many have been abused and betrayed by those they should have been able to trust.

However, the call to priesthood must be talked about. It is still a rewarding and very satisfying life. It is a life of service and brings with it the incredible privilege of walking alongside others in all aspects of their lives. It gives those of us who are priests the chance to try to be the presence of Christ to others and that is a privilege and a blessing that I cannot put into words. Even in the midst of a Church in disarray and disappointment the call to priesthood is obviously still there.

Vocations Awareness Week will be observed from 4th – 11th August throughout New Zealand. Will that week be any different for us from any other week of the year? Will our parishes, schools and colleges do something special to encourage teenagers and young adults to think about the possibility of priesthood and religious life? Will parents mention it as a possibility to their sons and daughters. Do the priests who read this newsletter regularly ask young men if they have thought about priesthood as a possibility?

A few months ago we formed an Archdiocesan Vocations Committee who are now working with Father David Dowling. This group of generous people, consisting of three women and two priests, is looking at ways to raise the profile of priestly vocations in the Archdiocese. In particular they will

explore the promotion of vocations among young people, and assist in accompanying those who are considering priesthood.

Please pray in support of the work of the Archdiocesan Vocations Committee, and please reflect on how you could invite suitable young men to consider priesthood.

With thanks and every blessing.

Naku noa

+ John

Lord Jesus, you invite us to pray the Lord of the harvest that He send labourers into His harvest.

- Lord and God of all, call to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Wellington men on fire with your love, who will be the voice of the Good Shepherd to the scattered sheep of the flock.
- Lord and Saviour, bless us with holy priests. Through their ministry may your life-giving presence in the sacraments be always present in your Church.
- Lord and Giver of Life, raise up men filled with your power and with great missionary zeal, so that all who dwell in darkness may come to live in the light of Christ.

Lord of the harvest, send labourers into your harvest.

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NEWS ...

- **Combined Ministries Appeal Launch** This coming Sunday 14 July the Combined Ministries Appeal is being launched. Please watch out for envelopes at churches or you may like to donate online at www.givealittle.co.nz/org/cma2019
- Date saver for the next **Cardinal's Lunch** Wednesday 28 August 12-2pm Inter-Continental Hotel, Grey Street. Cardinal John Dew will be speaking at this event. Further information will be made available soon.

Let us be kind, and we will give happiness; for nothing gives more happiness than kindness. Let us be kind, and we will be happy ourselves, and we will become Saints in imitating Him Who spent His life on earth "going about doing good."

Suzanne Aubert