



VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK 2018

Today (4 November) marks the beginning of the annual celebration of *National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW)* in the United States of America. According to the official website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org):

“National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to **renew our prayers and support** for those who are considering one of these particular vocations. NVAW began in 1976 when the U. S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on 13 January in 2013. Beginning in 2014, NVAW was moved to the first full week of November.”



Readers of Our Holy Redeemer’s weekly bulletin (“in hand” or online at www.ohrfreeport.org) know that the prayers and support of the Church in Freeport with respect to those considering (or in) a Vocation to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life, are not limited to this annual one-week celebration. Throughout the year the Church in Freeport prays for an “increase in Vocations” at Holy Mass, and encourages readers of our weekly bulletin to not only “pray the Harvest Master to **send more** labourers into His harvest” (Saint Matthew IX:38), but to also pray for those who have already been sent: “our Bishop, our Priests, our Deacons, our Religious” as well as those who are discerning “the Call” namely our Seminarians, Novices, and Postulants.

How blessed we were to accompany one of those for whom we prayed (Freeport’s very own **Father Pierre Toussaint, CFR** (aka Alain Guiteau)) to his Ordination as a Priest (26 May 2018). And, how blessed we are to be accompanying another one of our own, Sister Marie Meaghan (aka Meaghan Baldwin) in her pursuit of “the Call” to Consecrated Life! Sister Meaghan recently wrote me a letter that with her permission I share with you now.

Dear Father Arcoleo

How are you? I hope you are doing well. I feel like there is a lot to tell you! God is so amazing!

Sister Therese Marie had her Perpetual Profession of Vows – it was beautiful! (It was on 10/13). Then on 10/15, we had a special Community celebratory day because it used to be Mother Foundress’ Feast Day when she was alive – the Feast (Memorial) of Saint Teresa of Avila. It was a day of recreation, prayer, etc.!



Not that long ago I was reflecting on a Reading of the Day around that time. It was on divorce and Jesus was pointing out that Marriage cannot be broken. In prayer, I got the sense about how Marriage is a gift, and there are offenses against it. I also got the sense/thought of how there are offenses against life, family, the body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit, as well. I also got the sense/thought of how Religious Life is a gift and how I can offer my life – as a Religious Sister – in reparation for the offenses against Marriage, family, life, and the human body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit. I felt like I got more of a sense of my purpose – only through/by the Grace of God.

God Bless, and with Prayers to Jesus’ Sacred Heart, through Mary,

Sister Marie Meaghan