DISCERNMENT GROUPS & SEMINARY VISITS
TWO WAY DISCERNMENT

Giving guys a chance to discern the priesthood

Giving you a chance to discern the guy
BENEFITS IN GENERAL

- Connecting good, faithful guys around the diocese
- Rallying point for guys who contact you
- An excuse to invest in our young Catholic men
- Helping to make discernment “normal”
- Just having it—slowly starts to become part of the “culture”
- Fliers, Announcements, Participation—helps put “vocation” in people’s consciousness
DISCERNMENT GROUP DYNAMICS

- Juniors in High School —Age 25
  - Younger than that, usually not ready to discern seriously + Long way from being able to enter
  - One immature guy can ruin the group
  - Organic mentoring happens—younger guys looking up to the older guys

- Once a month—doable commitment
- Include a meal if you can
- 90 minutes + Time afterwards just to hang out
- Co-Lead the Group with someone regularly in their lives—Another Priest, Youth Minister, Campus Minister, etc.
GROUPS LED BY OTHERS

- This is will likely take time to materialize
- Great thing for a seminarian to do weekly during his summer parish assignment
- Convince a priest friend to do one at his own parish
DIFFERENT TYPES OF GROUPS

- DDP—Discerning Diocesan Priesthood
- DYV—Discerning Your Vocation (Co-Ed) → Single Sex Groups
- DYV—Discerning Your Vocation—all Guys
- Guys Nights (ROOTED)
- DO WHAT WORKS!!!!!
IF YOU HAVE SOME GOOD RELATIONSHIPS IN AN AREA OR CAN COLLABORATE WITH SOMEONE WHO DOES, THIS CAN WORK REALLY WELL

PERSONAL INVITATIONS WILL BE KEY—NETWORK WITH PEOPLE IN THE AREA AND SEE WHO TO INVITE

- DECIDE WHO YOU WILL CALL AND WHO THEY WILL CALL
- EXPLAIN TO GUYS THEY ARE NOT SIGNING THEIR LIVES AWAY
- CHANCE FOR ME TO INVEST IN THE MAN YOU ARE BECOMING
- THIS OUGHT TO BE A NORMAL PART OF EVERY HEALTHY YOUNG CATHOLIC MAN’S EXPERIENCE
- CHANCE TO AFFIRM A GUY—“THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY GUYS YOUR AGE ON YOUR WAVELENGTH”

MY EXPERIENCE @ CHRIST THE KING PARISH
DDP
DISCERNING DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

September 17
October 15 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
November 19 Family Life Center
December 10 St. Bede Parish
January 7 3870 Atlanta Highway
February 18 Montgomery, AL 36109
March 24 DINNER PROVIDED!
May 5

For young men in high school and older...
If you are open to learning more about Diocesan Priesthood and asking the Lord if this might be His plan for you, join us...

Hosted by Fr. Nicholas Napolitano and Fr. Patrick Gilbreath
Sponsored by Fr. Victor Ingalls and the Office of Vocations
Guided by the Holy Spirit
DYV: DISCERNING YOUR VOCATION (CO-ED)

- Works well in a college setting (Auburn University)

- Fall semester: give an overview of “vocations”
  
  - (1) Overview (2) Marriage vs celibacy — Have a married couple speak (3) Overview of all celibate vocations (4) Practical tips to begin discerning

- Spring semester
  
  - Guys go with you to further discern the priesthood
  
  - Recruit a campus minister, sister, student leader to lead the girls in discernment of religious life or women vocations in general

- Guys who make it through the spring semester —> try to get to start a discernment group —> try to get local priest to walk with them
DYV
DISCERNING YOUR VOCATION

CO-ED
September 19
October 24
November 7
November 21
GUYS & GIRLS GROUPS
January 9
February 20
March 26
April 16

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
The Library
Mitcham House
115 Mitcham Avenue
Auburn, AL. 36830

$2 DINNER PROVIDED!
(dinner provided at 6:45)

If you are a student and are interested in figuring out what plans God has for you...

Hosted by St. Michael Parish
Sponsored by Fr. Victor Ingalls and the Office of Vocations
Guided by the Holy Spirit
YOU HAVE SOME INROADS, BUT GUYS SEEM TO BE SKITTISH ABOUT JUST HONING IN ON PRIESTHOOD

IF THERE IS A DEMOGRAPHIC THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO BREAK INTO FOR THE FIRST TIME... OR FIRST IN A WHILE

TWO EXAMPLES

HISPANIC — YEARLY DISCERNMENT RETREAT IN SPANISH (HOMBRES POR CRISTO)—MONTHLY FOLLOW UP GROUPS WITH PARTICIPANTS AS LEADERS

AFRICAN-AMERICAN—YEARLY DISCERNMENT RETREAT (ENIGMA)—A COUPLE REUNIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
¿PREPARADO PARA TU LLAMADO?
VEN Y DISCIERNE TU LLAMADO EN:

Retiro Vocacional:
Hombres por Cristo
y Para Cristo#5

PARA JÓVENES SOLTEROS DE 15-35 AÑOS
MONASTERIO LA VISITACIÓN
2300 SPRINGHILL AVE, MOBILE, AL 36607
$50.00 DONACIÓN
5-7 DE JUNIO DE 2020
COMIENZA VIERNES 6:00P.M.
TERMINA DOMINGO A LAS 3:00P.M.

Para más información con sgarcia@mobarch.org
Ministerio Hispano 251-697-6907

Para la aplicación del retiro escanea el código de QR
o ingrese a la página Web
https://forms.gle/Zaq6nmaidofY5j96
¿Preparado para tu Llamado?
Ven y discierne tu llamado en:

RETIRO VOCACIONAL: HOMBRES POR CRISTO Y PARA CRISTO #5

Para jóvenes solteros de 15-35 años
Monasterio la Visitación: 2300 SpringHill Ave, Mobile, AL 36607
$50.00 donación
5-7 de junio de 2020
comienza viernes 6:oop.m.
termina Domingo a las 3:00p.m.

INFORMACION
sgarcia@mobarch.org
Ministerio Hispano 251-697-6907
(251) 680-2218 cel Sonya
ENIGMA
EVEN NOW I GIVE MYSELF AWAY

A Discernment Retreat for Young Black Catholic Men: 9th grade-35 years old
Also for Young Black Men who attend Catholic Schools

WHEN
Friday, January 31, 3pm – Sunday, February 2, 2pm

WHERE
Resurrection Catholic Missions
2815 Forbes Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36110

COME AND CONSIDER WITH GOD’S PEOPLE:
What is your purpose here on earth? What is God’s plan for your life?
How does God want to use you to build up His kingdom?
How is Jesus calling you to give yourself away as His friend & disciple?

For More INFORMATION Contact Margie Lilly at 251-415-3671 or via email at mlilly@mobarch.org

COST
$10 Payable on Arrival Includes all Meals, Lodging, Transportation & T-shirt

TRANSPORTATION
A van will leave from McGill-Toolen in Mobile at 12pm on Friday and return 5:30pm on Sunday (Parking Lot across from CYO Hall)

Registration Deadline: January 27
To Register, Visit HTTPS://DOCS.GOOGLE.COM/FORMS/D/E/1FAIpQLSdBcW29VM6hFbPu3T6WUYFQ6PZ6EfaXRYWK613SDSSWUSKRTQ/VIEWFORM?USP=SF_LINK
IT'S ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

GUYS NEED TIME TO HANG OUT AND DEVELOP TRUST AND RAPPORT

TOUGH FOR A GUY TO FEEL CALLED TO BE A PRIEST IF HE HAS NEVER HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH A PRIEST OUTSIDE OF A LITURGICAL MOMENT

THEY ARE TALKED AT ALL DAY AT SCHOOL —CHANCE TO JUST BE TOGETHER WITH SOME GOOD GUYS AND HANG OUT

STORY ABOUT CHARLIE

STORY ABOUT MICHAEL

GETTING THE RIGHT GROUP OF GUYS AS LEADERS—“THE 8 HORSEMEN”

ROOTED—JEREMIAH 17:7-8—Blessed are those who trust in the LORD; the LORD will be their trust. They are like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream: It does not fear heat when it comes, its leaves stay green; In the year of drought it shows no distress, but still produces fruit.
JEREMIAH 17:7-8

ROOTED
GUYS NIGHT

WHAT
DINNER PROVIDED | YARD GAMES | GOOD TIMES

WHO
JUNIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL - AGE 25

LOCATION
FRASSATI CENTER | ST. IGNATIUS
3704 SPRINGHILL AVE
MOBILE, AL 36608

TIME
7:00 - 8:30 PM

TUESDAYS
SEPTEMBER 15   JANUARY 12
OCTOBER 27     FEBRUARY 23
NOVEMBER 17    MARCH 23
DECEMBER 15    APRIL 20
Interactive dialogue vs presentation

Post-It Note Grande Size Pads of Paper

Leave your mark!

Also, can reference back to previous meetings or other groups

Find your “Thing”
OPENING QUESTION FOR ALL

- INTRODUCE YOURSELF
- FUN QUESTION—EX: WHAT KIND OF DEODORANT DO YOU USE? SHAMPOO? HAIR PRODUCT? ONE INTERESTING THING IN YOUR LIFE THIS PAST MONTH?
- WHAT IS ONE WAY YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED CHRIST THIS PAST MONTH?
  - CREATES A GOOD ATMOSPHERE FOR SHARING
  - YOU LEARN A LOT ABOUT PEOPLE THIS WAY
    - SOCIAL SKILLS
    - ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE CHRIST IN THEIR LIFE
    - DO THEY GROOM THEMSELVES?!
RESOURCE #1

TO SAVE A THOUSAND SOULS BY FR. BRETT BRANNEN

- Base a presentation on a chapter or two—have guys read it before or after group (most guys not gonna read before...)
- Get this book in the hands of a guy!
- Encourage lectio with scripture in the back (ear mark)
- Encourage rosary with meditations in the back (ear mark)
- Stick vocations prayer card in book for book marker
TO SAVE A THOUSAND SOULS

A Guide for Discerning a Vocation to Diocesan Priesthood

FR. BRETT A. BRANNEN
RESOURCES #2

AND YOU ARE CHRIST’S: The Charism of Virginity and the Celibate Life BY FR. THOMAS DUBAY, SM

VERY HELPFUL TO EXPLAIN CELIBACY—FUNDAMENTALLY ABOUT INTIMACY WITH GOD (DYV—PRESENTATION ON CELIBACY VS MARRIAGE)

FOR SOMEONE WANTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT’S ALL OUT THERE

FOR A GUY STRUGGLING TO UNDERSTAND CELIBACY

DISCERNMENT JUMP-STARTER —HELP UNDERSTAND THE BIG PICTURE: “…communing with the Lord God is the overriding necessity of all human existence” p.117
"...AND YOU ARE CHRIST'S"

The Charism of Virginity and the Celibate Life

Thomas Dubay, S.M.

Ignatius
Discerning the Will of God: An Ignatian Guide to Christian Decision Making by Timothy Gallagher, OMV

For someone ready to start discerning—gives them the tools

Great reference to talk to guys about their experience of discernment

Base a presentation on “3 ways to open yourself to God’s call”

1. Clarity beyond doubt → be grateful & act!
   - Have folks share!!!

2. Discernment of spirits → attentive to consistent peace
   - Best prayer: before Blessed Sacrament + reading the gospels

3. The 4 columns — pros & cons list from perspective of “what will advance the kingdom of God the most”

All throughout—need to be in a stable place in life + have someone to run all of this by—i.e. spiritual director, mentor, vocation director, etc.
RESOURCE #4

DISCERNING YOUR VOCATION: A CATHOLIC GUIDE FOR YOUNG ADULTS BY THE COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES (FORWARD BY FR. JAQUES PHILIPPE)

- TOUCHES ON ALL VOCATIONS
- GREAT PERSONAL EXAMPLES OF DISCERNMENT
- ENCOURAGES PRAYER BUT ALSO TAKING CONCRETE STEPS—VERY GROUNDED ADVICE
- HALF THE BATTLE IN VOCATIONS IS KNOWING WHAT IS OUT THERE

EX: GIRL FROM DYV — GOING TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES
SEMINARY TRIPS
DIFFERENT TRIPS

» ST. JOSEPH COLLEGE SEMINARY—ST. BENEDICT, LA
  » ONLY 2 HOUR DRIVE FROM MOBILE
  » JUNIORS TO 25 YEARS OLD — AGES ACTUALLY MIX WELL IF YOU GET MATURE GUYS
  » GO 2-3 TIMES A YEAR

» ST. JEAN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY—ST. PAUL, MN
  » GO ONCE IN THE SPRING WITH GUYS IN APPLICATION PROCESS

» ST. MEINRAD MAJOR SEMINARY—ST. MEINRAD, IN
  » GO ONCE IN SPRING WITH JUNIORS IN COLLEGE OR OLDER
GENERAL BENEFITS

- Connecting guys on a similar wavelength—always mentioned as their favorite thing of the trip
- Concrete discernment step—makes it real and a real possibility
  - Get to see what it is actually like
  - Meet a bunch of guys your age who have already made that pivotal step
- You get to be around them for a weekend—better than 2 years of discernment groups
- You get to see them interact with their peers, your seminarians and seminary faculty
- Gives you a chance to say—“so can you see yourself here one day?”
WHO TO INVITE

- The best guys you know—> get help recruiting
- Target a certain group with the help of another priest or lay person
- Have them round them up and let you make a pitch to them about the trip
- Guys from the discernment group who show potential
- Get another good chaperone—someone who will add to the experience of the weekend
- Don’t advertise it publicly—one bozo can ruin the trip!! + want to create an intentional environment
GENERAL STRUCTURE

➤ GO DURING A NORMAL WEEKEND IF POSSIBLE—WORK WITH THE RECTOR TO FIND A GOOD SPACE

➤ GET THERE THURSDAY NIGHT, LEAVE SUNDAY AFTER LUNCH

➤ EVERYONE MEET AT THE CHANCERY OR SOME COMMON SPOT—EAT DINNER, MEET THE BISHOP, A WORD AND BLESSING FROM HIM —> PILE INTO ONE BIG VAN

➤ A LOT OF GOOD CONNECTIONS & CONVERSATIONS HAPPEN ON CAR RIDES

➤ LIMIT CELL PHONES

➤ YOUR TICKET ONTO THE VAN (MINUS ONE TO BE DJ)

➤ LEAVE THEM IN YOUR ROOM AT THE SEMINARY
FRIDAY

➤ MEET WITH RECTOR, DEAN OF MEN & REGISTRAR

➤ GO TO CLASSES WITH SEMS—COORDINATE WITH YOUR GUYS TO SEND THEM TO INTERESTING CLASSES

➤ AFTERNOON—PLAY SPORTS, HANG OUT

➤ DINNER TOGETHER (EAT ALL MEALS TOGETHER—GOOD CHANCE TO CHECK IN, SEE HOW EVERYONE’S EXPERIENCE IS COMING ALONG—ASK QUESTIONS, ETC)

➤ SEMINARIANS SHARE VOCATION STORIES

➤ HANG OUT
SATURDAY

- Mass at Carmel—girl from old youth group there—brief hello after mass → blows the roof off what they think is possible to do for God

- Breakfast

- Spiritual director conference on “discernment” → holy hour with confessions —silent! —chance to process everything

- Lunch

- Chance to go to gift shop

- Hike down to the river—fun, normal, important for them to experience

- Take them out to dinner

- Emmaus walk—work with your sems to make good pairings

- Bonfire (crack open some nice cool Lacroixs!)
SUNDAY

➤ MORNING PRAYER AND MASS WITH THE COMMUNITY

➤ MONK BLESSES ALL OF THEIR STUFF—GREAT FOR PRAYER LIFE + REMINDER OF THE WEEKEND AND THEIR DISCERNMENT

➤ LUNCH

➤ SHARING OF GRACES —ONE WAY YOU REALLY ENCOUNTERED CHRIST THIS WEEKEND?/WHAT WILL YOU TAKE AWAY?— ALWAYS PROFOUND

➤ ENCOURAGE THEM TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

➤ CLOSING PRAYER —> DRIVE BACK HOME
HAVING GUYS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE AT THE NEXT D. GROUP

GUYS ON TRIP—GET THEM TO START COMING TO D. GROUP

POSITIVE EXPERIENCE HELPS GUYS IN COMMUNITY BE MORE OPEN TO SEMINARY + JOINING A D. GROUP

EXPERIENCE LIKE THAT CREATES LIFE LONG BOND —> AT VERY LEAST, YOU ARE BUILDING A NETWORK OF GUYS IN YOUR DIOCESE THAT...

- HAVE POSITIVE EXPERIENCE WITH PRIEST, SEMINARIANS AND SEMINARY
- HAVE HAD A VERY RICH, CONCRETE DISCERNMENT EXPERIENCE —IS NOW “NORMAL” TO THEM
- HAVE HAD A GLIMPSE AT THE “BIGGER PICTURE”—ABLE TO CONTEMPLATE WHAT “LAYING DOWN YOUR LIFE FOR CHRIST” MIGHT ENTAIL
TAKES TIME TO BUILD A “CULTURE OF VOCATIONS”

EX: AUBURN —> AFTER 3 YEARS OF DYV, 4 GUYS ENTER SEMINARY

ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE & MILES CHRISTI

17 OF OUR 22 SEMINARIANS HAVE BEEN IN A DISCERNMENT GROUP OR ON A SEMINARY TRIP

MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THEM—THAT THEY HAPPEN!—STARTS TO PLANT SEEDS

MCGILL TOOOLEN HIGH SCHOOL: 10 PRIESTS IN 10 YEARS (IMP. OF COLLABORATION!)

6 HAVE ENTERED SEMINARY IN MY 4 YEARS AS VOCATION DIRECTOR

ALL PART OF A DISCERNMENT GROUP, ALL VISITED SEMINARY

PATIENCE!