

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

The **Office of Vocations** at the Archdiocese of Atlanta through God's grace reaches out to men and women willing to generously offer their lives to God in the priesthood or religious life. The Office of Vocations is headed by Father Luke Ballman, the Director of Vocations. Father Luke and his staff work year round on many projects to promote vocations, i.e., Discernment Masses, Discernment Clubs for men and women and adult and teen, and assist the seminarians while they attend the seminary.

The Office of Vocations is very excited to have eight new priests this year. We will also have seven new deacons this fall that will be ordained to the priesthood in 2010. Several new seminarians will be admitted to the program in the Fall of 2009.

"In fact, the best vocational advertisement continues to be happy, joyful and positive priests and Religious who convey with our enthusiasm, smiles and laughter that God



Photo by Michael Alexander

is doing something wonderful in our lives and that He might be willing to do the same in your life—given half the chance." - Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, *What I Have Seen and Heard*

The future holds exciting possibilities for vocations in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. There are many young men that we see at Mass, prayer and volunteering in the Church who would make wonderful priests. The challenge we face is to "Be Not Afraid" ourselves to approach these young men and encourage them to ask themselves if they have ever thought of becoming a priest. Many young men have given it thought but feel unworthy so they have remained silent. It takes prayer and encouragement from the people in the pews to tap them on the shoulder and quietly ask if they have considered serving the Church as a priest. Many times this is all the young men need as a sign. The rest is up to the Holy Spirit.

For more information visit <http://www.archatl.com/vocations/vocationsoffice.html>

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