

The Beautiful Hands of a Priest

Author Unknown

We need them in life's early morning,	When we are tempted and wander
We need them again in its close.	To path ways of shame and sin
We feel their warm clasp of true friendship,	'Tis the hand of a priest that absolves us.
We seek it while tasting life's woes.	Not once but again and again.
When we come to this world we are sinful,	And when we are taking life's partner
The greatest as well as the least.	Other hands may prepare us a feast,
And the hands that make us pure as angels,	But the hands that will bless and unite us,
Are the beautiful hands of a priest.	Are the beautiful hands of a priest.
At the altar each day we behold them,	God bless them and keep them all holy,
And the hands of a king on his throne	For the Host which their fingers caress,
Are not equal to them in their greatness	What can a poor sinner do better
Their dignity stands alone.	Than to ask Him who chose them to bless.
For there is the stillness of morning	When the death dews on our lids are falling,
Ere the sun has emerged from the east,	May our courage and strength be increased,
There God rests between the pure fingers	By seeking raised o'er us in blessing,
Of the beautiful hands of a priest.	The beautiful hands of a priest.

Vestments, Altar Linens and Habits for Individual Children:

1. Chasuble and Stole Set – \$105 - \$115.
2. White Alb, Amice and Cincture Cord Set – \$35. - \$45.
3. Six-Piece Altar Linens Set: Corporal, Pall, Chalice Veil, Burse, Altar Cloth, Purificator – \$40.
4. Bishop's Mitre – \$25.
5. Nuns' Habits – Same sizes as below. Sz 2-8=\$85; Sz 9/10=\$90.

* Price is determined by age/size of child – 2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8 = \$105, and 9/10 = \$115.

* Vestments and vessels are free to parishes [only] with a traveling vocations prayer program.

* Families can make use of the free donated vestments, vessels and habits *through a parish traveling vocations prayer program. Get one started in your parish!*

Dear Pastor,

It's time! Time to have a vocations prayer program in your parish. It is simple, yet so important. It is no longer a question of "should we" but, "we must" for the sake of God's people, your own parish, and the whole Church. The goal is to encourage and engage parish families and households to pray for more vocations. Taking it to the home keeps it simple, convenient and family oriented – right where vocations often begin. The influence of parents is very powerful and fruitful. Their responsibility is to plant the seeds, encourage loving service to others, and give the knowledge of vocations. As you know, our Catholic faith cannot survive without priests, especially in administering the sacraments to God's people. As parents are necessary to bring forth life so, too, are priests necessary to bring forth spiritual life through the sacraments, particularly the source and summit of our faith – the Holy Eucharist. We must go to the Lord to ask, seek, and find in order to fulfill these needs in the Church. Be a fruitful parish in bringing about vocations. All our hope exists in prayer.

So *yes!* Now is the time; the need is great for more laborers to work in the vineyard of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is God's loving plan. Let's pray, that His holy will be done.



Queen of Apostles and Mother of Priests, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. John Vianney, patron of priests, pray for us.

St. Therese of the Child Jesus, pray for us.

Wee Apostles and Disciples

by Divine Design

The Sewing Seamstress for Vocations — Sheila Axt
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"Ora et Labora," pray and work. This ministry of **Wee Apostles and Disciples** prays for increased vocations through the "little ways" of sewing these vestments and habits for children. Each child has been prayed for with love and hope that they hear God's call when the time comes for their vocation in life. May God's will be done.

Wee Apostles and Disciples



Wee Apostles Vestments and Vessels

Children learn about the Mass and the priesthood while playing. Teach them to offer their play as a prayer for vocations.

Does your parish have a traveling crucifix for vocations prayer program? These vestments, donated freely to parishes, accompany the crucifix to homes of families praying for vocations each week.



St. Therese the Little Flower wore the Carmelite habit. She was a Carmelite nun living in a cloistered convent in Lisieux, France. She is an inspiration to *Wee Apostles and Disciples* because of her "little ways" of living and praying.

Wee Apostles and Disciples includes the choice of three different nuns' habits as part of the vocations prayer program for parish families. Carmelite, Dominican, and Franciscan habits are brown, white, or gray. All include a black and white veil.



Wee Apostles and Disciples

Start a Vocations Prayer Program in your Parish and/or School



How to Include the *Wee Apostles and Disciples* Vestments and Vessels in your Program

*Do you have a vocations prayer program that involves your parish families and community? If not, how about starting one, and include these adorable high quality child-size vestments and habits to teach children about vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Children play and pray, while they learn, and the family prays together. These vestments are donated to parishes who have, or establish an **active** vocations prayer program. Here's how:*

1. Develop a vocations prayer program at your parish in which a crucifix or chalice is sent from home to home, week by week, with prayers for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. This will take a coordinator and a means to sign-up (ex: sign-up sheets or www.signupgenius.com) to promote when need be and keep the program active. A small vocations committee will be needed at your parish to promote the program and offer valuable ways to pray for vocations.
2. Check with your diocese for programs available or recommendations. The following resources are very helpful and full of information for parishes: thinkpriest.org, vianneyvocations.com, and vocationministry.com.
3. Once your program is established, request the *Wee Apostles and Disciples* child-size vestments that travel with your prayer program from home to home, week to week, for the families that want this option. The vestments will be *donated* to your parish.
4. Some families without children will choose to pray without the wee vestments while those with children, even grandchildren, will cherish them as an educational aid to promote vocations. Make it optional. The power of prayer seeds and stirs vocations.
5. If the vestments can actively be used as an educational tool in other ways at your parish and/or school, that is a plus!
6. An educational booklet and prayer cards accompany the vestments and vessels, along with the crucifix or chalice.
7. Keep your sign-up methods active as there should be a new family or household praying each week. (If your parish is small, try a monthly sign-up.)
8. Contact *Wee Apostles and Disciples* for a phone conversation about your parish's vocations program and to order the "vestments and vessels" play kits. (Some child-size Mass kits may be available for donation to parishes from Wee Apostles also: chalice, ciborium, wee altar linens, cruets, etc.)