

# FOR PARENTS

## AN AWESOME PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

As a parent you have been blessed by God with the gift of your children, with this blessing comes the privilege and responsibility of nurturing your children and helping them to become all that God wants them to be, whether that be in married or single life or the ordained or consecrated life. The Church has outlined the responsibilities that come with being a Christian parent:

"The family is, so to speak, the domestic Church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care any religious vocation".

**From the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church**

### From the Parents of Fr Matthew Moloney:

Asked about what it is like being parents of a priest, the one word that comes to mind is a definitely serious "WOW". I think as Catholic parents, we married, had six children, saw four of them married, had fifteen grandchildren and then along comes your youngest son who says he wants to be a priest. What can you say?

It must be the pinnacle of any Catholic parents' dream. When your children marry, of course, at the back of your mind is ".....are they good enough?' You can't help it – It's there and you do worry.

At our son's ordination, one of our little grandies said, "Granne, it is just like a great big wedding!", and it was, but you know you are giving your son to God—no worries!

It really is the most amazing feeling seeing **your** son saying Mass, hearing him preach the sermon and seeing his love for God.

We really are the most blessed of parents—we must have done something right, somewhere along the line and you can only thank the good Lord that he has chosen your son to serve Him.

There is no conclusion to this little story, only a deep abiding love, pride, satisfaction we have for our son who has chosen to serve God above all else.

From Jenny and Bill Moloney.

### A Vocation Prayer for Parents

**O Holy Family of Nazareth, community of love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, model and ideal of every Christian family, to you we entrust our families.**

**Open the heart of every family to the faith, to welcoming the Word of God, to Christian witness, so that it becomes a source of new and holy vocations.**

**Touch the hearts of parents, so that with prompt charity, wise care, and loving devotion they be for their sons and daughters sure guides towards spiritual and eternal values.**

**Stir up in the hearts of young people a right conscience and a free will, so that growing in "wisdom, age and grace", they might welcome generously the gift of a divine vocation.**

**Pope John Paul II**



### From the Parents of Fr Andrew Chase:

Our family life we believe was and is similar to so many other families we know. Our children grew up in Rockhampton and all attended primary school at St Joseph's Wandal and then Andrew went to Christian Brothers College and Emmaus and our daughters all went to The Cathedral College. They were very fortunate to grow up with the love of their four grandparents around them and aunts, uncles and cousins.

We realise our vocation of marriage is the core of a stable family lifestyle, joyful although yet sometimes challenging. Our family faith journey began, as did so many of you, around the bed saying the Rosary and attending Mass, novenas, benediction etc with our parents and we have tried to instill in our family similar values. While holding firmly to the message of Scripture and basic church dogma, our family discussions make no apology for questioning the ideologies of our faith and believe this contributes to a more wholesome faith that Andrew has.

Andrew is the eldest of our children and he has the love and support of us, his parents, in his vocation to the priesthood, and he is supported also by his sisters Teresa, Gemma and Anna. Andrew first told of his thoughts that he might be interested in a vocation to the priesthood when he was in his final years of secondary school but he was not certain at that stage. He decided to complete a physics degree at CQU travelled around Australia with a NET team, and then worked for two years in Canberra. Our family was always made so welcome by all the seminarians when we visited Andrew at the Holy Spirit Seminary in Brisbane. They are a wonderful group of men. During his formation years, we hope we have been a backdrop for Andrew and his home in Rockhampton a place to wind down and relax.

From Chris and Mariann Chase.