



Vocation Promotion Toolkit

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Theological Centers
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Retirement Communities/
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Other

General Resources:

- Reading List
- Vocation Ads
- Prayer Cards
- Reflections

“Every Jesuit, every Jesuit community, every Jesuit apostolate or work is or should be a promoter of vocations.”

— Adolfo Nicolás, S.J.

Superior General

Response to Annual Letters of 2010

We offer this Vocation Promotion Toolkit to all Jesuits and lay and religious collaborators as a resource in their efforts to bring to fruition Father General’s vision of creating a culture of vocation promotion.

To assist in this effort, we assert that an integrated vocation promotion program rests on four main pillars (the 4-S approach):

- Structural Ideas
- Spiritual Programs
- Service Events
- Social Activities



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Structural

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Service

- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee headed by the local promoter to work in conjunction with the rector/superior.
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Provide Jesuit liaisons to JVC communities.
- Community members available for spiritual direction / confessions.
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Develop a community website (if you don't already have one), include links to Jesuit vocation and province website(s).
- "Branding" is important for visibility, recognition, and awareness. Adopt the Jesuit logo and "branding" guidelines of the U.S. Assistency on any publications or web presence. [\[insert link\]](#)
- Ask boldly! Be proactive in inviting young men with whom we work to consider sharing in our mission.



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- Invite potential candidates to regular Masses in the community.
- Facilitate a discernment group of potential candidates.
- Host candidate(s) (in conjunction with the Vocation Office) for a weekend retreat in the community.
- Daily intentions in the prayers of the faithful.
 - * Use a [monthly schedule](#) to pray for men in different stages of their lives and discernment: high school, college, candidates, those in application, novices, men in studies, etc.
 - * recite prayer for vocations at daily community liturgy (post communion meditation); minimally once a month prayer gathering of community to pray specifically for vocations.
- Community gatherings around Advent and/or Lent to pray for vocations, or host Advent/Lent “twilight” reflections for anyone in the apostolate who is interested.
- Depending on apostolate, open up community chapel for regularly scheduled times for private prayer, adoration, rosary groups, etc. for faculty, staff, students, and other lay partners.



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- Host a **Jesuit Open House** or a Vocation Office **“Come and See”** event, one or twice a year.
- Host regular “Ignatian evenings” for lay partners at our various apostolates — dinner/talk on Ignatian spirituality or some other topic of interest.
- Host regular “vocation nights” or other events organized by the local promoter.
 - * Events should be regularly scheduled so communities become comfortable with them and potential candidates can see community at its best.
 - * Evenings should be low-key... focus is on “us,” not “them.”
 - * Evenings could include Mass, dinner, informal talk by a community member regarding how his present ministry brings his vocation alive, movie nights, lectures, etc.
 - * Time for questions, conversation, socializing, tours.
- Facilitate a “Lunch with a Jesuit” program.



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- Once each quarter, invite potential candidates to participate in a service project with community member(s) (volunteer at a soup kitchen, etc.)
- Jesuits working at parish call sites (supply) are encouraged to ask pastor to place announcements in bulletins, flyers on bulletin boards, distribute vocation materials, etc.
- Develop a mentoring program (have a serious discerner “shadow” a Jesuit)



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Develop a website if you don't already have one; include [Jesuit vocation and province](#) links on website.
- Train teachers in Jesuit history and spirituality (JSEA).
- Encourage teachers to promote vocations through classroom activities (see "Social").



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- Invite Vocation Director / Promoter to speak to religion classes, faculty groups, parent organizations.
- Preach about vocations at school Masses (esp. around Nov. 5th).
- Regular vocation intentions in the prayers of the faithful
- Feature Jesuit history tidbits and lives of Jesuits in morning prayers / announcements.
- Hold events on or near Nov. 5th (“Meet a Jesuit” Day)
- Facilitate Ignatian Heritage Day / Week
- Vocation talks on big Jesuit Feast Days



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- Teachers share the story of St. Ignatius and other Jesuits in creative ways (Show ["The St. Ignatius Rap,"](#) ["The Olive,"](#) etc.)
- Highlight famous Jesuits in the classroom. [link ... 12 famous Jesuits]



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- Include service project reflection questions to help students explore connection between Jesuit history/vocation and service.



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee that includes local promoter (could also include campus ministers, lay faculty & staff, students)
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Insert [vocation ads](#) and feature Jesuit stories and reflections in high school newspaper / alumni magazine / newsletters.
- Include Jesuit [vocation and province links](#) on high school website.
- Train teachers in Jesuit history and spirituality (JSEA). [\[links\]](#)
- Encourage teachers to promote vocations through classroom activities and outside interactions with students (see “Social”).
- Communicate the vocation strategy and activities to all levels of school governance.
- Invite teachers, coaches, campus ministers and other staff to identify students who would make a good Jesuit. [\[links\]](#)
- Send survey to students to identify those who are interested and open to a possible vocation. [\[links\]](#)



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- Invite Vocation Director / Promoter to speak to religion classes, faculty groups, parent organizations.
- Facilitate Ignatian Heritage Day / Week
- Facilitate discernment groups ([Canonball Society](#), [Gonzaga](#) groups, etc.)
- Hold events on or near Nov. 5th (International Jesuit Vocation Promotion Day).
- Preach about vocations at school Masses (esp. around Nov. 5th).
- Regular vocation intentions in the prayers of the faithful
- Feature Jesuit history tidbits and lives of Jesuits in morning prayers / announcements.
- Teach students *Prayer for Generosity*, *Suscipe*, *Examen*, other Ignatian prayers.
- Make the “ask” at post-Kairos retreats, gatherings of students leaders.



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- Teachers (even those who don't teach religion) can promote vocations through classroom activities:
 - * [Worksheets](#) to explore web and do research on Society of Jesus
 - * Show movie clips (e.g. *The Mission*, *Romero*) in history class.
 - * Science class could highlight famous [Jesuit scientists](#) (and flowers, stars, galaxies named after Jesuits).
 - * Math class, Jesuit mathematicians, etc.
 - * Share stories of Jesuits who have been helpful in their life.
 - * Speak about religious life as a viable life choice option.
- Offer evenings of Ignatian Spirituality for parents and/or Alumni



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- Include service project reflection questions to help students explore connection between Jesuit vocation and service.



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee through Campus Ministry, the President's Office, or VP for Mission & Identity.
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Vocation promotion as part of **Ignatian Heritage Week**. [[links to Ignatian Heritage Week ideas](#)]
- Ask Jesuits to identify prospective male students whom they think would make good Jesuits; encourage them to approach these men (after the semester; once grades are in).
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas (chapel, campus ministry office, service centers).
- Insert [vocation ads](#) or feature stories or reflections in school newspaper / alumni magazine / radio station / newsletter / website / yearbook.
- President (or other connected Jesuit) can encourage [articles](#) to be written about famous Jesuits, alumni Jesuits, Jesuit life, etc.
- Include Jesuit [vocation and province links](#) on website.
- Have a Jesuit table during orientation week as well as "career fairs."



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- Campus Ministries:
 - * Weekly prayers for vocations at Masses.
 - * Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
 - * Facilitate discernment retreats.
 - * Conduct internships programs which can promote vocations by exposing participants to vocation talks, etc.
 - * Encourage reading of Catholic periodicals (e.g., *America*, *The Tablet*, etc.)
- Facilitate discernment groups.
- Vocation outreach to CLCs and other small church communities.



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- President (or Jesuit Community) can host dinner, barbecue, or other gathering for graduates of Jesuit High Schools:
 - * Fairfield U. — individual dinners held every year for graduates of each Jesuit high school.
 - * Boston College — Ignatian Society made up of Jesuit High School grads — prayer, activity, service.
 - * Loyola Maryland — “From *Kairos* to College” retreats.
 - * St. Louis University — Barbecue at Bellarmine House.
- Schedule a regular “Come and See” event, once or twice a year.
- Hold a Jesuit Lecture series.
- Host a “Jesuit Jam” at beginning of semester (use [Loyola Chicago](#) model).



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- Include service project reflection questions to help students explore connection between Jesuit vocation and service.
- Work with Student Life to have floor-by-floor exposure of students to Ignatian Spirituality and service programs.
- Vocation outreach to Ignatian intentional communities. [[links... SLU, Micah House.](#)]



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Engage in Jesuit “Community” type promotion. (See “[Community](#)”)
- Encourage men in formation to engage with and establish healthy relationships with lay classmates.



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- Host potential candidates for diaconate ordinations; Jesuit alma maters of ordinandi (or schools where they were Regents) can be specifically targeted for invitation.
- Offer regular masses specifically for vocations.
- Offer to pray novena for vocations.
- Get involved with or form CLC groups.
- Provide communal prayer opportunities, e.g. Examen, guided meditations, Taizé, adoration, etc.
- Facilitate discernment groups.



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Service

- Open up Jesuit communities to hosting lay classmates for meals, study, social events.
- Host a regular “Come and See” event, in conjunction with Vocation Office.
- Conduct regular open houses, prayer sessions, movie nights.
- Host dinner with Jesuit alumni at local University.
- Hold a Jesuit lecture series.



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- Establish a Jesuit liaison with local JVC group where applicable.



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First Studies Programs



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- Encourage men in formation to engage with and establish healthy relationships with lay classmates.



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First Studies Programs

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- Offer regular masses specifically for vocations.
- Offer to pray novena for vocations.
- Get involved with or form CLC groups.
- Provide communal prayer opportunities, e.g. Examen, guided meditations, Taizé, adoration, etc.
- Facilitate discernment groups.
- Encourage participation in Campus Ministry activities, where possible.



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee
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- Create an environment that fosters and respects the religious vocation, i.e. makes it safe to talk about vocations.
- Identify young adults who can take on leadership roles in vocation promotion.
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Bulletin inserts regarding vocation events and [vocation stories](#).
- Include Jesuit [vocation and province links](#) on parish website.
- Commit to developing an active Young Adult ministry with programming for those in their 20's and 30's.



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- Preach regularly about vocations at Mass.
- Make Ignatius Day and the Sunday closest to Nov. 5th BIG parish events
- Regular **vocation intentions** in the prayers of the faithful
- Facilitate a discernment group of potential candidates.
- Connect Young Adult groups with Ignatian Spirituality (“Hearts on Fire” programs, Charis Ministries, CLCs, discernment retreats, etc.)
- Include vocation promotion as part of confirmation and catechumenate classes.
- Pastor to visit 7th and/or 8th grade classes (where applicable) to talk about vocations.



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- Host vocation awareness events, especially for Young Adult group.
- Collaborate with vocation promoters of diocese and other religious orders.
- Hold a Jesuit lecture series, e.g. “Theology on Tap” type program.
- Schedule a regular “Come and See” event, once or twice a year.



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- Facilitate service projects for Young Adult group that connect Ignatian Spirituality to Service (coordinate with discernment retreats).
- “Adopt a Jesuit in Formation” program. [\[link\]](#)
- Activities to keep vocations in mind. [\[links\]](#)



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- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee
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- Engage in Jesuit “Community” type promotion. (See “[Community](#)”)
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Include links to [Jesuit vocation and province](#) websites on its own website and newsletters.



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- Develop retreat programs for young adults geared specifically toward vocation discernment.
- Develop retreat programs for Jesuit school alumni.
- Establish a partnership with Jesuit High Schools and the Young Adult ministry office of the local diocese.
- Conduct training in Ignatian Spirituality.
- Host a day of reflection or “twilight” reflections, essentially mini-retreats touching upon themes of Ignatian spirituality, scripture, theology, etc.
- Pray for vocations regularly in the prayers of the faithful.
- Include vocation “plug” in homilies and retreat talks (retreatants are often relatives of potential candidates).



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- Host evenings for Young Adults with an Ignatian Spirituality theme (“Theology on Tap” type event).
- Hold a Jesuit lecture series.



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- Encourage retreatants to get involved in service once they leave retreat.
- Sponsor service / immersion group events.



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Service

- Organize a Vocation Promotion Committee headed by the local promoter to work in conjunction rector/superior.
 - * Evaluate * Institute * Operate * Evaluate
- Community members available for spiritual direction / confessions.
- Display [vocation materials](#) in public areas.
- Develop a community website or newsletter (if you don't already have one), include links to Jesuit vocation and province website(s).
- (REWORD) Have a visible province logo on any publications or web presence. 'Branding' is important for visibility, recognition, and awareness



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- Daily intentions in the prayers of the faithful.
 - * Use a **monthly schedule** to pray for men in different stages of their lives and discernment: high school, college, candidates, those in application, novices, men in studies, etc.
 - * recite prayer for vocations at daily community liturgy (post communion meditation)
- Minimally once a month prayer gathering of community to pray specifically for vocations.
- Community gatherings around Advent and/or Lent to pray for vocations.
- Host candidate(s) (in conjunction with the Vocation Office) for a weekend retreat in the community.



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- Invite your circle of friends to identify and invite good men to consider becoming Jesuits.
- Facilitate a “Lunch with a Jesuit” program (community specific).
- Host former students or parishioners for an evening of vocation stories / Jesuit oral history (community specific).



JESUITS®

Vocation Promotion Toolkit

- Communities
- Middle Schools
- High Schools
- Colleges & Universities
- Theological Centers
- First Studies Programs
- Parishes
- Retreat Centers
- Retirement Communities/
Infirmaries***
- Other

General Resources:

- Reading List
- Vocation Ads
- Prayer Cards
- Reflections

Retirement Communities / Infirmaries

Structural	Spiritual	Social	Service
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- Facilitate an “Adopt-a-Pop” program (community specific). [\[link to St. Joe’s\]](#)



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Other

- Men in Formation (visit alma maters and home parishes to talk about vocations)
- Formation Directors (encourage men to be available for vocation promotion)
- Lay Collaborators
- Communication / Development Offices
- Other Jesuit Sponsored Apostolates