

Traveling Crucifix Program for Religious Education

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Summary

The Traveling Crucifix Program for Religious Education provides students with a significant focal point for daily prayer in the family and for the conversation about the importance of vocations.

A beautiful crucifix is selected to “travel” with selected students each week. They will commit to pray daily for vocations with their family.

This is a wonderful—and easy- to- organize way to involve students to pray for vocations, and to unite the family in perpetual prayer for priests and consecrated life. This program and a similar one for schools, parishes, dioceses have enjoyed growing popularity around the country. Many Serra Clubs and Knight of Columbus have been willing to cover the cost of the Traveling Crucifix Kit.

Program Outline

- ◆ Traveling crucifix program
 - . Provides students with focal point for daily prayer with family
 - . Provides students with focal point for conversation about vocations
- ◆ Crucifix is selected to be given to a Religious Education student each week to take home
 - . host for one week
 - . pray daily for vocations with family
- ◆ Easy-to-organize way to...
 - . involve students in praying for vocations
 - . unite parents and students in perpetual prayer for priests and consecrated life
- ◆ Program has enjoyed growing popularity around America

TIME OF YEAR WILL REMAIN THE SAME AS THE SCHOOL TRAVELING CRUCIFIX.

Using Serrans/Volunteers

- . Acquiring crucifix
- . Organizing/keeping track of schedule as to which students have hosted the crucifix

There are many different suppliers and options to obtain your Traveling Crucifix. Consider asking your parish priest for a crucifix; asking your local Knights of Columbus or Serra Club about funds for purchasing a crucifix; or, asking a school family to build the case or make a bag for transporting the crucifix. The other option is to simply purchase a crucifix. The following is a list of a few sources where they are available.

<https://www.vianneyvocations.com/product/traveling-vocation-crucifix/>

www.icatholicstore.com/product

www.leafletonline.com

www.st-jude.com

www.churchsuppliescatalog.com

www.oconnorscatholicssupply.com

Among best practices is the following programmatic outline that's ready to use in your Religious Education classes in your parish or diocese.

1. This program can be implemented in a variety of settings. Obtain the support of the person who has oversight for the chosen setting:

- a. The pastor for the church/school.
- b. The Director of Religious Education and/or Religious Education Coordinator for a parish.
- c. The Director of Children's Catechesis for the diocese

2. Whether the program is initiated in a single parish religious education program or across the diocese, select one key individual to serve as program director, one director per Traveling Crucifix Program.

3. Obtain supplies

- a. Crucifix
- b. Carrying case or bag
- c. Daily Vocation Prayers to be given out to the students.
- d. Parent letter: a short description for the parents to explaining the purpose of the program and importance of family prayer for vocations.

4. Schedule the following

- a. A time when the student will receive the crucifix, for example, given at the beginning of the Religious Education class.
- b. Establish a time and place for returning the crucifix.

5. Advertise

- a. Begin with a letter to the parents of the religious education students in the class that will receive the crucifix for the week.
- b. Arrange for program announcements in the Religious Education communication to parents and religious education catechists.
- c. Organize the schedule for the Traveling Crucifix.
- d. Arrange for weekly reminders about the return time and location.

6. Launch the Program

- a. Arrange the crucifix in the carrying case/bag with the Daily Vocation Prayers.
- b. Prior to giving the crucifix to the student selected for that week, the organizer will place the crucifix in a prominent place in the classroom and will explain the significance of the crucifix and the importance of praying for their vocation as well as praying for our priests and religious.

The following is reflective of best practices for announcing the; these should be adapted to group's/location's circumstances.

1 .Announcing the Program

To promote prayer for and awareness of vocations, our parish Religious Education Program is introducing the Traveling Crucifix Program to begin at the start of our fall Religious Education classes. Each week a student (grades determined by each parish program director) will host the Traveling Crucifix, puts it in a prominent place in the home, and prays daily with the family for vocations. This is a wonderful way to unite our Religious Education community in perpetual prayer for priests and consecrated life.

The following suggested parent letter and guide text can be emailed to the parents of the classes participating in the program. It can also be printed, laminated or placed in a sleeve and included with the Traveling Crucifix.

Dear Parents,

Thank you for sharing your child with the Religious Education (RE) Program at our parish. Your interest and support of the program really tells us of your commitment to your child learning about and practicing our Catholic faith. Parents are the first teachers and we are here to assist in the development of your child's faith journey.

We want to share a new program that we will be instituting in the Fall RE classes. Your parish school may currently have a Traveling Crucifix Program for those students attending the parish school. We want to share this program with our RE students.

The purpose of the Traveling Crucifix Program is to encourage people to pray and promote vocations. When we pray for vocations we ask God to help us discern what plan he has for us. In this program we ask students to pray for their vocation. It may be a vocation to the priesthood, religious life, single life or married life. What is important is that they learn early to pray and ask for God's help in their life.

The crucifix represents the sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying on the cross. Each week we will choose one student from a class and present them with the Traveling Crucifix Cross in a carrying case or bag with prayers for vocations to be prayed daily with their family. We ask that the entire family pray together and that the crucifix be placed in a prominent place in the home. The crucifix will be returned the next week at their RE class.

During the week your child will bring home the crucifix, we encourage you to talk about vocations, about God's plan for us to grow in holiness, and answer any questions. You should feel free to let your child hold the crucifix, even your young children, if supervised, making sure they treat it respectfully, like all sacred objects.

If you have any questions about the program or wish more information, please feel free to call or email us. Unfortunately, due to the length of the Religious Education classes, not every child will have an opportunity to take home the crucifix during this school year. However, they will have an opportunity to have the crucifix during the following year. Each child will receive a prayer card.

May God bless you and your family for your continued support of your child's religious education. Thank you for praying for vocations.

Your group can purchase Vocation Prayer Cards from Vianney Vocations to include with the crucifix such as:

Prayer to Know My Vocation—go to Vianneyvocations.com

Daily Prayer for Priests Card

<https://www.vianneyvocations.com/product/daily-prayer-for-priests/>

Find other prayer card resources at www.invisiblemonastery.com—or make copies of any of the following prayers, including the prayers with the Traveling Crucifix.

Prayers will be the ones in the school traveling crucifix but will be day 1-7.

The day 6 prayer will be “prayer #1 (Pope Francis Prayer for Vocations).

The day 7 prayer will be “prayer #2 Prayer to Know My Vocation.

For more ideas on implementing and adapting the Traveling Crucifix Program for Religious Education, consider these ideas and visit these sites:

Inviting a priest or religious brother/sister to visit a classroom during religious education and have then talk about vocations.

Include a small notebook with the Traveling Crucifix to log thoughts and ideas that arise during the week.

Find resources and talking points for discussing vocations at www.vocationlessons.com.

Judy, this is the end as there aren't Resources that have used this program. I guess I'll be the first!!!!