

Local Vocation Work... Why Did I Ask That Question?

A reflection by Paul Crawford, O.F.M. Cap.

Every year St. Christopher's School in Nashua, NH has a Vocation Day. The parents invite me along with every Vocation Director from the state to come and spend the day at school. We have Mass together, lunch together and even breaks together that day. For me the highlight of the day is going into four classrooms to talk about my vocation story and to try to answer questions. This year something different happened to me. It was the final class of the day and I think I was on autopilot. So, I got to the part when everything that I wanted to say was said and so I asked if there were any questions. One of the boys in the front row asked me where I was going for Spring Break and I didn't want to make anything up so I said that I would be spending my spring break in Litchfield and Londonderry, NH talking at two parishes. He let out a big sigh and said "even He's going someplace better than me!". Needless to say, I had to ask where he was going... he answered Alabama.



You never know what you are going to be asked or you never know how deeply you might be invited into someone's life. This past year I've been invited to speak to students at the University of New Hampshire on a Sunday night and had 20 stay after a meal to listen and to ask questions. I take part in the monthly Vocation Directors meetings in the Diocese and we are working on putting together a Family Vocation Day in 2010.

In August, I was invited to speak at a local parish in Manchester that was having a Tent Revival Week. My talk was on St. Francis and what his brothers are doing today with one evening just for the youth. It was great to have over 100 attending the youth session.

Each year the local Youth Ministers put together Youth Fest at St. Anselm College. It's a day of prayer, teaching and witnessing. This year over 500 attended and our vocation material was given out.

So, serving as the Local Vocation Contact is always realizing that building relationships with those that we meet and work with is very important. I always know that it's not in what I say but in what I do that is important. After all was it not St. Francis who said to his brothers, "Go and Preach the Gospel and sometimes use words."

