Here I Am, Lord: I Come to Do Your Will

As you walk through the vestibule into the school hallway, you will notice a newly painted Vocation Wall, created as a visible reminder of an important truth: God has a plan and a mission for each one of us. At the center of the wall are the words, *"Here I am, Lord, I come to do your will."* This powerful response captures the heart of every Christian vocation: a willingness to listen for God's call and to respond generously with our lives.

A vocation is more than simply choosing a career or deciding what we want to do with our lives. A vocation is God's call to each of us to live out the particular mission for which He created us. God knows us, loves us, and has entrusted each of us with a unique purpose. Our task is to remain open to discovering that purpose and to have the courage to say, *"Here I am, Lord."*

This Vocation Wall highlights three important parts of our Sacred Heart story: The first plaque recognizes the pastors of Sacred Heart Church, who have generously answered God's call to the priesthood and have served our parish family by bringing Christ to us through the Sacraments and shepherding us in faith. The second honors the Daughters and Sons of Sacred Heart Church- those who grew up in our parish and later answered God's call to religious life. Their lives remind us that God can plant the seed of a vocation within a young heart and that a parish community plays an important role in nurturing that call. The third plaque honors the religious sisters who served at our school- whose lives of prayer, service, and love helped form generations of children in faith. Together, these names tell a story of vocation that belongs to our entire parish community.

God's call may lead someone to the vocation of marriage and family life, to the priesthood, to religious life, or to a life of single-hearted service to the Lord. There is no one vocation that God gives to everyone. What He does ask of each of us is that we listen, remain open, and generously respond to the vocation He has prepared for us.

For our young people especially, may this wall encourage them not to ask only, *"What do I want to do?"* but also, *"Lord, what are You calling me to do?"*. May parents, grandparents, teachers, and the entire parish community help our children recognize that God may be calling them to something beautiful and far greater than they could imagine for themselves.

And may we never underestimate the power of prayer for vocations. As a parish, we remain committed to supporting and nurturing vocations, and we look forward to continued efforts to encourage our young people to listen for God's call, discern His plan for their lives, and consider how He may be inviting them to serve Him and His Church.

Let us remain committed to praying fervently for priestly and religious vocations, especially that the young men and women of our parish will have the courage to recognize God's call and the generosity to respond. May we pray that more men will hear Christ's invitation to the priesthood and respond with open and willing hearts.

May our parish always be a place where vocations are encouraged, nurtured, and celebrated- a community where young people know that God has a mission for their lives and where they are continually reminded that the most beautiful response we can make to Him is: "Here I am, Lord. I come to do Your will."