



EMMAUS WALK

**SERVES:
CHURCH**

**TIME:
ANYTIME**

PRESENTING THE NEED TO MY TEAM



- Jesus is always calling...
- He says to each of us, "Come, Follow Me."
- But to some this call is very special, and they hear the call to the priesthood or religious life.
- They help us come closer to God, but they also need our help.
- Some young men sense that God is calling them, and we need to support them not only with our constant prayers, but also with help to provide for the costs of the seminary.
- Let's raise some money to adopt a seminarian as a team!

"COME, FOLLOW ME"

OUR CALL TO SERVE

Let's plan and host a 7 mile walk for vocations and take pledges to raise money for a local seminarian! We will walk the route from Jerusalem to Emmaus (about 7 miles) and display "Pray for Vocations" signs and banners.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
1	<p>Map It: You need to decide the route for the Emmaus walk and ensure it can be used.</p> <p>Determine Date: Plan the event around week 8 – a Saturday always works well.</p> <p>Design Flyer: You need to design a flyer to promote this event – include a contact name and information for people to make a pledge.</p>	
2	<p>Make a Pledge Sheet: Where people can pledge to make a donation now or later based on each mile walked.</p> <p>Vocations Director: Invite the vocations director and local seminarians to give a talk to the boys in the next few weeks and to the final event.</p>	
3	<p>Get Sponsors: Boys work on getting personal sponsorships for the Emmaus walk. Have them ask their parents for organizations that may want to sponsor the walk as well.</p> <p>T-shirts: Decide if you will make T-shirts for the walk – if you have any corporate sponsors, you should to advertise them.</p>	
4	<p>Call the Paper: Call and invite the Diocesan Newspaper as well as any other local paper that may be interested in running a story.</p> <p>Sponsors: The boys should keep working on getting pledges.</p>	

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WEEK	STEPS	WEEKLY THEME
5	<p>Advertise: Design a banner and posters for the walk. “Pray for Vocations” is a great slogan.</p> <p>Sponsors: Set a final goal for each boy to obtain pledges. Ask the local Pastor for permission to take pledges after Sunday Masses.</p>	
6	<p>Advertise: Finish up signs and banners this week.</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Great week for a special guest speaker – ideally the local vocations director or a seminarian. You can also invite your Pastor to give his vocation story.</p>	
7	<p>Final Plans: Plan details of route, water, etc. All final plans should be made this week.</p>	
8	<p>Walk: This is the final event, the boys walk from point A (Jerusalem) to point B (Emmaus) with the local vocations director, a few seminarians and a slew of signs on vocations.</p> <p>Together: This should be done as a group, It’s not a race.</p> <p>Pray: You can pray the rosary, pray the divine mercy on the way.</p> <p>Brief Talk: It is good to ask the vocations director to thank everyone at the end with a talk lasting 5-10 minutes if possible.</p>	

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TACTICS BY AREAS

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LOCATION

1. 7 miles or Less: Emmaus was seven miles from Jerusalem (cf. Luke 24:13) so walking the same distance over 1.5 or 2 hours seems like a proper distance. A shorter distance may be used if necessary.
2. Escort: For this type of distance you may need to inform the town / city (either to use a park or get a police escort).
3. Inform: Make sure that the route is well planned out and a map drawn up – preferably to include on the flyer.
4. Safety is #1 – make sure to choose the most safe location, not busy streets with lots of traffic.

PROVISIONS

1. The signs the boys carry should be clear and simple. Words like “pray for vocations,” and “raising money to raise priests” should be used. Conquest can be mentioned either by one poster, or by a small note in the corner of each banner and poster.
2. If you plan ahead, you can get matching shirts printed for the Emmaus Walk. This will be essential if you go for corporate sponsorship as they want to be on the back of the shirt. You can also sell shirts as an additional fundraiser.
3. Water should probably be brought by vehicle. Gatorade is another option.
4. You need to map out the route then mark it at least 30 minutes before you begin with people along the way or some small signage.

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TACTICS BY AREAS



RESPONSIBILITIES

1. One boy needs to design the flyer and pledge forms.
2. One boy needs to contact the diocesan vocation director and another needs to call the diocesan newspaper and other local papers.
3. Each boy is responsible for getting his own sponsors. If you plan to take pledges after weekend Masses, schedule the boys accordingly so they all have an opportunity.
4. As much as possible the boys should determine things like a route and water provisions. Having the dads drive alongside with the water lets the boys take charge of the walk itself.
5. Even if the diocesan newspaper is there, assign a boy as a team photographer to get each boys picture.

CONTACTS

1. Diocesan vocations director: He needs to know that the money is going directly to support his seminarians and that you want to raise awareness about vocations in the community. He will usually be willing to either invite the seminarians himself or pass you on to them if you ask.
2. Diocesan Newspaper: they need to see who will be there (both numbers and which priests or seminarians) so as to ensure it is newsworthy.
3. Individual Sponsors: The boys need to show that they are excited about this and they are really concerned. They can show their concern by how much they know about vocations. It is good if they have some statistics about vocations in the diocese (history, tuition in the seminary, etc.) which can be obtained from the vocation director.
4. Public during walk: generally the boys should walk straight, unified, smiling and determined. That way they show they are concerned but show they are not just another crowd of protestors.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

DEBRIEFING

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SPECIAL OPS

1. The more this event becomes integrated with the local parish the better.
2. If for whatever reason the vocation director objects to this event, you should drop it as we are trying to serve him, not just do our apostolic project. There are other optional projects to choose from on the Team Leader Resource Center.
3. Having the local clergy talk about vocations with the boys is a huge way to boost that relationship.
4. This is something that can easily become a tradition and if your team does it every year you are probably just going to increase how much money the diocese gets for vocations.
5. The signs need to look professional. Usually the boys can do this with markers and stencils. If the boys do them all on the computer, they can go to a copy store for 11 by 17 printouts.

CONTINGENCY PLAN

1. This event can be done in Conjunction with Vocation.com, which is another program related to Mission Network.
2. Instead of walking to raise money, other sponsorship events could be done like "Push-up the vocations" where you get sponsors for every 10 or 25 push-ups you can do, or "Rosary-a-rama" where you get sponsors for each rosary made.
3. You can do a vocations chain where you just stand silently at a major intersection for two hours with signs that are well designed to promote vocations.
4. You could raise money for some other concern in the local Church such as a foreign mission, a new cathedral, or money for the poor. This should be done in consultation with local clergy, and possibly even the bishop.



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A sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines and a faint background watermark of the United States flag. The watermark features the stars and stripes of the flag, with a large, stylized 'U' shape formed by the stripes. The paper is oriented vertically.

