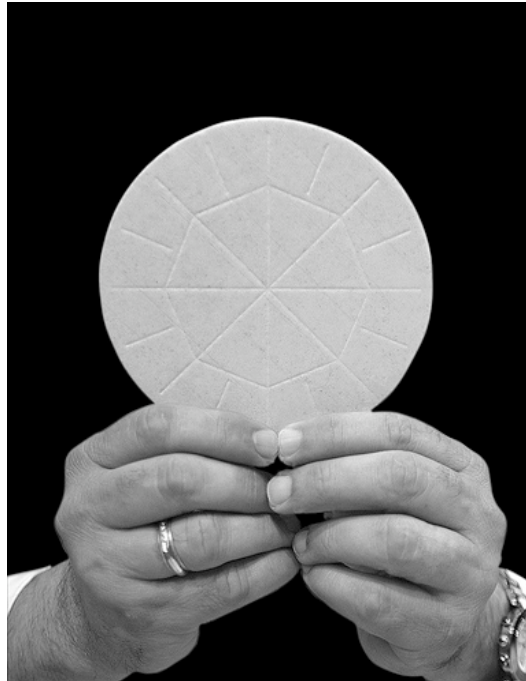


Prayers for Vocations



“Give us this day our daily
bread.” Mt. 6:11

The Call to Holiness

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. God created man in his image, in the divine image He created him; male and female, He created them.

Genesis 1:26a, 27.

Reflection

God, you created me to be holy. You gave me the great gifts of intellect, an immortal soul, and the freedom of choice. You placed me here on the earth so that I might know you, love you and serve you in this world and in heaven. I thank you for the gifts and talents you have given me. Help me to use them to become the person you created me to be.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: O God, you are my God whom I seek.

All: O God, you are my God whom I seek.

Leader: I will bless you while I live. I will call upon your name. As with riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied.

All: O God, you are my God whom I seek.

Leader: You are my help, and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. My soul clings fast to you; your hand holds me tight.

All: O God, you are my God whom I seek. Psalm 63

Discussion Questions

- 1. Name one special gift that God has given especially to you. Why do you think God gave you that gift?**
- 2. How can you use that unique quality to know God, to love God, and to serve God and others?**
- 3. What do you think God created you to be? Why?**

We recommend that you pray a rosary or a chaplet of Divine Mercy

Closing Prayer for Vocations found at the back of the booklet.

Day Two

The Call to Listen

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the Lord, because the Lord had not revealed anything to him as yet. The Lord called Samuel yet a third time. Getting up, Samuel went to Eli, and said, "Here I am. You called me." Eli suddenly realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.'" 1 Samuel 3:7-10

Reflection

Lord, I must learn to listen. Let me be open to hearing you in the voice of my parents when they are teaching me. Let me be open to hearing your voice when a friend needs help. Let me be open to hearing your voice through Scripture, prayer, and hymns. Only then will I learn what you are saying to me.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

All: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

Leader: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me, O my people." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming." Oh, do not hide yourself when I am trying to find you.

All: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."

Leader: Tell me what to do, O Lord, and make it plain. I am surrounded by waiting enemies. Don't let them get me, Lord!

All: My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me."
Psalm 27:8-9, 11

Discussion Questions

1. When have you heard God speaking to you? In Scripture? Through people? Events in you life? In prayer? Other ways?
2. How could your life be affected if you refused to listen to God?
3. How do you know if what you hear is from God?

We recommend that you pray a rosary or a chaplet of Divine Mercy

Closing Prayer for Vocations found at the back of the booklet.

Day Three

The Call to See God in the Ordinary

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Scripture Reading

Meanwhile, Moses was tending the flock, when he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why that bush is not burned." Exodus 3:1-3

Reflection

Are you waiting for a monumental message from God telling you what He wants you to do with your life? Well, it might happen when you least expect it. Look at Moses. He was busy walking the sheep just like he did every day...except that this time he ran into a talking, burning bush! God may not use such drama to get your attention. Yet, there are burning bushes in your life each day. Have you seen one today?

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: I sought the Lord, and he answered me.

All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me.

Leader: I sought the Lord, and he answered me. He delivered me from my fears.

All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me.

Leader: Look to him that you may be radiant with joy.

All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me. Psalm 34:5-6

Discussion Questions

1. Like Moses, each of us is called by God to grow in holiness in a special way. This is called our vocation. Some are called to grow in relationship with God through marriage and family life. Others are called to be priests or consecrated religious. Still others are called to a life of holiness through the single life.
 - a. How does marriage bring couples/families closer to God?
 - b. What would it be like to be a priest, brother, or nun?
 - c. How can a single person serve the church in special ways?

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Day Four

The Call to Say “Yes” to God

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. The angel said to her, “Do not fear, Mary. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus.” Mary said, “How can that be?” The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you.” Mary answered, “I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.”

Luke 1:26-38 (Paraphrased)

Reflection

Mary was just a young girl, perhaps only 14 or 15 years old. She was asked to do something that was very difficult, especially in her culture. At first she was puzzled by the angel’s message. Perhaps, she didn’t understand all the details of the request. However, she believed that God would not ask her to do anything that she and He could not handle together. So in faith she said, “Yes.”

Rosary Meditation

Say the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. All the materials and information needed can be found in a zip lock baggie in the box. Please feel free to keep a copy of the blue information sheet for future use with your family.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

Leader: God who is might has done great things for me; holy is his name.

All: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

- 1. Why did Mary say “Yes” to God when she knew she was being asked to do something very difficult?**
- 2. What qualities did Mary have that would make her a good mother?**
- 3. What qualities did Jesus, Mary and Joseph have to be called the Holy Family? Consider some difficulties they had to face as a family. How did they ask God for help?**
- 4. Marriage and family life are very special vocations. How does your family use this vocation to become closer to God?**

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Day Five

The Call to Detachment

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

The young man said to Jesus, "I have kept all the laws; what do I need to do to possess eternal life?" Jesus told him, "If you seek perfection, sell your possessions, and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven." Matthew 19:20-21

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: A clean heart create for me, O God.

All: A clean heart create for me, O God.

Leader: Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit renew within me.

All: A clean heart create for me, O God.

Leader: Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.

All: A clean heart create for me, O God. Psalm 51:12-14

Discussion Questions

1. What do you cling onto that keeps you from putting God first in your life? Possessions? Bad habits? Lack of prayer? Selfish thinking? Use of time?
2. What would you have to give up to become a priest? Married? Consecrated Religious? Single Lay Person?
3. How would your life be enriched by becoming a priest? Married? Consecrated Religious? Single Lay Person?
4. How would these choices affect your eternal life in heaven?

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Day Six

The Call to the Eucharist

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

During the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. “Take this,” he said, “this is my body.” He likewise took the cup, gave thanks and passed it to them, and they all drank from it. “This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, to be poured out on behalf of many.”

Mark 14:22-24

Reflection

How profoundly simple the Eucharist is! To think that my God can take the most simple of creations, a grain of wheat and a grape, and change them into his Body and Blood. If he can do this, can he not change my life if I but come to the Table of Life? Everyone receives the invitation to this banquet, but not all choose to come. How sad, really. Yet, for those who come, they feast on the goodness of God. They become united in the thanksgiving of what our God has done for us. They come to remember the great sacrifice Christ made for our salvation. They have come to let Love serve them.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia.

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia.

Leader: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him for his majesty.

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia.

Leader: Praise him with trumpet; praise him with lyre and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance with strings and pipe.

All: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Alleluia.

Discussion Questions

1. Act out the scene of Jesus instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper with his disciples. Use Mark Chapter 14 as a guide.
2. What message do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to understand, especially since Jesus knew this was going to be his last meal with them?
3. How do you think it would feel to be a priest, and through the power of God, change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ?
4. What do you do to prepare yourself to receive the Eucharist?
5. Have you ever asked a priest what it means to him to be a priest?

We recommend that you pray a rosary or a chaplet of Divine Mercy

Closing Prayer for Vocations found at the back of the booklet.

Day Seven

The Call to Continual Prayer

Let us begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Scripture Reading

I beg you not be disheartened by the trials I endure for you; they are your glory. That is why I kneel before the Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name; I pray that he will bestow on you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory. May he strengthen you inwardly through the working of his Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, and may charity be the root and foundation of your life. Thus, you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones, the breadth and length, and height and depth of Christ's love, and experience this love which surpasses all knowledge, so that you may attain to the fullness of God himself.

Ephesians 3:13-19

Reflection

Prayer is talking with God. Through prayer we deepen our friendship with Jesus. Through prayer we deepen our understanding of God's plan for our life. Through prayer we deepen our appreciation of how much God loves us. Through prayer we strengthen our spiritual lives so that we, through the grace of God, change ourselves. In seeking God's call for our lives, prayer helps us to choose and live our vocation.

Responsorial Psalm

Leader: Happy is the man who follows the law of the Lord.

All: Happy is the man who follows the law of the Lord.

Leader: Happy is the man who delights in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law day and night.

All: Happy is the man who follows the law of the Lord. Psalm 1:1-2

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to pray to know your vocation?
2. How will you know how God wants you to live?
3. How did your parents know their vocation was to the married life?
4. Ask a priest, or nun, or brother, or a permanent deacon how they knew God was calling them to the life of a consecrated religious.
5. When do you pray each day? How can you make every moment of your day a prayer?
6. What is your vocation right now? How did you live that vocation today?

We recommend that you pray a rosary or a chaplet of Divine Mercy

Closing Prayer for Vocations found at the back of the booklet.

Various Prayers for Vocations

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Great and glorious God, and my Lord Jesus Christ

Enlighten the darkness of my mind.
Give me a right faith
a firm hope
and a perfect charity.

Grant that I may know you, Lord
in order that I may always
and in all things act
according to your most
holy and perfect will.
Amen.

Prayers of St Ignatius of Loyola

Teach us, Good Lord,
To serve you as you deserve;
To give and not to count the cost;
To fight and not to heed the wounds;
To labor and not to ask for any reward,
save that of knowing that we do Thy will.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

Lord, I freely yield all my freedom to you.
Take my memory, my intellect and my entire will.
You have given me anything I am or have;
I give it all back to you to stand under your will alone.
Your love and your grace are enough for me;
I shall ask for nothing more.

Prayer of St. Catherine of Siena

Lord, take me from yourself and give me to yourself.

Prayer of Charles de Foucauld

Father,

I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you:

I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures—

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul;

I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,

for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,

to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,

and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father.

Prayers for Discerning a Vocation

Prayer of Thomas Merton

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me

Nor do I really know myself,

And the fact that I think I am following your will

Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you

Does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this,

You will lead me by the right road

Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though,

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. * I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone.

Anonymous

Eternal God,
from my mother's womb
you have known and loved me
more than I can ever know.

I ask for the courage to live a holy life,
that your hand guide my decisions
and that your mercy be extended
when I seek my own glory instead of yours.

I ask for the wisdom to know your will for me,
and like our Blessed Mother,
I ask for the strength to say yes.

May I find you in every person I meet, and may my life so shine forth
your goodness and love that each person may be led to you
through Jesus, your Son,
who is Lord, forever and ever.

Amen.

For Vocations

God our Father,

You will all men and women to be saved
and come to the knowledge of your Truth.

Send workers into your great harvest
that the Gospel may be preached
to every creature
and your people, gathered together
by the word of life
and strengthened by
the power of the sacraments,
may advance in the way
of salvation and love.

I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

John Paul II

Lord, Jesus, Christ, Good Shepherd of our souls, you who know your sheep and know how to reach our hearts, open the minds and hearts of those young people who search for and await a word of truth for their lives; let them understand that only in the mystery of your incarnation do they find full light; arouse the courage of those who know where to seek the truth, but fear that what you ask will be too demanding.

Stir in the hearts of those young people who would follow you, but who cannot overcome doubts and fears, and who in the end follow other voices and other paths which lead nowhere. You who are the Word of the Father, the Word which creates and saves, the Word which enlightens and sustains hearts, conquer with your Spirit the resistance and delays of indecisive hearts; arouse in those whom you call the courage of love's answer: "Here I am, send me!"
Amen.

**Please return the prayer kit to the sacristy before Mass.
The adults and children from your family may be asked to
present these materials to the adults and
children of the next family who has agreed to
pray for vocations.**