

the Church: I have the vocation to be an apostle. I would like to cross the world to preach Your Name and to plant your glorious Cross on the soil of the unbelievers. My Beloved Jesus, one mission would not be sufficient for me, I would like to announce the Gospel to all the peoples of the world, and to the farthest islands. I would like to be missionary not only for some years, but I wish I would have been missionary since the creation of the world and to be such until the end of times!..."

*Pause for Reflection*

**Reader:** From the Gospel of Luke 10:1-12 (standing)

*Pause* (seated)

**Guide:** Since the harvest is rich and the workers are few, let us invoke God our Father in the words Jesus Himself taught us. May He send numerous and holy Apostles.

**All:** Our Father...

**Final Song**

# Liturgical Celebration for Vocations

13

FOLLOW *Me*

**Song** (kneeling) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

*Silent Adoration*

**Guide:** Let us listen to the account of the calling of the first apostles.

**Reader:** From the Gospel of John 1:35-51 (standing)

**Guide:** “The Lord Christ has always called as his disciples those who could be with him so that he could send them to preach to the nations. So the Holy Spirit who shares his gifts as he wills for the common good, implants in the hearts of individuals a missionary vocation and at the same time raises up institutes in the Church which take on the duty of evangelization of the whole Church and make it as it were their own special task.” (A.G. 23)

*Short Pause* (seated)

**Reader:** From the Decree of the Church’s Missionary Activity.

“When God calls, a man must reply without taking counsel with flesh and blood (Gal. 1:16) and give himself fully to the work of the Gospel. However, such an answer can only be given with the encouragement and help of the Holy Spirit. The one who is sent enters upon the life and mission him ‘who emptied himself, taking the nature of slave’ (Phil. 2:7). Therefore he must be prepared to remain faithful to his vocation for life, to renounce himself and everything that up to this possessed as his own, and to make himself all things to all men’ (1 Cor. 9:22). In preaching the Gospel to the nations he will proclaim with confidence the mystery of Christ whose legate he is, so that in him he will dare to speak as he ought (Eph. 6:19; Acts 4:31), not being ashamed of the scandal of the Cross. Meek and

humble, following in the footsteps of his Master, he will show that his yoke is sweet and his burden light (MT. 11:29 ff) By a truly evangelical life, with great patience and longanimity in kindness and genuine love (2 Cor. 6:4 ff) he will bear witness to his Lord, if necessary to the shedding of his blood. He will ask God for strength and courage and in the midst of great affliction and abject poverty he will know abundance of joy (2 Cor. 8:2). Let him be convinced that obedience is the special virtue of a minister of Christ who by his obedience redeemed the human race. Preachers of the Gospel should be renewed in spirit day by day, lest they should neglect the grace that is in them (1 Tim. 4:14; Eph. 4:23); 2 Cor. 4:16) Ordinaries and superiors should gather the missionaries together from time to time, so that they might be strengthened in the hope of their calling and renewed in the apostolic ministry. Special house should be provided for this purpose. (A.G. 24)

*Pause for Reflection*

**Song** (standing)

**Guide:** Father Annibale says: “How I wish that among the Daughters of Divine Zeal there will be generous souls who effectively give their blood and life for the propagation of the catholic faith, for the eternal salvation of souls and most of all for the love of the adorable Jesus who gave His precious Blood and his precious life for us!”

**Reader:** From the writings of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus.

“In spite of my nothingness, I would like to enlighten people, like the prophets, the Doctors of