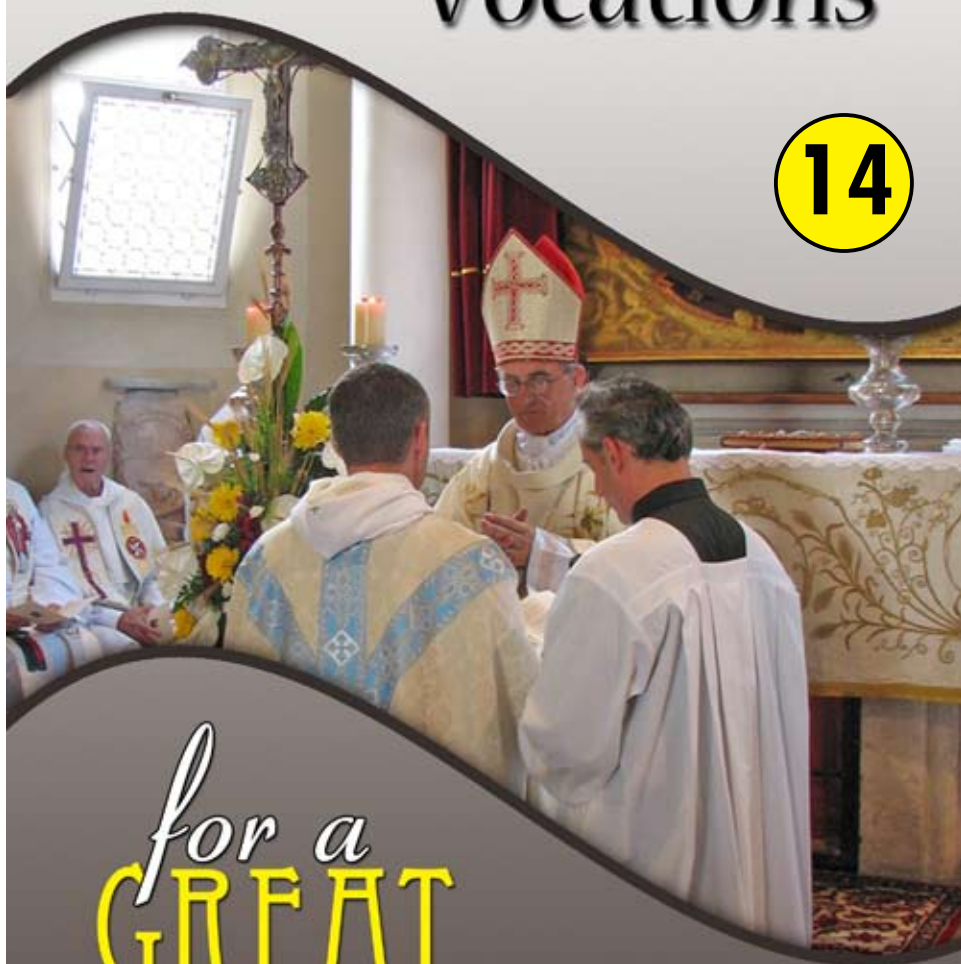


Liturgical Celebration for Vocations

14



for a
**GREAT
GIFT**

Guide: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Today, like in the past, the preaching of the Gospel, the propagation of the faith and the sanctification of souls certainly depends on the witnessing and sanctity of life of all baptized whom God calls to collaborate in his plan of salvation. But most of all these depend on the ones who are called with a special vocation for the task of evangelization. No worthy Christian can remain indifferent to the pressing needs of the Church without becoming responsible for omission and lac of sensibility toward an essential duty that involves everybody - priests, religious, sisters, parents, catechists, ecclesial groups...

All the faithful, each according to his or her vocation, have to be available always to announce God's Kingdom and to build the Body of Christ, the Church. Likewise, they must become conscious of their personal duty and responsibility to work for the increase of all special vocations. In what way? By the witness of our life, catechesis, vocation orientation and animation, but above all the prayer according to the command of Jesus: "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest." The authentic meaning of prayer for vocations is practicing what we pray for which is offering to the Lord our availability.

Each community, while praying to the Lord to send Apostles into the world, makes itself available and creates little the spiritual idoneous conditions so that those who are chosen and called to specific ministries among its members say yes, thereby

that through the work of your ministers what is destroyed will be rebuilt, what is old will be renewed and everything will be restored to its completeness through the beginning of all things: Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

All: Amen

Final Song

all grace that He may increase the number of those who consecrate their life to the service of the Gospel. May He grant to everybody “to increase the sanctity in the Church” and to be “witnesses of his apostolic vitality.” Let us invoke our Savior: Confirm us, Lord, in your holy service.

Guide: Let us pray in two groups.

1. Father and Lord of the universe you sent your son into the world to reunite people in the glory of your name.
2. Strengthen the witnessing of your Church in the entire world.
3. Watch over the priests and all the ministers of your Church.
4. May their life be always in consonance with the Gospel they proclaim to their brothers and sisters.
5. Blessed be the ones you call to perfect chastity for the Kingdom of heaven.
6. May they follow Christ your Son with the generosity of the Saints.
7. May our youth be committed in the service of God.
8. May they respond generously to the exigencies of their Christian vocation.
9. Send workers into your harvest.
10. So that your name will be glorified among all peoples

Guide: God, immutable power and light without sunset, look at your Church, admirable sacrament of salvation. May the whole world see and recognize

accomplishing their mission through help of the community itself.

Reader: From the Gospel of Matthew 9:35-38 (standing)

Pause for Reflection

Song (standing)

Guide: Let us kneel.

The Church still suffers especially today, the condition that put on the lips of Christ the Lord a delicate but deep lament: “The harvest is rich but the laborers are few.” Today we are here to answer the invitation given by Christ: “Pray, therefore the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest.” We pray, then with fervor to implore from Jesus, Divine Founder of the Church and Good Shepherd of souls, to increase vocations to priesthood and religious life.

Guide: Let us pray together the “Our Father” to obtain Good Laborers.

All: Our father in heaven,
You promised us you would not
leave us orphans,
for our salvation and sanctification,
send your holy ministers who can give us the life
of the spirit through the nourishment
of faith and charity.
Holy be your name,
through the apostolic work of your chosen ones,
who, filled with your Holy Spirit
make you known and loved by all the people
on earth
Your Kingdom come,
and may it be build by your faithful ministers,
through the sanctity of their life and devoured

by the zeal of your glory
and the salvation of souls,
bring all to Christina perfection.
Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Eternal Father,
do not cease to provide your Church
with holy ministers, that all peoples
may follow your holy law.
Give us today our daily bread,
the bread of your grace,
that nourishes the soul in the gift of
the Sacraments.
We beseech you to enrich your Church
with chosen ministers, to communicate
to all souls your sanctifying grace.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lord send among the people chosen and
faithful Priests who will handle
the Sacrament of Reconciliation
with love and holiness and may bring you
countless souls
Do not lead us to the test
but deliver us from evil.
If our sins have deprived us of your mercy,
we beseech you: send ministers who are
according to your Heart
and through the zeal and self-sacrifice
may be concerned in keeping the souls
from sinning, and guide them to perfect
holiness and salvation.
Amen. So it be.

(Father Annibale)

Song (standing)

The whole Christian community is called to continue and repeat Christ's service in past and present history to all peoples.

Let us listen to the word of the Pope as an invitation to be deeply convinced of this truth and to become its sincere and zealous propagators.

Reader: Form the discourses of Pope Paul VI.

“This prayer must make us understand and love more deeply what the Lord wanted to say on the beautiful and joyous gift of vocation. To understand the meaning and value of each vocation, it is therefore needed to fix our mind and heart on these two realities: Christ and the Church.

Look at Christ. We say it particularly to you, youth, with fatherly love and great trust. From Christ comes, like from pure, divine source, the priesthood of the new covenant, both the one of the faithful in force of the sacrament of Baptism, and the ministerial Priesthood, in force of the Sacrament of Orders; from him comes the gift of the “evangelical counsels”; from Him yet comes the missionary mandate.

Look also at the Church. For this Church Jesus instituted consecrated life in the profession of the evangelical counsels; to this Church Jesus entrusted the formidable task of the universal missionary achievement. Therefore, we say to you, youth and to adults, to know better these realities and these truths”.

Pause for Reflection and Personal Prayer

Guide: Let us kneel and pray with trust to the Father of