

**2015**  
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

“THE CALL TO  
HOLINESS”

Prayer of the month  
**November 2015**

## 1.- Introduction

At this present age the word holiness seems to no longer make sense in the Christian world. Materialism has engaged people in the “chasing the butterfly syndrome” which involves trying to get that “one thing” that will make us happy only to end up feeling dissatisfied because the happiness that the prized possession brings slowly slips away and so we again engaged in searching for that “chasing the butterfly.” In the Gospel reading, Jesus called Matthew while he was engaged in the business of collecting taxes. It seems that Jesus made Matthew realize that there is more to life than collecting taxes. Life is also about busying ourselves in searching for opportunities to share the hospitality of God to those who are in need. Holiness invites us to chase a kind of “butterfly” that will bring us lasting happiness and this is normally found in a life spent in the service of the Kingdom.

## 2.- Hymn: "Service"

We are made for service to care for each other

We are made for love both time and again.

A love that will live through sorrow and pain,

A love that will never die with strain.

God sent His Son to show us the way,

One who shared His love every minute of the day.

One who gives His life that we might live,

And His Spirit to help us through the years.

Life can be so lonely when nobody cares;

Life can be so empty when nobody shares.

But if we give ourselves both time and again

The Happiness of Christ will live within.

## 3.- Psalms:

**R . The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

- Besides restful waters he leads me; He refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for His name's sake.

- You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Only goodness and kindness follow me all the day of my life; And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

## 4.- Bible Reading: Matthew 9:9-17

*As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.*

*While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

*Then John's disciples came and asked him, "How is it that we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?"*

*Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom mourn while he is with them? The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; then they will fast.*

*"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse. Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

Matthew 9:9-17

## 5.- Reflection

Perhaps, like the Jews, we tend to glamorize our idea of a king. And what a disappointment this king is. He appeared to us as a laborer, who suffered to save us. What if He tells us that we can find Him in one of the homeless people or one of the patients that needs medical attention?

Jesus desires to enter into our hearts. It is His right to lay claim to our hearts and accept Him in the person of those in need. John of God was fortunate for he saw Christ in the person of the sick. And just observe at how he helped built God's kingdom through hospitality.

Perhaps, one day He will tell us , " I consider done to me the good you did to the least of my brethren. Come, inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the beginning of the world.

## 6.- Prayer of the faithful:

Leader: For every petition, let us pray...

Response: **Lord Jesus, help us to see and love you in our neighbor.**

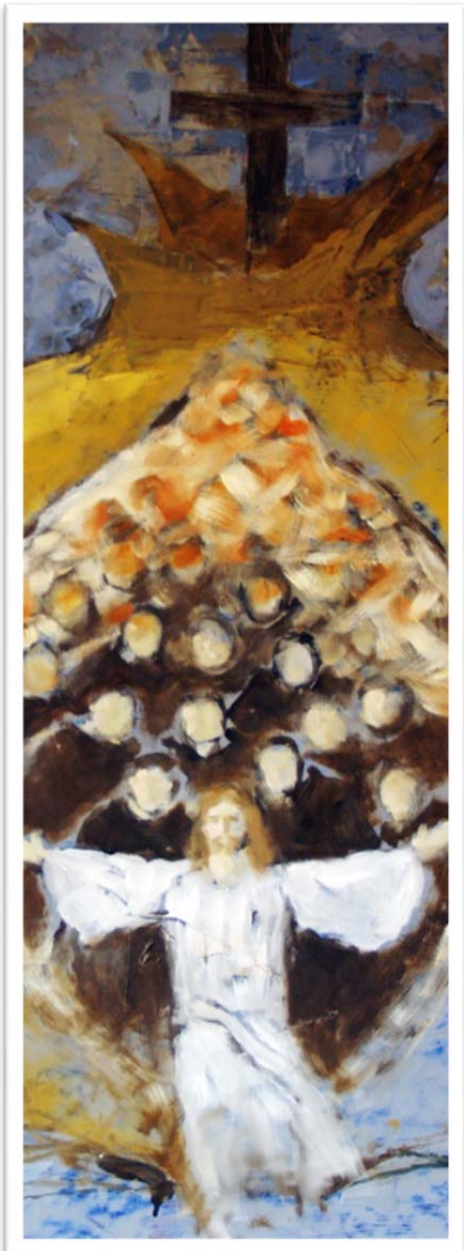
† That doctors, nurses, teachers, and social workers may render their service to the sick and the needy in a spirit of faith, let us pray to the Lord..R

† That the poor, the oppressed and the afflicted may experience the loving care of God through the charity of their brethren, let us pray to the Lord..R

† That all of us, in everyday, may hear Christ's invitation to build the kingdom of the Father through hospitality, let us pray to the Lord..R

† Let us pray for our personal intentions, let us pray..R

## 7.- Pater noster.



## 8.- Final prayer

### ORACIÓN POR LAS VOCACIONES HOSPITALARIAS

God, our Father,  
in this year dedicated to the hospitaller vocations,  
we put our trust in You  
and we put our difficulties, hopes and expectations  
in your merciful hands.

May the love you have poured in our hearts  
fill us with hospitality.  
May we always welcome with sensitivity and mercy  
the suffering of our fellow brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus your Son and  
make us understand that it is worth while  
giving our life for the Gospel  
serving and loving our brothers and sisters  
who are poor and sick.

Welcome O Lord our praise and our prayer  
so that young people,  
following the example of Mary,  
Mother of hospitality  
be open to say 'yes' to Your call  
and join with joy our Hospitaller Family  
in the mission you have entrusted to it.

Make us generous and prompt in our response.  
So that, we may, as John of God, be bearers of life, health and  
hope  
for all those whom we meet in the journeys of life.

Amén.