



2015
YEAR OF THE HOSPALLER VOCATION

An action of
giving thanks
and sending
forth

Prayer of the month
Januari 2016

1.- Introduction

We are coming to the end of the Year of Hospaller Vocations throughout the Order, which will close on January 20th next.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves: “Has the time spent by the Order to strengthen our vocation, stirred something in me, our community, the Order itself? Have I lived my hospaller vocation with greater enthusiasm and ardour? Have I reflected on what I need to change in my life to bear greater witness to my faith in Jesus Christ? Do I feel a greater love for Hospitality and all the

people who are involved in it? Have I discovered the urge to go out into the world and proclaim the gospel of mercy? These and many other questions may help us take the temperature of our hospitaller vocation during the past year.

2.- Hymn

3.- Psalm: Blessed are they who know how to surrender their lives

Blessed is he who cares for the poor and the weak! Blessed is he who stretches his hand out to the those in need! Blessed is he who knows not how to deny help! Because God will not forget that person And all his good deeds will be engraved in his memory.

The Lord will see him and will never abandon him or leave him alone Because he knew how to listen to His Word And His call to love Him in his neighbour.

Blessed indeed those who offer up their lives for others! Blessed are those who do not fear risking everything for the Kingdom! Blessed are those who live always bearing God and brother in mind, Because man is the way to meet God.

**I know, Lord, that my life must be for others.
I know, Lord, and heard so often said That**

we must remember the poor and needy. I know too that it is not only those without money, Comforts or meals who are poor But also those very close to me.

The companions on my way who seek affection; Friends who need an encouraging word. Yes, Lord, I know but that is not enough. That is why I desire to make real in my life That which so often exists only in my mind.

Lord help me to root out of my heart All the egoism that sometimes envelopes me from within. Lord, give me strength, so that I shall not fail in my intent. You know that it hurts me to see so many good intentions Frustrated and finishing in empty and hollow words

4.- Biblical reading:

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,*

*to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Lk 4, 16 – 21

5.- Reflection

What happened in the synagogue in Nazareth should make us wonder about how difficult it is sometimes to bear witness to the Lord and our faith in places closest to us, like the family, work, community, friends . . . These are our everyday environments where we are supposed to be known, where people know how we are, what our opinions are, what we think about life, and yet, as a general rule, it is precisely in those areas of our lives that it is more difficult to bear witness, or that are the main cause of problems and sudden shocks in our lives.

Nevertheless, it is the Spirit that urges us to be brave and proclaim the great message that God brings to the world, which is none other than liberation and strongly supporting the least important on earth. Do you feel sent to do this?

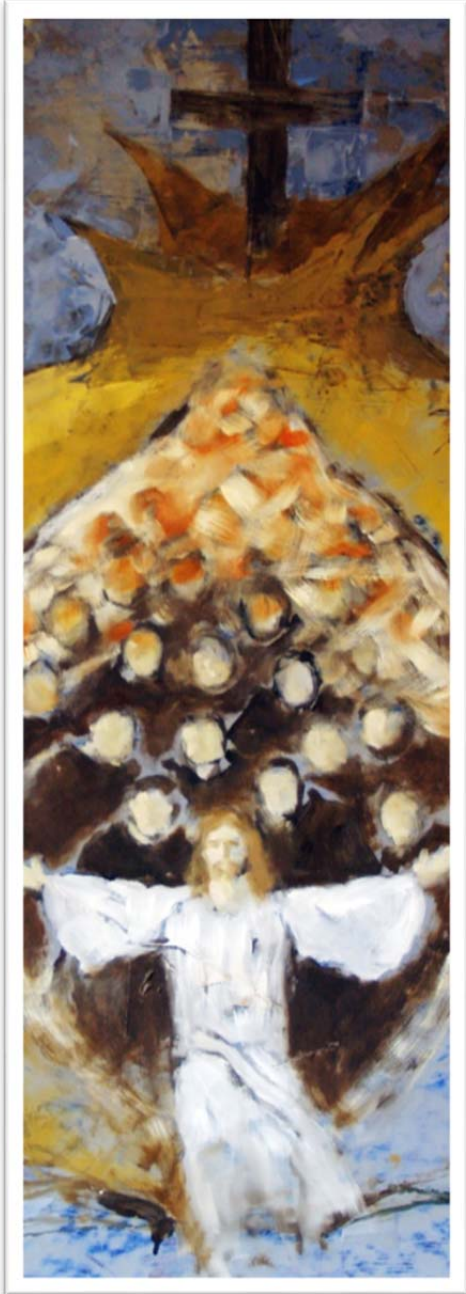
Be not afraid, God is with you.

6.- Prayers

1. For all those who form part of the Hospitaller Family of St John of God that they may accept with joy the fruits of this Year of Vocation as a time of grace given to them by God. **We ask thee O Lord**
2. We pray for the professionals of the social welfare and health care world, that as they go about their tasks they never forget to put the person at the centre and core for the sake of Humanization. **We ask thee O Lord**
3. We pray for all who feel called to a Religious Life in Hospitality, so that, with our own witness, we may help young people to discover the presence of God who enters their lives. **We ask thee O Lord**
4. We pray for those who suffer, that they may always find people and hands ready to give human warmth and comfort. **We ask thee O Lord**
5. We pray that this Year of Vocations that is coming to an end arouse in every believer the call to confess the faith with fullness, trust and hope. **We ask thee O Lord**

7.- The Lord's prayer.

8.- Final prayer.



PRAYER FOR THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

God our Father,
In this Hospitaller Vocations Year
We place all our trust in you
And commit to your goodness
Our difficulties, our joys and our hopes.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
Fill us with the hospitality.
May we be welcoming and compassionate
And sensitive to the sufferings of our neighbours.

Renew in us your call to follow Jesus your Son,
And make us realise that it is worthwhile
Giving up our lives for the Gospel, in the service
Of our poor, sick and needy neighbour.

Lord, accept our praise and our prayer
So that young people, following the example of Mary,
The Mother of hospitality, will not hesitate to say 'yes'
And will joyfully join our Hospitaller Family
To perform the mission to which you have called us.

Grant that we can respond to your call,
Generously and readily.
Make us, in the image of Saint John of God,
Bearers of life,
Health and Hope for all those
We meet along the pathways of life.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.