



2015
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

“JOIN
HOSPITALITY”

Prayer of the month
March 2015

1.- Introduction

Love for God is expressed in love for one’s neighbour. To live the Hospitaller Charism in consecrated life requires us to live our love for God in the persons who are sick and in need.

Our Constitutions state that by virtue of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we are consecrated to participate in the merciful love of the Father and make us able to fulfil our mission among the poor and sick, especially, among the weakest, whom we endeavour to save in the manner of Jesus (Const. 2b)

Consecration allows us to participate in inheriting the Kingdom and the wealth of gifts and graces of the Father, always and only, if we have welcomed others with evangelical attitudes of love made manifest in humble, patient and responsible service; with respect and fidelity to the person; understanding, benevolence and self sacrifice. (Const. 3b)

The reflection invites us to see Jesus in the faces of the least important in society, the excluded, the rejected, those whose dignity, humanity and quality of life is not respected, as we see for ourselves in today's world of injustice, inequality and indifference.

2.- Hymn

3.- Psalm: 63, 2 – 9

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee:
my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for
thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;

**To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have
seen thee in the sanctuary.**

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my
lips shall praise thee.

**Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my
hands in thy name.**

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and
fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with
joyful lips:

**When I remember thee upon my bed, and
meditate on thee in the night watches.**

Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the
shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.

4.- Biblical reading:

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Mt 25, 31 – 40

5.- Reflection

God the Father gave us the gift of the incarnation of Jesus, who became man for us and shared our humanity, joys, hopes and the longings of those who seek anew the happy embrace of their creator.

Jesus tells us this parable of the final judgement, showing us what we need to do to enter and take possession of the Kingdom he has proclaimed. You can only do this by putting yourself at the service of the hungry, the thirsty, foreigners, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned. As we see, the excluded and the marginalized are the ones that count. Therefore, so far as we are concerned, this is the new law of God's love.

At the Final Judgement, the Son of man will call all the nations of the world together, and he will make no mistake as he discerns, separating the good from the bad. He does not judge, but separates, and the criterion for separation is compliance with the works of mercy. We all have that task, equally, of discerning the way in which we exercise our relationship with the small and excluded, because in it, we also discover our relationship with God.

In the parable, the ones on his right are called the Blessed of my Father, which was the benediction God promised Abraham and his descendants (Gen 12, 3). They are the ones invited to take possession of the Kingdom, prepared for them since the beginning of the world. The same who welcomed the Judge, Jesus, when he was hungry, thirsty, foreign, naked sick and a prisoner, in each of his brothers and little ones.

Benedict XVI comments that:

From the Eucharist a new and intense assumption of responsibility comes into being at all the levels of community life; thus a new positive social development is born which is centred on the person, especially when he or she is poor, sick or in need. Being nourished by Christ is the way not to be foreign or indifferent to the fate of the brethren, but rather to enter into the same logic of love and of the gift of the sacrifice of the Cross; anyone who can kneel before the Eucharist, who receives the Body of the Lord, cannot but be attentive in the ordinary daily routine to situations unworthy of the human being; anyone who can bend over the needy in the first person, who can break his own bread with the hungry and share water with the thirsty, who can clothe the naked and visit the sick person and the prisoner .

This person will be able to see in every individual that same Lord who did not hesitate to give the whole of himself for us and for our salvation. A Eucharistic spirituality, then, is the true antidote to the individualism and selfishness that often mark daily life. It leads to the rediscovery of giving freely, to the centrality of relationships, starting with the family, and pays special attention to alleviating the wounds of broken families.

Therefore, Christ, today, reminds us of the heart of his message, and it is charity, understood not as an idea, or philanthropy, but as the demonstration of the true love of God who lives in my neighbour. And He clearly states: " you did it to me" and gives the examples. This charity applied to one's neighbour springs naturally from love of God. Our reflection ends in asking ourselves: if we love God, we cannot but love our brothers.

6.- Prayers

1. God, our Father, in this year of hospitaller vocations we put our trust in you and into your bountiful hands we place our difficulties, dreams and hopes.
2. May the love that you have poured into our hearts make us more hospitaller, welcoming and compassionate, sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers.
3. Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son and make us understand that it is worthwhile to surrender our lives for the Gospel, in service and love towards our poor and sick brothers.
4. Accept Lord our praise and prayer, that young people, following the example of Mary, the Mother of Hospitality, may make haste with their “yes”, and with joy join the mission to which you have called our Hospitaller family.
5. Make us generous and prompt in our response, and make us, like St John of God, bringers of life, health and hope to all those with whom we journey through life.

7.- The Lord's prayer.

8.- Final prayer.



PRAYER FOR THE HOSPITALER VOCATION

Dios, Padre nuestro,
en este año vocacional - hospitalario
ponemos en ti nuestra confianza,
y depositamos en tus manos bondadosas
nuestras dificultades, ilusiones y esperanzas.

Que el amor que tú has derramado
en nuestros corazones
nos haga ser más hospitalarios,
acogedores y misericordiosos,
sensibles al sufrimiento de nuestros hermanos.

Renueva en nosotros
la llamada a seguir a Jesús, tu Hijo y
haz que comprendamos que vale la pena
entregar la vida por el Evangelio,
en el servicio y amor
a nuestros hermanos pobres y enfermos.

Acoge Señor, nuestra alabanza
y nuestra oración,
para que los jóvenes,
a ejemplo de María,
Madre de la Hospitalidad
sean premurosos en su sí,
y se incorporen con alegría
a la misión a la que tú los convocas
en nuestra familia Hospitalaria.

Concédenos generosidad y prontitud en la respuesta,
y haz que como San Juan de Dios
seamos portadores de vida, salud y esperanza
para todas las personas con quienes recorreremos
el camino de la vida.

Amén.