



**2015**  
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALLER VOCATION

St.  
Benedict Menni  
“A Heart without  
frontiers”

Prayer of the month

**April 2015**

## 1.- Introduction

This month we celebrate St Benedict Menni and our Scripture reading tells the story of the conversion of St. Paul. What had these two men in common? At first glance it would seem that John of God and Paul had more in common in terms of a dramatic conversion experience! But Benedict and Paul, though centuries apart, shared a deep, personal, relationship with Jesus Christ, in Paul's case a relationship forged in an instant of insight, in Benedict's case nurtured from an early age. For both of them their love of Christ led them to open their hearts to a mission which would lead them to cross many frontiers, not just physically, but emotionally, psychologically and

spiritually. What sustained them? At the end of their lives both could say with confidence “For I know Him in whom I have put my trust” 2 Tim 1:12.

## 2.- Hymn

### 3.- Psalm: “Anoint me with the oil of integrity, O God and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit”

Anoint me with the oil of integrity, O God and the seal of your sanctifying Spirit.

Anoint my head so that all of my thoughts come from the well of your being to fill me with grace and peace

Anoint my eyes so that I might see your presence and providence clearly.

Anoint my ears that I might hear the cry of the poor all around me and whisper your word.

Anoint my lips that I might proclaim the Good News of your mission and the meaning of Jesus Christ.

Anoint my hands to hold and heal the many lives that are broken that I may do good, do what I must to bring hope into hopelessness.

Anoint my feet to walk in your ways, to run and never grow weary, to stand up for justice unafraid.

Anoint my heart with warmth and compassion and a genuine generosity toward all who are I need.

Anoint my spirit for mission, that I might have the courage to respond with the whole of my being to the daily demands of grace.

I believe in God whose will is wholeness:

I believe in Christ who will guide me on my journey:

I believe in the Holy Spirit who gives each of us the power to do more than we can believe or dare to ask for.

Believing all this, engaging with challenge, I step across the edge of time, through the door, into the future of my journey to wholeness in Christ.

Author unknown (taken from Daily Joy, edited by Anne Holton.)

## 4.- Scripture Reading:

*Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

*"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.<sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

*The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.*

*In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.*

*The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

*"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

*But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."*

*Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength*

*Acts. 9, 1-19*

## 5.- Reflection

Whether Christ calls us in dramatic circumstances, or through the ordinary events of our everyday lives, that first turning to Him is always only a beginning. Through life, as in the lives of both Paul and Benedict, there are many calls. We travel a pilgrim path of many turns and blind corners. Our initial yes must lead on to many other yes's. Once we put our hand in the hand of the Lord we consent to stepping out into the unknown. We may be tempted to pull back and sometimes we may even step aside from that path. But always He is with us, to coax and guide us, to support and encourage us. "Do not be afraid, I go before you always". Once we have made that first tentative step as a follower, he is committed to us, he loves us always, as Paul says "We may be unfaithful but He is always faithful". 2 Tim 2: 13

## 6.- Prayers of the Faithful

1. As we celebrate the life of St. Benedict Menni, we remember all of our services across the world, which are dedicated to him. May they follow his example of great humanity and openness of heart.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

2. We pray for the Hospitaller Sisters of the Sacred Heart, we ask the Lord to bless their life and work and pray that many will be inspired to follow their way of life.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

3. We ask the Lord to be with all who suffer from physical, mental or spiritual pain, may they find healing and peace through the support of their Christian sisters and brothers.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

4. We pray for young people who are seeking a way in life, may the Spirit guide their steps and open their minds and hearts to all the possibilities that life holds.

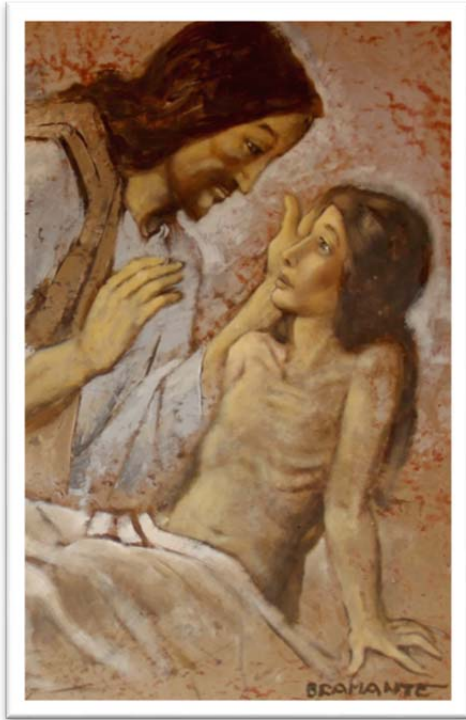
Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

5. We remember all who have died, especially those who have died alone and forgotten. May they enter into the peace and joy of God's kingdom.

Lord hear us, Lord graciously hear us.

## 7.- Our Father

## 8.- Final prayer



### **PRAYER FOR THE HOSPITALER VOCATION**

Lord Jesus, you who passed through the world doing good and healing,  
And sent your disciples to proclaim the Kingdom of God,  
With words of peace on your lips,  
Offering healing and life:  
We ask that your call to Hospitality  
Continue to meet with acceptance in our world  
So that the sick may be healed in your name  
And the Good News announced to the poor,  
And all those who suffer  
May experience your tenderness  
And the mercy of God our Father.

Amén.