



**2015**  
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALER VOCATION

## Service

Prayer of the month  
**August 2015**

### 1.- Introduction

Whom shall I send? Who shall be my messenger? God chooses to call whoever he wishes. His choice is completely free; it will lie beyond our human criteria. “Why me, when I come from a family of non-believers?” And why not him or her, who were born and raised among Catholics? We don’t know. But God knows! On the other hand, as Pope Francis says, “Every time Christ calls someone, He leads them to the Church.” Why is that? Because the Church is the Body of Christ, “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5, 13-14). And the reason God calls us is to take part in the great mission of the Church.

### 2.- Hymn

### 3.- Psalm: 118, 65-76

Do good to your servant according to your word, Lord. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.

**Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.**

You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.

**Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. It was good for me**

**to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.**

May those who fear you rejoice when they see me, for I have put my hope in your word.

**I know, Lord, that your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.**

### 4.- Biblical reading:

*“So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.” “Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?” So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.*

1K 19, 19-21

### 5.- Reflection

If one asks what serving God means, there can be several different answers. Christianity, in its practical aspect, comes down to certain activities and particular forms of works, each one of which is governed by a particular objective. Precisely because the Christian concept of service is so broad and so general, it has become necessary to re-examine this question and to ask what is really the divine objective in the service of God. If we look closely at the Bible as a whole, keeping that question well in mind, we shall see that it gives us just one answer – an answer that governs and includes everything. God’s work can be carried out in many various ways, and can appear different too, but it only has one objective. That one objective

is what determines if the work in question is really God's, and also what determines the duration and the eternal value of what is done in the name of the Lord.

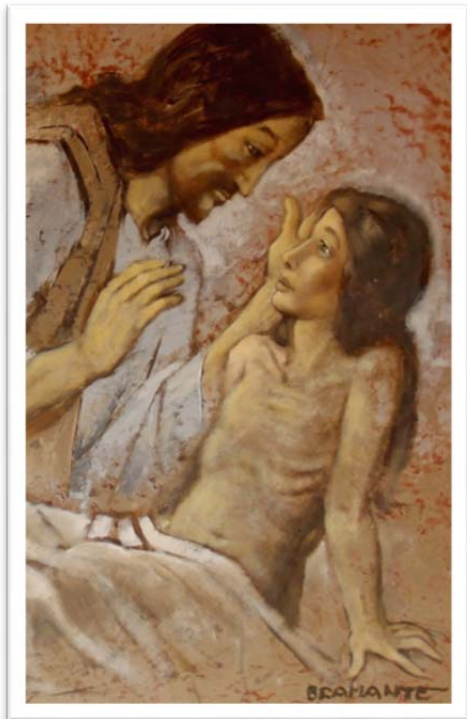
For even though God's service may be undertaken with the best of intentions, a great many efforts miss the mark and stray from the divine objective. The one and only Objective is Christ. God has set Himself the supreme goal of submitting every thing to His Son and to fill every thing with His Son. To make His Son known, to increase the measure of Christ, both extensively and intensively – that is God's only objective; and our cooperation with God towards that objective is the only true service to God that there is. So that "He might fill all things"(Ephesians 4, 10) ; and that "in everything he might have the supremacy" (Colossians I, 18); that "Christ is all and is in all"(Colossians 3, 11), is the only service answering to the heart of God. It is a declaration of fact but it also represents the value of the work.

## 6.- Prayers

1. O Lord, give me a heart to love You and eyes to see you,
2. Give me ears to hear Your voice and lips to speak of You,
3. Give me taste to appreciate You, and smell to breathe Your fragrance,
4. Give me hands to touch You and feet to follow You.

## 7.- The Lord's prayer.

## 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.

Amen