



2015
YEAR OF THE HOSPITALER VOCATION

Availability

Prayer of the month
September 2015

1.- Introduction

Jesus has this to tell us: You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15: 14,15). This is how one learns to become a friend of Jesus Christ's: by doing what he commands us to do. Let us ask him in this prayer that we may seek what he commands us to do and that he gives us the grace to accomplish it with joy and faithfulness.

2.- Hymn

3.- Psalm: 118, 17-32

Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word. Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.

My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed, those who stray from your commands. Remove from me their scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes.

Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees. Your statutes are my delight; they are my counsellors. I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees.

Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law. I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, Lord; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

4.- Biblical reading:

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay, he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Mark 1, 14-20

5.- Reflection

Can God use you ? by Charles F. Stanley. Long before you were born, before you were a dream in your parents' minds, God specifically designed and prepared good works for you to accomplish. These correspond to His plans for your life, and now it's your responsibility to discover and accomplish them. What are you doing to fulfil your God-given potential? No

Christian has the right to sit and soak up all the benefits of the Lord's gift of salvation yet never lift a finger to serve Him. You've been purchased with Christ's blood and now belong to Him (1 Peter 1:17-19). And what's true for you in that regard is true for all believers.

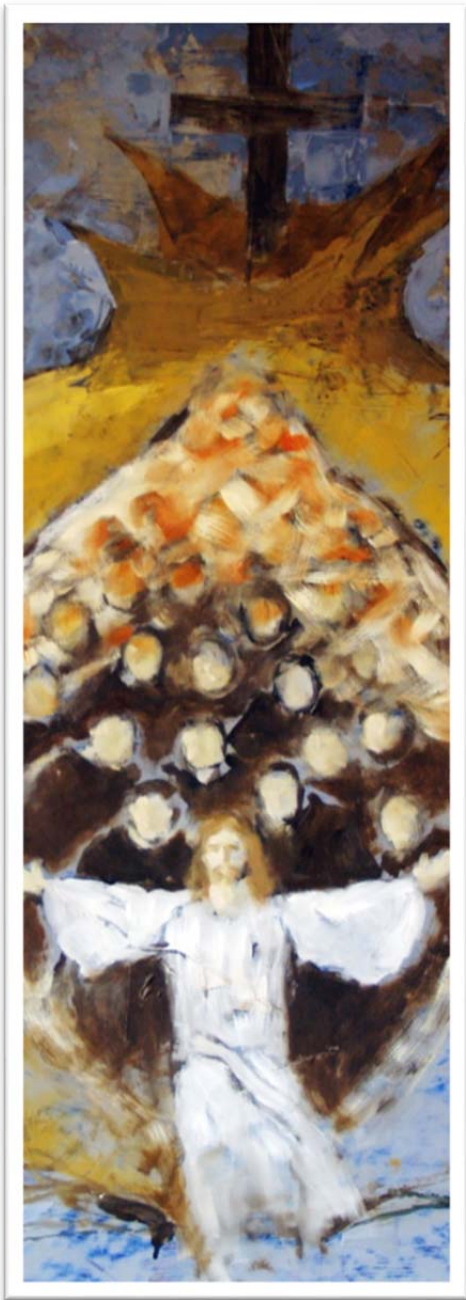
In spite of that, many Christians still think serving the Lord is optional. Yet Scripture teaches otherwise: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). Our physical characteristics, personalities, abilities, and temperaments were all fashioned with this purpose in mind. We are perfectly suited for the tasks the Lord has chosen for us. Perhaps you've been told you're worthless and you'll never amount to anything. Maybe this is something you secretly believe about yourself but have never admitted to anyone else. I want you to know that in God's eyes, it couldn't be further from the truth. You have something valuable to contribute. He's created you with specific skills and capabilities to bring Him glory. There is a reason to keep hope alive. Don't give up on yourself, no matter what's in the past. With God, there is always a future.

6.- Prayers

1. Lord, I have done nothing to deserve the mission you entrusted to me in the Church. Blessed are you.
2. Lord Jesus, I am grateful to you and want to keep hearing your words, the better to obey you, the better to serve you with greater devotion and consecration. Praise be to you.
3. Lord Jesus, I want to find you as often as possible in order to receive your counsel and your help. Blessed are you.
4. May the Blessed Virgin Mary help us to be always available to serve our brothers the poor and the sick. Amen

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.