

Listening, discerning and living the Lord's call

Week of Prayer
for Hospitaller Vocations
16 - 22 April 2018



Monday, April 16

Hymn for vocations

Intention for the day

Lord, look lovingly on the many young people who no longer know where to look to find models for living a fruitful life. Help them to experience prayer and humbly serving others, so that they may respond truthfully and freely to the call which You are making to them, by which they will discover you, both in a personal encounter with You, and by listening to the needs of their brothers and sisters.

Introduction

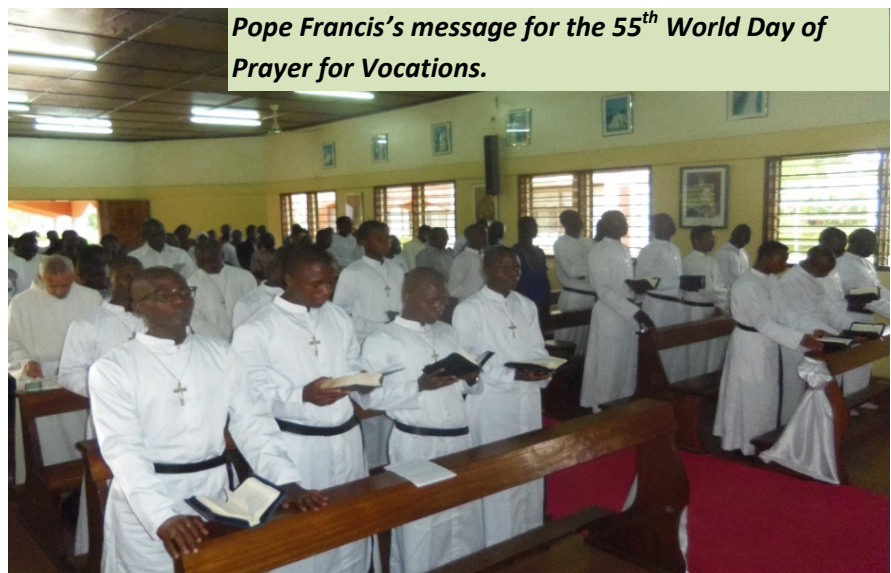
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In October this year the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be dedicated to young people, and in particular to the relationship between Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. The Synod will give us the opportunity to understand how, at the very centre of our lives, we can find the call and the joy which God is sending to us, and how this is “God’s plan for all men and women in every age” (Synod of Bishops, XV Ordinary General Assembly, Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, Introduction).

It is the good news which has been announced for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations: we are not left to the vagaries of chance, nor are we carried along by a series of random events, but, on the contrary, our life and our presence in the world are the fruits of a divine vocation!

Even in our own troubled age, the Mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God is always reaching out to us, and is the God-with-us, who travels along the often dusty pathways of our lives and, responding to our deep-seated hunger for love and happiness, and calls us to experience joy. It urges us to discern and to live this Word which is calling us from above, and, as it enables us to use our talents fruitfully, and makes us instruments of salvation in the world and leads us to the fullness of happiness and joy.

These three aspects – listening, discerning and living – can also be seen in the situation that existed at the beginning of Jesus’ mission, when, after days of prayer and struggling in the wilderness, he went to his synagogue in Nazareth, heard the Word, discerned the essence of the mission which the Father had entrusted to him, and announced that he had come to perform it “today”.



Bible text: (Lk 4, 16-21)

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Reflection

"Let your heart command", said Saint John of God. In this text from Saint Luke we see the beginning of our Lord's ministry in Nazareth, where He had been brought up. In the synagogue, the Lord Jesus read out the words of Isaiah which announced Him as the Messenger of grace. He proclaimed release to the captives, healing of the sick, and abundance to the poor and needy; for grace is available to the poor, the sick and the needy. Regarding grace, Our Lord did not comment but simply said, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (v. 21). Grace is given even in the most profound depths of misery and suffering, and takes the last place.



But one man, Nathaniel, used the occasion to disparage Him, because He had clothed himself in humiliation, saying, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). But this grace is given to meet all difficulties, to lead people to find peace with God. This was what Jesus did in the synagogue at Capernaum when confronted by the men possessed by an unclean spirit: Christ himself is that centre, Christ the object of the promise. He awakens in us divine thoughts and sentiments which nothing in this world can satisfy or respond to. This is the vocational and prophetic response that St John of God tried to propose to the sick, poor and marginalised people of his age.

A momento of silence

One decade of the Rosary.

Prayer For vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Tuesday, April 17

Hymn for vocations

Intention for the day

Today, our world is in great need of men and women called by God and trained to serve Him. Let us pray that our Lord will continue to reveal Himself to young people to be responsive to His call to serve their poor, sick and needy brothers and sisters.

Introduction

Listen

It must be borne in mind from the outset that the Lord's call is totally different from the many things which we might hear, feel, see or touch in our daily experience. God approaches silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. One can well understand that His voice is often difficult to hear, crowded out by the many worries and demands made on our minds and hearts today.

We must therefore be ready to listen very carefully to His Word and to live it, to pay attention to the details of our daily lives, to learn to read events through the eyes of faith, and to be ever ready to be surprised by the Spirit.

We cannot discover God's special, personal calling reserved for each of us if we remain inward-looking, with a stick-in-the-mud attachment to habit, and with indifference as people living their lives in a narrow self-referencing circle, forfeiting the chance to dream of great things and become craftsmen of this unique and original history that God wishes to write with us.

***Pope Francis's message for the 55th World Day of
Prayer for Vocations.***

Bible text: Lk 10, 38-42

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Reflection

Our Lord said that we need very few things in life, and that only one thing is truly necessary, and Mary opted for the 'good portion', which would never be taken from her. We have often considered this Gospel text depicting the scene of Our Lord with Mary and Martha, as contrasting the active life with the contemplative life. Christ might seem to be expressing His preference for the latter. But this explanation is only part of the story. Christ seems to be drawing a distinction between an anxious, troubled and worrying attitude, and simplicity and peace of heart. Martha, whose work was necessary and useful, lived in anxiety and concern, building up difficulties for herself, and above all, she sat in judgement on her sister. Our Lord did not describe what she was doing, but criticised her for being agitated and for her lack of simplicity. Mary, on the other hand, was seated and in peace with herself, concerned in her simplicity only to hear the Word of God. In this Gospel scene, Mary becomes a model of listening, thirsting for God. It is against this background that Pope Francis has urged all Christians not to prevent the voice of God being heard, drowned out by worries, agitation, concerns etc... Those of us who have the mission of serving the world of suffering are urged to avoid taking haven in activism alone, but also to serve actively, supported by the grace of listening just as our Father Saint John of God did. May Our Lord Himself give us the grace to know how to respond to His call. Amen.

A momento of silence

One decade of the Rosary

Prayer for vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, April 18

Hymn for Vocations

Intention for the day

Lord, we pray for all the young men who wish to follow in the footsteps of our Father Saint John of God, and who are still questioning themselves about whether they may have received this Hospitaller vocation; enlighten them with your grace, to enable them to decide to embark on this path of divine love and tenderness.



Introduction

Jesus was also called and sent. In order to respond, He needed to step aside in silent thought, listening to the Word in the synagogue, and the enlightenment and power of the Holy Spirit enabled Him to grasp its full significance for Him personally and for the history of the people of Israel.

This attitude is becoming ever more difficult today, plunged as we are in a deafening and hectic world, with an overload of stimuli and information which fill up our days. The hubbub in our exterior world sometimes drowns everything out in our towns and neighbourhoods, and people often suffer from an interior sense of dispersion and confusion which prevents them from enjoying the pleasure of contemplation, reflecting calmly on the events in our lives, and from living and working, trusting in God's loving plan for us, and benefiting from fruitful discernment.

But, as we know, the Kingdom of God comes silently and without our noticing (cf. Lk 17, 21), and it is only possible to protect the seeds of the Kingdom when, like the Prophet in Elijah, we manage to penetrate the depths of our souls, allowing them to open up to the imperceptible promptings of the still small voice of God. (cf. 1 Kings 19, 11-13).

Pope Francis's message for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Bible text: 1 Kings 19, 11-13

And he said, “Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him, and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Reflection

Our Lord's voice can only be heard when we listen patiently to it. The text that we have just heard shows us how Our Lord shows Himself to us through natural events. How does He show Himself to us today, as Brothers of St John of God? He reveals Himself in many ways through suffering people: the poor, the sick, and the needy. And how can we be sure? Only by setting aside all our concerns to devote all our time to others, listening to them. Listening is perhaps the most wonderful gift we can give another person. It is like saying, ‘You are important to me, you are interesting, I am happy that you are here’.



Listening does not mean wanting someone to be one thing or another, but is all about learning to discover that person's specific needs. Caring for someone who is suffering is not merely a matter of finding a solution or explaining their suffering, but of enabling them to talk about it themselves and find their own way to overcome it. It is about giving other people something which perhaps they have never been given before: care, time, and an affectionate presence; it is by listening to others that we can listen to ourselves, our bodies, and our emotions.

A moment of silence

One decade of the Rosary

Prayer for vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thursday, April 19

Hymn for vocations

Intention for the day

Lord, who continues to call labourers to your harvest, we entrust to you those who are in finding it difficult to discern their vocation, and pray that You will open up their minds and hearts to hear Your voice, to be able to discern what You are expecting of them.

Introduction

Discern

As our Lord read the passage from the Prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth, he discerned the essence of the mission to which He had been called, and presented it to the people who were awaiting the Messiah, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord”. (Lk 4, 18-19).

Likewise, each of us may only discover our vocation through spiritual discernment, a “process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one’s state in life. (Synod of Bishops, XV Ordinary General Assembly “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment”, II, 2)..



**Pope Francis’s message for the 55th World Day of
Prayer for Vocations.**



Bible text: 1 Sam 3, 2-10

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Reflection

Our Lord approaches us and calls to us every day. He did so in the past in the case of Samuel, and continues to invite us to take part in his process of salvation for the human race (Cf 1 Samuel 3, 4). He only needs us to respond. Having made the choice to become a Brother at the service of the needy was, more than anything else, a sign of our prior discernment. Like Samuel, many people do not have the capacity for discernment, and therefore need accompaniment. But what is accompaniment without the assistance of the Holy Trinity? Sound discernment depends on our ability to take up an attitude of humility, receptiveness and perseverance, of the kind we see in the young Samuel. And that is also what we see in St John of God who, not knowing what Jesus intended by calling him, abandoned himself entirely into the hands of Divine Providence in order to respond to it. In this text, God is calling to us to approach him. And this is possible by practising silence and meditation on the Word of God. Through retreats and adoration, we can respond **POSITIVELY** to Our Lord and say to Him, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3,10).

A momento of silence

One decade of the Rosary

Prayer for vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Fryday, April 20

CantHymn for vocations

Intention for the day

Spirit of Wisdom, accompany the young men who are engaged in vocational discernment. Continue your work in them and free their hearts from everything that prevents them from seeing your light! May your grace remain with them and the decisions they take regarding their future. Open their hearts to establish bonds of justice, compassion and solidarity.

Introduction

In particular, we know that the Christian vocation always has a prophetic dimension. As Scripture tells us, the prophets were sent out to people at a time of great material need and of spiritual and moral crisis, to speak words of conversion, hope and consolation to them in the name of God. Just as the wind raises the dust, prophets upset the false complacency of those who have forgotten the Word of the Lord, by discerning events in the light of God's promise, and helping people to see the signs of the dawn breaking through dark times in history.

And today we are in great need of discernment and prophecy, of overcoming the temptation serve ideologies and fatalism, and of discovering, in our relationship with Our Lord, new places, instruments and situations through which He is calling us. Every Christian must be able to develop their capacity to read their lives "within" and find *where* and *what* the Lord is calling them to do to continue His mission.

Pope Francis's message for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.



Bible text: Mc 10, 17-22

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Reflection

In this Gospel story, Jesus raises the question of a young rich man. He looks lovingly on this man who, from his earliest years, had faithfully observed all the practices required by the Law. He was a man with a generous and very beautiful heart. But he lacked one thing: "Go and sell all you have and give it to the poor and then come and follow me." Jesus's words, taken up with faith and in freedom, create something new in the lives of those who are called. Jesus calls us to follow Him in order to be with Him and to live in a relationship of friendship. Jesus extended the same invitation to the young rich man, but he was unable to understand it and exercise his freedom, for he was too attached to his possessions.

Being free means choosing

Being free means choosing and acting according to conscience; but each person is duty-bound to seek enlightenment to discern and then to make the choices which will lead them towards doing good to people and pursuing the common good.

The call which Christ makes is radical, but above all it is a call to happiness addressed to the freedom of each and every person. In order to respond positively to this call, we have to fortify our freedom through prayer and by listening to the Word of God. This call requires us to respond lovingly, which will enable us to remain faithful not by virtue of our strength alone, but by the power and strength of God which is given to us in our weakness. This is how those of us who are consecrated to Hospitality, as Brothers of St John of God, freely manifest through our lives the Gospel of God's mercy to all men and women.

A momento of silence

DecOne decade of the Rosary

Prayer for the vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Saturday, April 21



Hymn for vocations

Intention for the day

Lord we pray that you will raise up in our world people who are driven by the concern to serve their brothers and sisters in need. Endow them with a spirit of commitment, so that the mercy shown by Christ may become more visible in our world today.

Introduction

Live

Lastly, Jesus announces the novelty of the present moment which will enthuse many, while hardening others: the time has come, and He is the Messiah announced by Isaiah, anointed to bring liberation to prisoners, restore sight to the blind, and proclaim God's merciful love to all his creatures. Truly, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 4, 21), Jesus says. The joy of the Gospel, which opens us to an encounter with God and with our fellow men and women, cannot wait for laggards and the indolent. It will not touch us if we merely stay looking out of the window, with the excuse that we have to wait for a more suitable moment; neither can it be accomplished if we fail to take upon ourselves today the risk of making a choice.

The vocation is for today! The Christian mission is for the present time! And each one of us is being called – to the lay life in marriage, the priestly life in the ordained ministry, or the life of special consecration – to become witnesses of Our Lord, in the here and now.

This "today" proclaimed by Jesus assures us that God is continuing to "come down" to save our humanity and make us participants in His mission. Our Lord once again calls us to live with Him and to follow Him in a relationship a special closeness, at His direct service. And if it is He who makes us realise that He is calling us to devote ourselves entirely to His Kingdom, we must not be afraid! It is a wonderful thing – and an enormous grace – to become consecrated entirely and for all time to God and to serving our brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis's message for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Bible text: (Jn 13, 12-17)

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Reflection

We are now faced with a text which shows Lord’s total self-giving and submission in order to be able to set His disciples an example of service and self-giving to those we love. This total gift of love is made visible today through the acts of hospitality being performed every day by the Hospitaller Brothers. Each Brother, in their particular area of consecrated life and within the community framework in which they live, endeavour to bear witness to this service of Christ; through love and particular concern for their confrères, the sick, the poor and the needy for whom we care every day.

Called to be the image of Christ among our brothers and sisters, we have been given Our Lord’s example to follow in order to become His disciples. How difficult might this be in human terms? But knowing this difficulty, Christ went a step further, to show us how easy it is when we know the reason why we are doing it. “Knowing this, happy will you be if you do it.” Saint John of God makes no bones about it when he says, “If we reflected on the breadth of God’s mercy, we would never cease doing good while we were able because, while for his love we give the poor what he himself gives us, he promises to reward us one hundredfold in the joy of heaven. What a happy reward and exchange!”.



God, in his infinite love, sent His Son to take on the condition of a servant and place himself at our service with a total gift of love and inviting us to follow His example. “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mt 22,39). And today, Christ continues to serve us by reaching down Himself into the depths of our imperfections in order to lift us above them. Unconditional service and total love are the feature of Christ’s ministry to us, and St John of God, our Father and founder, was not wrong when he did the same as Christ through the love and care he provided to all those in need. This must be one of the features by which every Brother of St John of God must stand out in today’s world.

A momento of silence

One decade of the Rosary

Prayer for the vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday, April 22

Hymn for vocations

Intention for the day

God our Father, we thank you for your love and for protecting our Hospitaller centres. We pray that you will particularly help those who serve you in the Hospitaller Family to live their vocation with love and joy, with the poor, the sick and people in need.

Introduction

Our Lord continues to call people to follow him today. But we must not wait to become perfect in order to respond generously “Here I am”, and neither must we be frightened off by our limitations and our sins, but we must welcome in our Lord’s voice with an open heart, discerning our personal mission in the Church and in the world, and performing that mission in this ‘today’ which the Lord has given us.

May our Blessed Mother Mary, the young woman from the periphery, who heard, welcomed and lived the Word of God-made-flesh keep us and accompany us at all times along our path.



Pope Francis's message for the 55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Bible text: (Jn 10, 11-18)

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Reflection

Today, Jesus is showing us how effective He is. He speaks of his qualities, his concern, “I am the good shepherd”. Here He makes a very clear reference to Ezekiel chapter 34, “Because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves... I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.... I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,... I will save my flock (Ez 34, 8, 11,15 et 22). Here he is urging us to listen to His voice: “ love one another with mutual affection...” (Rm 12, 10), "be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (cf Eph 4,32). If we put these words into practice we can also be good shepherds of his sheep: the sick, the poor, children, the elderly and those in need. We can also set a good example of Christian life for the young people in formation, by being a good Brother in the Church community, thereby bearing extraordinary witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus. This will make us capable of inviting young people to regularly respond to His call and to follow him, thanks to our example, in our Religious and Church communities. We must therefore rebuild our fraternal relations in which everyone makes a contribution to ensuring that this peaceful climate of shared life, mutual understanding, following the example of Pedro Velasco and Antón Martín who, after having made peace with each other, agreed to live together in the same community, helping and supporting one another.

When a Brother goes through a period of loneliness and lack of motivation he should recall the need to cultivate the qualities that are needed in all human relations: for example, treating people politely, being kind, sincere, practising self-control, showing sensitivity, a sense of humour and the spirit of sharing.

This, then, is what will make us “one flock, one shepherd”, one community and one charism, which will help us to welcome in many young people who will be able to uphold and maintain our charism of Hospitality, living with the poor, the sick and people in need.

A momento of silence

Onedecade of the Rosari

Prayer for vocations

Lord, trusting in your goodness we thank you for the gift of the Hospitaller vocation and for the call to life which you never cease to send out to humanity. We pray that you will send vocations who will keep alive, and in prayer, the work you entrusted to our father Saint John of God.

We pray for the courage to be able to take our lives into our own hands, and long for the most beautiful and profound things that will always enable us to keep an unfettered heart.

Help our young people to respond to the call which you address to each of them, accompanied by wise and generous guides, so that they can live their life project, at the service of the sick, the poor and needy in order to attain Happiness. Enable their hearts to be receptive to great dreams and be concerned for the good of their brothers and sisters.

May Mary, our most Holy Mother of Hospitality, who listened to, welcomed, and lived the Word of God made flesh, keep us safe and accompany us at all times along our path. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO