

Pastoral Letter on World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear faithful,

Thy Kingdom Come!

He appointed twelve that they might be with him
and that he might send them out to preach,
and to have authority to drive out demons” (Mk.3: 14-15).

Jesus called his disciples “to be with him and to be sent out”. With a goal of “self denial” that the disciples were called and trained (Mt.19:29). Everyone who follow Jesus closely in ministerial priesthood and religious life is invited to take a narrow path and hardships in life (Mt.7:14) and to be at the service of the Church for a any job, anytime, and anywhere. A total availability at service of God irrespective of one’s likes and dislikes, aptitude and attitudes, positions and aspirations is the characteristic trait of Christian vocation to priesthood and religious life(1Pet.4:10-11, Mt.6:33-34, Phil.2:1-4, Heb.3:1, 12:1-2). Are we aware of this radical call and commitment of our vocation?

Every year the second Sunday of May is set aside as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This year it falls on Sunday 8 May 2022. The purpose of the world day of prayer for vocations is to publically recognize vocations in all its forms. Many parishes and religious institutions commemorate this day with prayer for vocations and vocation promotion events. I request everyone to celebrate the day befittingly so as to create an awareness of vocation. It is our duty to present before people our vocation as a free gift of God and how much that we value it. Our fidelity, sincerity, and seriousness that we care for our vocation matter great for us and for the people. Encourage people to pray for priests and religious, as well as for more vocations in the Church.

In the 2021 message for world day of prayer for vocations, Pope Francis invites us to be faithful in our closeness to God and to the neighbor as a foundation for joy to feel our vocation to the core. How good it would be if the same atmosphere, simple and radiant, sober and hopeful, were to pervade in our seminaries, religious houses and presbyteries. Holy Spirit stir within us the passion to promote vocations to priesthood and religious life and it is the mission of the Church. They are the pillars around which evolve Church’s mission, for, they take the role of animation to raise lay leadership indeed vocation promotion itself is a great mission of the Church.

Promotion of vocation to the consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood and permanent diaconate are of paramount importance in continuance of the mission of Christ in the world today. Par with it is also very important the vocation to consecrated single life. One should be at knees to respond to one’s call with boundless compassion abundant generosity, and radical availability. Everyone should remember

each one's baptismal call to rouse our inner core to invite the next generation to hear and respond to God's call. The parents, families and ecclesial ministers to begin dialogue with the youngsters to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service. Provide opportunities and motivate discerners to learn more about monastic life, apostolic life, missionaries, cloistered contemplative life and evangelical life.

"Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us" (Pope Francis, message for the 50th world day of prayer for vocations). Embracing this promise naturally demands the cause to risk making a decision. The first disciples called by Jesus to be part of something greater, "immediately left their net and followed him" (Mk.1: 18). Responding to the Lord's call involves putting ourselves on the line and facing a great challenge. It means being ready to leave behind whatever would keep us tied to our little boat and prevent us from making a definitive choice. We are called to be bold and decisive in seeking God's plan for our lives. Gazing out at the vast "ocean" of vocation, we can't remain content to repair our nets on the boat that gives us security, but must trust instead in the Lord's promise. The Christian life thus finds expression in those directions to our personal journey; also contribute to the growth of God's kingdom in our world.

The life of consecrated person is a great means in the process of vocation promotion. Only missionary commitment, priestly or religious joy in the mission, the virtues like hard work, availability, holiness, obedience, prayer, humility, generosity etc. add beauty in vocation promotion in local level. They are not only witness of our missionary charisma but also expression of our filial affection and response to Christ who has called us to this mission.

So dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, we shall live our vocation fruitfully and faithfully so as our life be a beacon of light inviting many to follow Christ closely accepting vocation to priesthood and/or religious life. May I request everyone to do whatever is feasible to keep the World Prayer Day for Vocations i.e. 8th May 2022, to be worth encouraging and motivating to the youth and children in the parishes to listen to God's call from within. Thanking everyone for your presence and service in the mission.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



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