



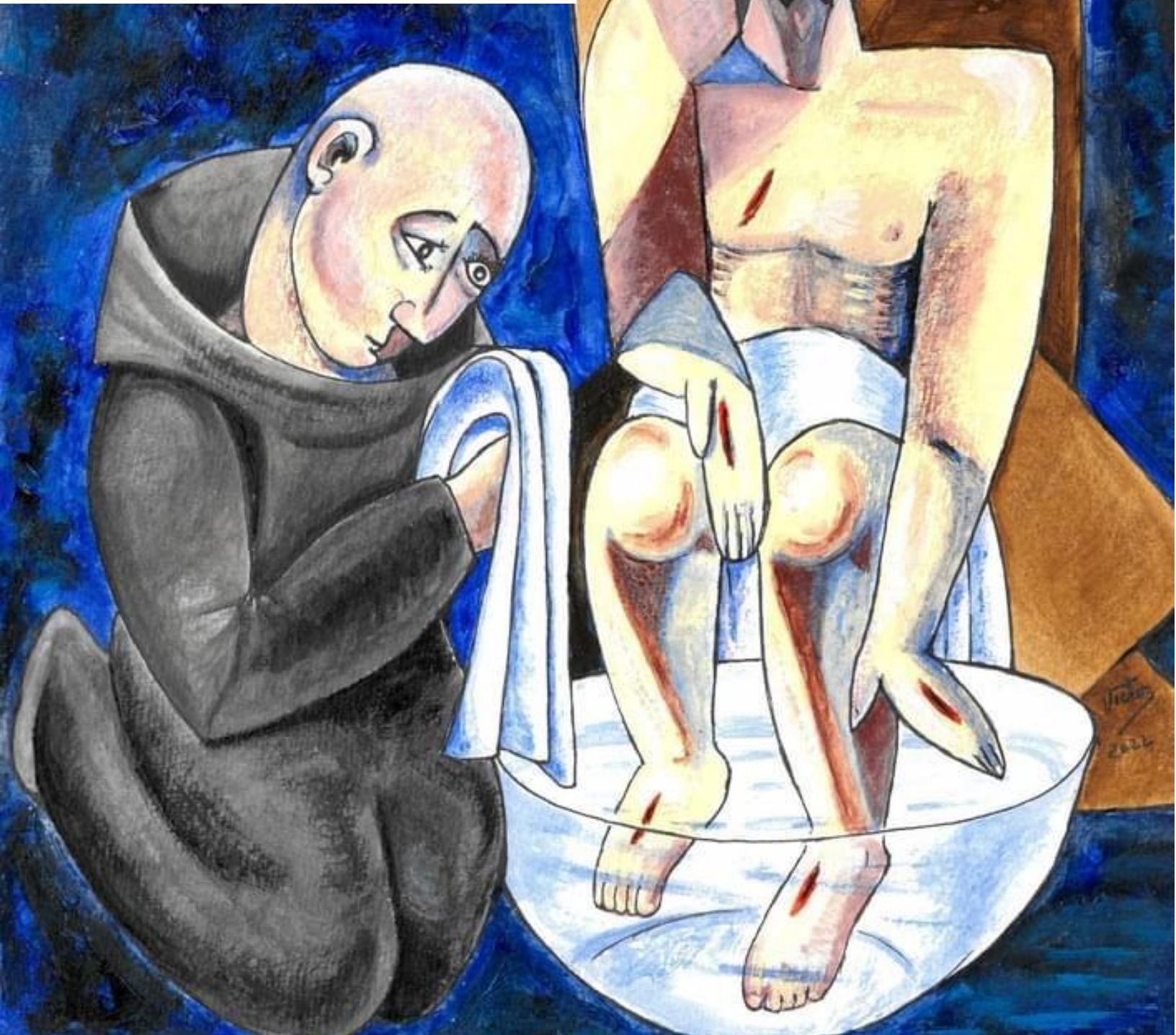
ORDINE OSPEDALIERO di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO

ST JOHN OF GOD

Witness of Charity

7^a Hospitaller Week of Prayer for Vocations

1 - 8 May 2022





ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO

Introduction

Dear Members of the Hospitaller Family of St John of God

The members of the General Commission for Vocations Promotion and Formation of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God send you our Easter greetings and at the same time we would like to offer you the prayer material we have prepared this year for the 7th Hospitaller Week of Prayer for Vocations.

Every region in the world has been dealt grievous suffering by the pandemic, and just as we seemed to be overcoming this problem, war broke out. Such situations always bring sadness and invite us to ask ourselves: what are we doing with our lives, what are we doing for our common home, and for the people around us?

Although we are witnessing grievous situations in the present times, in the midst of it the Holy Spirit continues to raise up charismatic vocations ready to give of their all, in order to build a better world.

This year, 2022, the Hospitaller Order is celebrating the 450th anniversary of the Bull *Licet ex debito*, which calls to mind the very origins of the Order, which were far from easy for the first Brothers. This is an invitation to return to the sources of Hospitality. To recall John of God's dedication to healing the suffering of the sick and poor of Granada; at the same time, the Bull reminds us of the witness of hospitality borne by the first Brothers, who were witnesses to John of God's mission and were recognised by all the people of Granada.

The General Commission for Vocations Promotion and Formation would like to offer you this document of prayers for the Week of Prayer for Vocations, which invites us to return to the origins of our charism and continues to take up the words of Pope Francis in his message each year, calling on us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for vocations in the Church.

We invite you, as a community, to join together in from the prayer for the gift of the hospitaller vocation to the Church and in particular to the Hospitaller Order of St John of God

May St John of God and St Richard Pampuri, whose feast we have just celebrated, pray for us all.

**General Commission for Vocations Promotion and Formation
of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God**



God before all and above everything in the world.”

Outreach and sympathy

Monday 2 May



Introduction

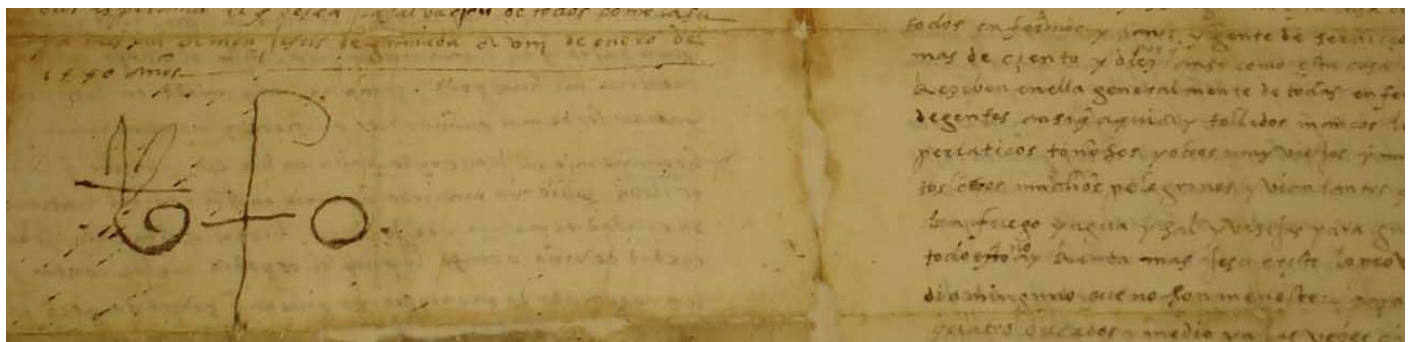
The account of the call of Samuel (cf. 1 Sam 3:1-21) enables us to gather together the fundamental elements of discernment: listening and recognition of the divine initiative, a personal experience, gradual growth in understanding, patient and respectful accompaniment of the mystery as it unfolds, a mission to the community. The vocation is not imposed upon Samuel as a destiny to be undergone; it is a proposal of love, of being sent out on mission in a story of daily mutual trust.

As for the young Samuel, so too for every man and every woman – vocation, while it may have strong and privileged moments, involves a long journey. The Word of the Lord needs time to be understood and interpreted; the mission to which it calls is revealed step by step. The young are fascinated by the adventure of gradual self-discovery. They learn willingly from the activities they carry out, from their encounters and their relationships, putting themselves to the test in daily life. Yet they need help to piece together the various experiences and to read them from a faith perspective, overcoming the risk of dispersal and recognizing the signs by which God speaks. In the discovery of a vocation, things are not all clear at once, because “faith ‘sees’ to the extent that it journeys, to the extent that it chooses to enter into the horizons opened up by God’s word” (*Francis, Lumen Fidei*, 9).

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)



Hospitaller text: St John of God’s Letter to Luis Bautista



In the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of Our Lady the Ever-Virgin Mary; God before all and above everything in the world. God save you, my brother in Jesus Christ and my very beloved son, Luis Bautista.

I have received the letter you sent me from Jaen; it gave me a great deal of joy and much satisfaction, although I was sorry to hear that you have had toothache, because any ill that befalls you makes me suffer too, just as any good thing makes me joyful.

You tell me that you have found no solution there for what you went to find. On the other hand, you say you want to go to Valencia, or some other place. I do not know what to tell you.

I am writing this letter in haste so that I can send it at once, and I am in such a hurry that I hardly have time to commend the matter to God—and it needs a great deal of commending to Our Lord Jesus Christ, and with more time than I have.

Reflection



John of God always opens his letters with the best of all possible invocations: in the name of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, who are authentic models of outreach and sympathy. John of God always finds time to welcome people, and never resents offering his time to help or to accompany them. For him, dedicating himself to others is not a job, nor an "obligation", nor a formality. It is what wells up from his heart.

He felt himself taken in and understood by God's mercy and could not help but pass this goodness on to others. John of God had a great capacity to put himself in the place of others, because he also felt that he was part of God's gaze and embrace. The process of identifying with the situations of other people, especially those in need, was so evident to him that he blurred the boundaries between himself and others.

In his heart, there are no distances, no alien situations. "Brother" was and is the best word to define the "other". Every person is a "brother" because whoever proclaims "God above all the things of the world", invokes God,

Father and Mother, who makes every one of us brothers and sisters. Able to feel with the other, to welcome and understand, to devote time and affection them.

Taking charge and looking after the other, with care and kindness, are clear manifestations of John of God's hospitality.

Bidding prayers for the day

Led by the spirit of the Gospel who lives on, let us pray to the Lord, who enriches us with the power of the Spirit, that the Pope, our Prior General, the Provincial Superiors and all of us who constitute the Hospitaller Order may perform our mission of evangelisation in the world boldly and creatively.

- That all peoples and nations may strive for the values of the Gospel, which bring peace, justice and true freedom. **Lord, hear us.**

- That we Brothers and Co-workers may, by our witness of hospitaller life, proclaim the message of the Gospel of Jesus in the world. **Lord, hear us.**
- That there may always be young hearts ready to follow God's call and to dedicate their lives, like Jesus, the prophets and St John of God, to the service of their fellow human beings, as witnesses of hope and Hospitality. **Lord, hear us.**
- That the homes of our Co-workers may bear witness to the Gospel and nurture the Christian vocation of their children. **Lord, hear us.**
- That each formation community may be committed to being an evangelising community and may boldly sow the call of Christ in each of our candidates. **Lord, hear us.**
- That all of us gathered here may be responsible for proclaiming Jesus Christ and encouraging those who choose to consecrate themselves to the service of the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, who has sown hope among your people, grant that those whom you call to be brothers and sisters in hospitality among your brothers and sisters and your witnesses may be generous and faithful, so that we may all work together to build the Kingdom of God. We ask this of you who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
in our great Hospitaller Family.

And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,





“God knows what is best and true in all this .”

Prudence and prayer

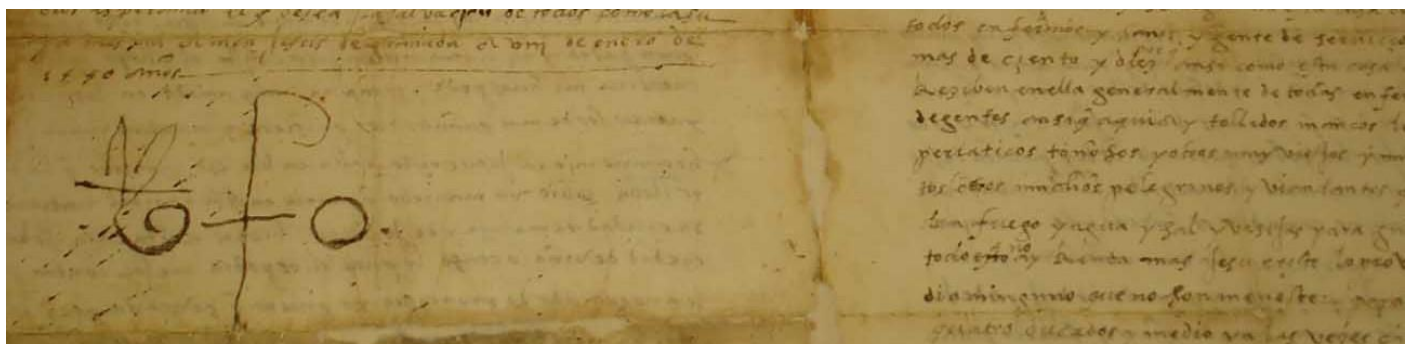
Tuesday 3 May

Introduction

Over the centuries, theological understanding of the mystery of vocation has seen different emphases, according to the social and ecclesial context in which the theme has been developed. In any case, the analogical character of the term “vocation” should be recognized as well as the many dimensions of the reality designated. This leads, from time to time, to emphasis on individual aspects, in ways that have not always done justice to the complexity of the overall picture. In order to grasp profoundly the mystery of a vocation whose ultimate origin lies in God, we are therefore called to purify our imagination and our religious language, and to rediscover the richness and balance of the biblical narrative. In particular, the interplay between divine choice and human freedom needs to be thought through, prescinding from all determinism and from all extrinsecism. Vocation is neither a pre-composed script that the human being has simply to recite nor is it an unwritten theatrical improvisation. Since God calls us to be friends and not servants, our choices make a real contribution to the historical unfolding of his loving plan. The economy of salvation, on the other hand, is a Mystery that infinitely surpasses us; hence only through listening to the Lord do we learn what part we are called to play in it. Understood in this light, vocation appears as a real gift of grace and a gift of covenant – the most beautiful and precious secret of our freedom.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)

Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



And seeing that you are often very weak, especially where women are concerned, I do not know if I should have you come here, because Pedro has not left and I do not know when he will do so; he says he wants to leave, but I am uncertain as to when his departure will in fact take place.

If I were certain that here you would draw benefit for your soul and for those of everybody else, I would at once tell you to come. However, I am afraid that the opposite might be the case. It would thus seem to me better to spend some days in the midst of difficulties now, so that you can become quite accustomed to toil and distress and to the alternation of very bad days with very good ones. On the other hand, I feel that if you were to end by losing yourself it would be much better to return. However, God knows what is best and true in all this.

Reflection



Prudence and prayer. There is no need to rush things, nor to make over-hasty, ill-considered and poorly prayed-over decisions. We must always strive to do good in the best possible way. This takes time, dedication and prayer. John of God placed everything before God in order to find the light that guides us and the insight that points to the best way forward. Dedicating time to prayer and to the things of God. Helping and accompanying others to unveil God's dream for each one of us. The vision is not always achieved on the first attempt... We know that God sometimes writes in wavy lines. John of God had experienced this in his own life. He searched and searched. He changed towns and trades. But throughout this long journey he was working out what one day, with the help of John of Ávila and the promptings of the Spirit, he would discover what God was planning for him. He sensed something new, prayed about it and ventured to give it shape. And God blessed him with abundance and fruitfulness. "God is the knower and the healer" that John of God called on, and proclaimed to others. The God he welcomed in, and made room for in his life. It is God who dwelt in and healed his heart, and whose wisest counsel he embraced.

Bidding prayers for the day

- Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the Hospitaller Order throughout the world through the intercession of Saint John of God, that with a sincere desire to sow the charism of Hospitality, we may always love God and our neighbour in perfect unity. **Lord, hear us.**
- For Holy Mother Church, which believes, suffers and hopes throughout the world: that, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, she may bear witness to Hospitality following the example of Saint John of God. **Lord, hear us.**
- For the communities of Brothers Hospitallers: that the power of the Spirit may awaken vocations, that they may carry the message of hospitality to every language and culture. **Lord, hear us.**

- For all the Works of the Hospitaller Order: that they may be builders of Hospitality following the example of Jesus the Good Samaritan. **Lord, hear us.**
- For all our Co-workers, who are taking part in celebrating Vocations Week, that through their daily work they will respond to the call to Hospitality which they have received for the good of those most in need. **Lord, hear us.**

Father, hear these our prayers and grant that, through the intercession of St John of God we may always work at the service of hospitality. Through Jesus Christ our Lord **R. Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
in our great Hospitaller Family.

And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,
Health and Hope to all the people
with whom we travel along the pathway of life. **Amen.**





“God is the One who knows and solves matters.”

Discernment and care

Wednesday 4 May

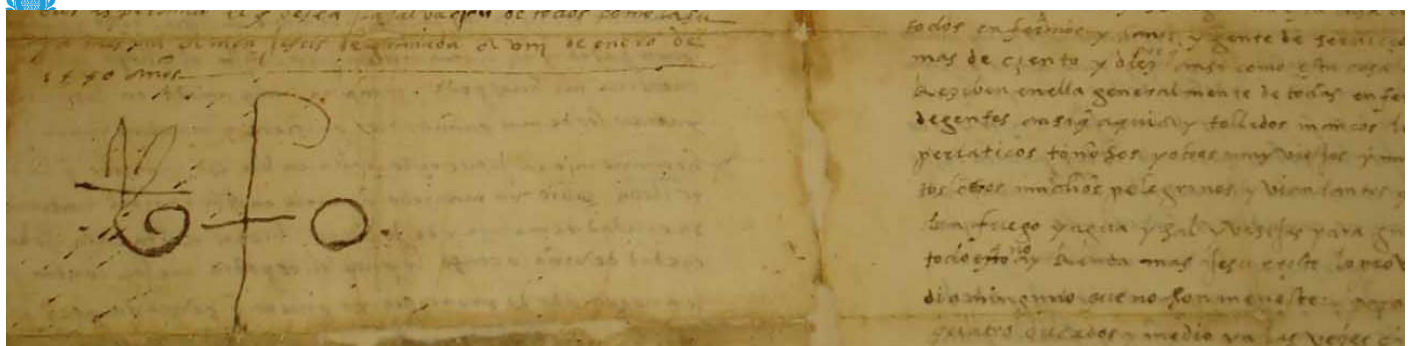
Introduction

In asserting that all things were created through Christ and for him (cf. Col 1:16), Scripture directs us to read the mystery of vocation as a reality imbuing God’s creation itself. God created with his Word, which “calls” into being and into life, and then “establishes distinctions” within the chaos of the indistinct, imprinting on the cosmos the beauty of order and the harmony of diversity. If Saint Paul VI had already said that “every life is vocation” (cf. *Populorum Progressio*, 15), Benedict XVI added that the human being is created as a dialogical being: the creative Word “calls each one of us personally, revealing that life itself is a vocation from God”

To speak of human life in vocational terms allows us to highlight some elements that are very important for the growth of young people: it means excluding the view that they are determined by destiny or are the product of chance, or else that they are a private good to be managed at will. If in the first case there is no vocation, because there is no recognition of a destination worthy of existence, in the second a human being thought of as “rootless” becomes “vocation less”. This is why it is important to establish the conditions to allow all Christian communities, building on the baptismal consciousness of their members, to develop a genuine vocational culture and a constant commitment to pray for vocations.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)

Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



I therefore feel it is best that before you leave that city you should strongly commend the matter to Our Lord Jesus Christ and that I should do the same here. You should thus write to me very frequently. You can collect

what information you can there from pilgrims coming from the various directions. They will tell you about the situation in the Valencia area: if you go to Valencia you will see the holy body of Saint Vincent Ferrer.

It seems to me that you are drifting about like a rudderless boat. Indeed, I often wonder whether I too am not a man without any proper aim, so that there are two of us—you and I—who do not know what we should do.

However, God is the One who knows and solves matters. May he grant solutions and counsel to all of us.

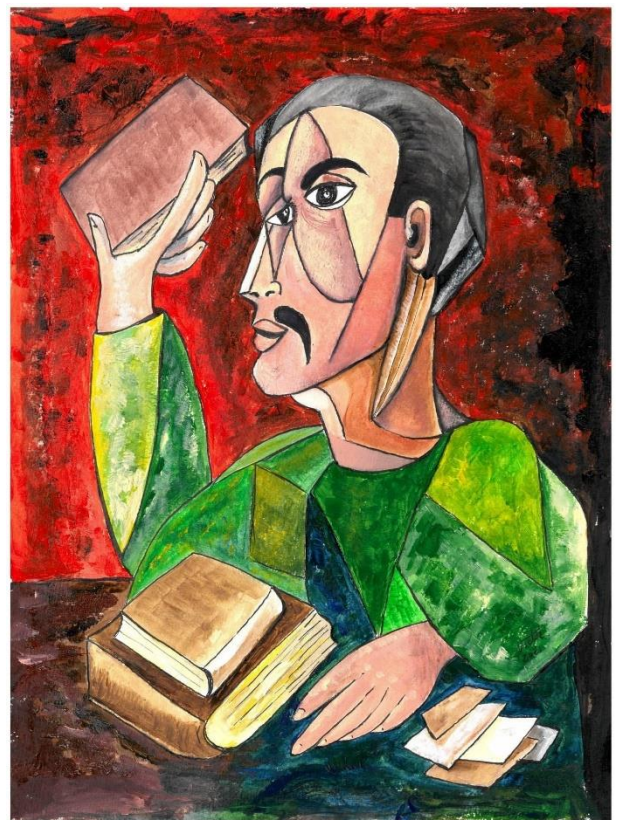
Since it seems to me that you are moving about like a rolling stone, it will be good for you to go and mortify your flesh for a while and suffer a hard life, hunger and thirst, disgrace and weariness, distress and anxiety, and misfortune; all this must be borne for God's sake, because if you come here you must suffer all this for the love of God.

You must offer God deep thanks for everything, both the good and the bad.

Reflection

Discerning in order to find the good and to welcome it. We all stumble in life. Our shifting and limited lives sometimes make us wander on without a clear direction in mind, and not always in the right direction. We have to work, as John of God tells us, on the things of God. Our work consists to a large extent of looking at the people around us who are in need of our attention and care. There is no greater satisfaction than to have been able to help others in some way, sometimes small and trivial, but always important for the other person.

Doing good is not something that comes spontaneously, it is a desire to do good. We must be convinced and willing to make this commitment our life's motto. Knowing that we can always and in any circumstances do something for others. Being willing to make an effort, to work committedly for a greater good that leads to true happiness, for ourselves and for others. Then the sacrifices, small or large, the efforts, the commitments, cease to be a burden. They form part of a process that leads us to something much greater, to a good that is immortalised in our heart and in the heart of the Father of Mercy, as was the case with John of God.



Bidding prayers for the day

Gathered together as Brothers under the protection of Mary, the Ever-Virgin, in communion with the Church throughout the world, let us humbly call upon God, the Father of mercy, to grant us peace in our days.

- For young people, that they may enthusiastically welcome the Word of God, inviting them to commit themselves to spreading the Kingdom. **Lord, hear us.**

- For all the members of the Hospitaller Order, that we may be witnesses of life and service to those most in need. **Lord, hear us.**
- Lord, raise up new Hospitaller vocations in your Church who will commit themselves to the compassionate and merciful Christ of the Gospel following the example of St John of God. **Lord, hear us.**
- For our Hospitaller community: that, united in mutual and fraternal charity, we may set an example of justice, love and peace to the world. **Lord, hear us.**
- For the peoples enslaved and oppressed by destructive or materialistic ideologies: that they may also enjoy complete peace and religious freedom. **Lord, hear us.**

Almighty and merciful God, you so loved the world that you gave your only begotten Son. Graciously hear the supplications and prayers of your children, and grant that all the world may obtain true and lasting peace in your Spirit of love and truth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
in our great Hospitaller Family.

And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,
Health and Hope to all the people
with whom we travel along the pathway of life. **Amen.**





"The house is open to you."

Commitment and dedication

Thursday 5 May



Introduction

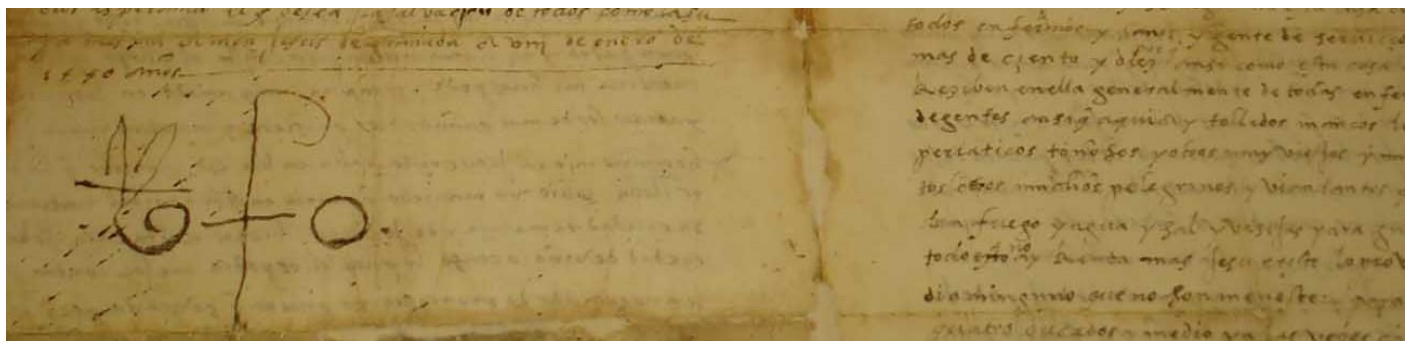
Many young people are fascinated by the figure of Jesus. To them his life appears good and beautiful, because it is poor and simple, built on sincere and profound friendships, given for his brethren with generosity, never closed towards anyone, but always open to gift. The life of Jesus remains today profoundly attractive and inspiring; for all young people it is a provocation which challenges them. The Church knows that this is due to the fact that Jesus has a deep bond with every human being because "Christ, the new Adam, by the revelation of the mystery of the Father and His love, fully reveals man to himself and makes his supreme calling clear".

Indeed, Jesus not only fascinated people with his life – he also issued an explicit call to faith. He encountered men and women who recognized in his words and actions the right way to speak of God and to relate to him, pointing them towards the faith that leads to salvation: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace!" (Lk 8:48). Others who met him were called to become his disciples and witnesses. He did not conceal from those who wanted to be disciples the need to take up the cross every day and follow him on a paschal journey of death and resurrection. Faith as witness lives on in the Church, the sign and instrument of salvation for all peoples. There have always been various forms of discipleship within the community of Jesus. Most of the disciples lived out their faith in the ordinary circumstances of daily life; others, though, including some women, shared the itinerant and prophetic existence of the Master (cf. Lk 8:1-3); from the outset the apostles had a particular role in the community and they were associated by him in his ministry of guiding and preaching.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)



Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



Remember Our Lord Jesus Christ and his blessed Passion and recall how he gave back good for the evil they did him. You must do likewise, my son Bautista, so that when you come to the house of God you can recognize both good and evil. However, if you were certain that with this journey you would be lost, it would be better either to come back here or to go to Seville — wherever Our Lord Jesus Christ guides you.

But if you come here, you will have to be very obedient and work much harder than you have ever done, while always remaining absorbed in the things of God and losing sleep in order to care for the poor.

The house is open to you. I should like to see you go from good to better, as a son and brother.

Reflection



Today we may find the language used by John of God rather strange, and some expressions make us uncomfortable. But they belong to a very specific time and culture. We would do well, of course, not to focus on the words literally, but be mature enough to understand the background.

Commitment and dedication. John of God knew a lot about life. He was a restless, roving man. It took him many years before he "found his place", as he said to Luis Bautista. When he found his true vocation, and when he discovered the deeper meaning of his life, which was expressed by serving and giving himself without measure to others, he could no longer stop himself from proclaiming the way to achieve happiness.

So many men and women, like John of God, have lived this blessed experience that the greater their self-giving and dedication, the greater their union and satisfaction in God. Our God does not allow for half-measures of dedication and service. The discipleship of Jesus, in whatever choice of life, implies radicalism. We have no use for lukewarmness. The prompting of the Spirit leads to total self-giving in service. We all know and have experienced the fact that there is no lack of distractions and temptations to take shortcuts. But in

the end, those who allow themselves to be led by God always redirect their journey and opt for generous dedication, without too many distractions.

Bidding prayers for the day

Our Lord Jesus Christ who intercedes with the Father. Comforted by his presence among us, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the Order and the whole world.

- For the Pope, the bishops and the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God that they may fulfil their mission of proclaiming the Gospel to all people. **Lord, hear us.**

- That people in search of their vocation and disciples of Christ through the Charism of Hospitality may always be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, the Gospel leaven of hope and renewal. **Lord, hear us.**
- That Hospitaller families may be witnesses to the Gospel and offer a humanised and holistic education to their children. **Lord, hear us.**
- That there may always be young people ready to give their lives generously at the service of God and humanity. **Lord, hear us.**
- That all of us, in our places of study, work and entertainment, may give reason for the Christian hope that enlightens and sustains us. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray, Father, that you will always hear our prayer.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
in our great Hospitaller Family.

And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,
Health and Hope to all the people
with whom we travel along the pathway of life. **Amen.**





"Do what seems to you best: God will grant you discernment."

Readiness and charity

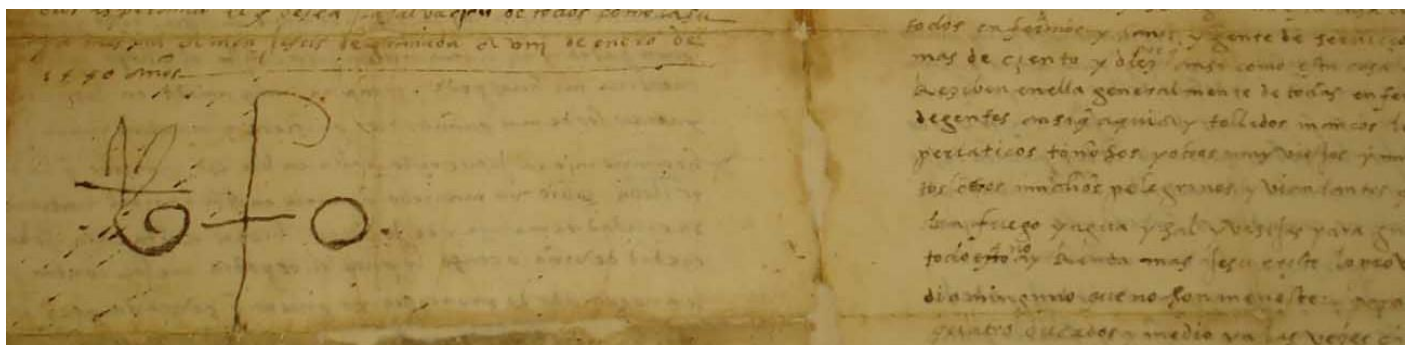
Friday 6 May

Introduction

Among all the biblical figures who illustrate the mystery of vocation, we should contemplate in a particular way the figure of Mary. This young woman, with her "yes", made the Incarnation possible, thereby creating the conditions for every other ecclesial vocation. She remains the first disciple of Jesus and the model of all discipleship. In her pilgrimage of faith, Mary followed her Son to the foot of the Cross and after the Resurrection she accompanied the nascent Church to Pentecost. As mother and merciful teacher, she continues to accompany the Church and to implore the Spirit who gives life to every vocation. Clearly, then, the "Marian principle" has an eminent role and illuminates the whole life of the Church in its various manifestations. Alongside the Virgin, the figure of Joseph her spouse constitutes another exemplary model of vocational response.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)

Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



This letter will not be enough to explain my whole attitude to you because I am in a great hurry and cannot write to you at greater length since I do not know whether the Lord wants you to come back to this house so soon or to stay and suffer where you are. But remember that if you do come, you must be serious about it and must guard yourself against women as if they were the devil.

For you the time is drawing near when you must choose your path. If you come here, you must offer some fruit to God and leave the flesh and everything else behind.

Remember Saint Bartholemew: they skinned him alive and he carried his own skin on his shoulders. If you come here, it is solely in order to work, not to sit idle, for the most beloved son is entrusted with the greatest tasks and labour.

With regard to coming here, do what seems to you best: God will grant you discernment. If it now seems best to you to wander about the world seeking the undertaking in which God can best be served, do exactly as he wants, like those who go to the Indies seeking their fortune. But make sure that you always write to me, wherever you may be.

Reflection



Readiness and charity, a good combination. There are many expressions that remind us that charity properly understood is the form that God's love takes. It is not do-goodism or woolly liberalism. It is self-giving out of love, out of devotion, with enthusiasm, out of fraternity.

John of God felt and lived as a brother to the men and women who came his way. We all know the universal outreach of his heart, the absence of any preconceptions or exclusion. John of God is for us the example of inclusion, of the universal embrace of any human reality. Because no matter how much we love, as John well knew, God has loved us much more. That is why he invites us to frequent the places where we can encounter God, the source and nourishment of love without measure. Let us allow ourselves to be drenched in the love of God, letting it penetrate into every corner of our being. To be in his presence, to contemplate the mystery of his self-giving in Jesus, to open ourselves to reconciliation, to the nourishment of his Bread and his Word. Only by so doing shall we be configured to this merciful Jesus Christ who went about doing good, and whom John of God knew how to reproduce in his life,

making God's love ever-new and ever-present in the form of hospitality.

Bidding prayers for the day

God wants to fill us with His light and His peace: let us turn to Him with confidence.

- For all the Brothers and Co-workers of the Hospitaller Family, that they may experience the joy of the hope to which they have been called by the Charism of Hospitality. **Lord, hear us**
- For the Brothers of our Order, that they may express the joy of their consecrated life, and by their witness of charity invite young people to follow the Hospitaller vocation. **Lord, hear us.**

- For the young people who, during this vocation week, that they may hear God's call and respond generously to Him, and discover that God is by their side and experience the desire to serve those who need us most. **Lord, hear us.**
- For all Religious men and women: that they may show with simplicity the joy of God's kingdom. **Lord, hear us.**
- For ourselves: that we may fully appreciate the value and the novelty of the Gospel. **Lord hear us.**

Lord, awaken in us the great hope of your Kingdom to which we are called to be saints by our witness of life and of hospitality.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
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And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,
Health and Hope to all the people
with whom we travel along the pathway of life. **Amen.**





“Each day of your life you should look to God ”

Hospitality and service

Saturday 7 May

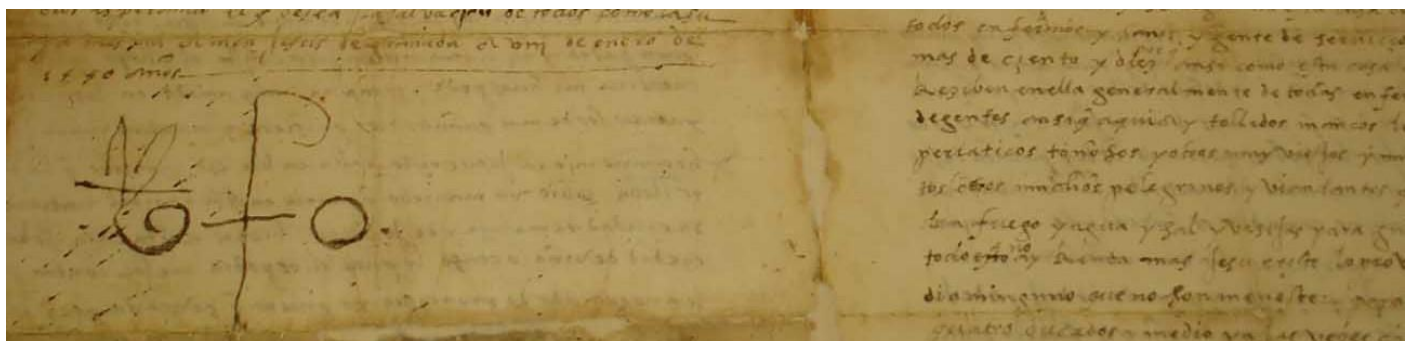
Introduction

It is not possible to understand the significance of the baptismal vocation in its fulness unless we remember that for everyone, without exception, it is a call to holiness. This call necessarily implies an invitation to share in the Church’s mission, which has as its fundamental goal communion with God and communion among all people. Ecclesial vocations are multiple and articulated expressions through which the Church realizes her call to be a real sign of the Gospel received in a fraternal community. The different ways of following Christ express, each in its own way, the mission to bear witness to the event of Jesus, in which every man and every woman finds salvation.

Saint Paul returns many times in his letters to this theme, recalling the image of the Church as a body made up of various members and emphasizing that each member is necessary and at the same time a part of the whole, since only the unity of all makes the body alive and harmonious. Saint Paul locates the origin of this communion in the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity: “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one” (1 Cor 12:4-6). The Second Vatican Council and the subsequent Magisterium offer valuable indications for developing a correct theology of charisms and ministries in the Church, in such a way as to receive with recognition and to value with wisdom the gifts of grace that the Spirit continually calls forth in the Church to rejuvenate her.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)

Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



Each day of your life you should look to God; always attend the full Mass; make frequent confession, if at all possible; never go to sleep in mortal sin — not even for a single night; and love Our Lord Jesus Christ above everything in the world, for however much you love him he still loves you more.

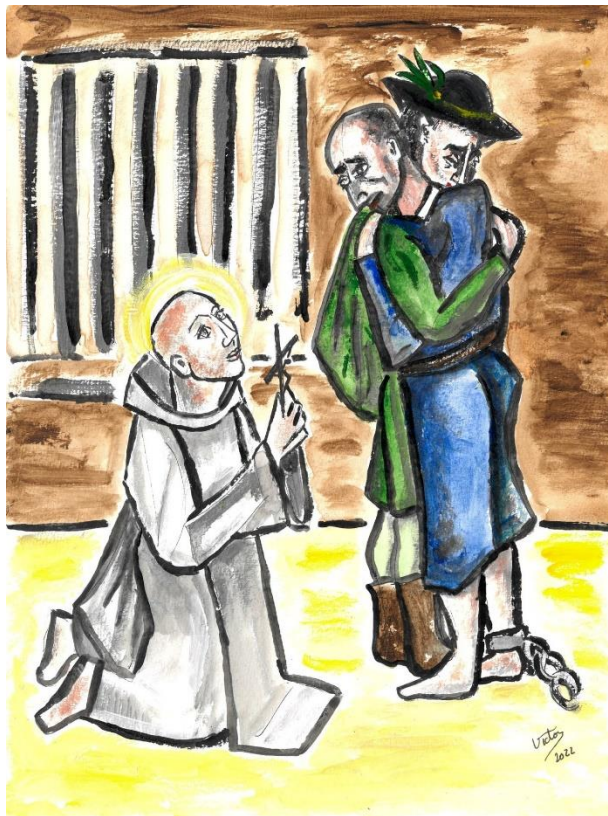
Always have charity, for where there is no charity God is not there—even though God is everywhere.

When I can, I shall go and give Lebrija your greetings. I have given your letter to Bautista at the prison: he was very pleased to have it, and I told him to write at once so that the letter could be sent off to you; I am going now to see if he has written, so that I can send it. My greetings to everybody.

I have given your greetings to everybody, both great and small, and to Senora Ortiza and Miguel. And Pedro says that if you come you will be with him until he leaves—and again if he then returns.

I have nothing else to say to you, except to express the wish that God may save and keep you and lead you and everybody in his holy service.

Reflection



John of God's hospitality and service takes shape in every situation and person. It is not standardised. There is no need for ready-made formulas or stock expressions. John of God leads us to put a face on it, to personalise service and also to pray. Too many expressions ring hollow because they lack the necessary connection with reality. John of God's hospitality cannot be experienced and expressed in beautiful but empty words. It must be given a name. A face must be put on it.

Hospitaller prayer is about women and men with a history, with a biography, in real-life situations which cry out in our hearts and which lead us to place them before God. Intercessory prayer is so vital to the life of a hospitaller! To speak out as the voice of the voiceless is also to pray for those who cannot pray.

Suffering, pain, traumatic experiences often block and prevent people from opening up and turning to God. This is another great service that we can all perform. To pray for those who can no longer, or do not know how, or do not have the strength to pray... without making a noise,

discreetly, in the manner of Jesus, but praying with names and faces. John of God did not skimp on intercession because therein lies also the workings of Grace.

Bidding prayers for the day

Let us call upon the God of mercy, brothers and sisters, to hear our prayer and to help us always in time of need.

- For the holy Church of God: that those who lead her may know how to use the means to proclaim to people the riches of their vocation. **Lord, hear us.**

- Let us pray for our Hospitaller centres, that through the Charism of Hospitality, we may perform the service of hospitality in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel. **Lord, hear us.**
- For Christian families, that they may be seedbeds of new vocations to the consecrated life, and may they bear witness to hospitality. **Lord, hear us.**
- For ourselves, that we may know how to welcome the full spiritual riches that comes through our works, always serving the poorest and those most in need. **Lord, hear us.**

Hear, Our Lord, the prayers which we offer you this day, and raise up new hospitaller vocations who know how to love and serve the charism of hospitality following the example of Jesus the Good Samaritan.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. R. **Amen.**

Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
more sensitive to the sufferings of our brothers and sisters.

Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
in the service and love of our poor and sick brothers and sisters.

Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
that young people, following the example of Mary, Our Mother of Hospitality,
may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
in our great Hospitaller Family.

And grant that we may respond generously and promptly
And that, like Saint John of God, we may be bearers of Life,
Health and Hope to all the people
with whom we travel along the pathway of life. **Amen.**





“Quedaos con Dios y andad con Dios”.

Humildad y abnegación

Domingo 8 de mayo



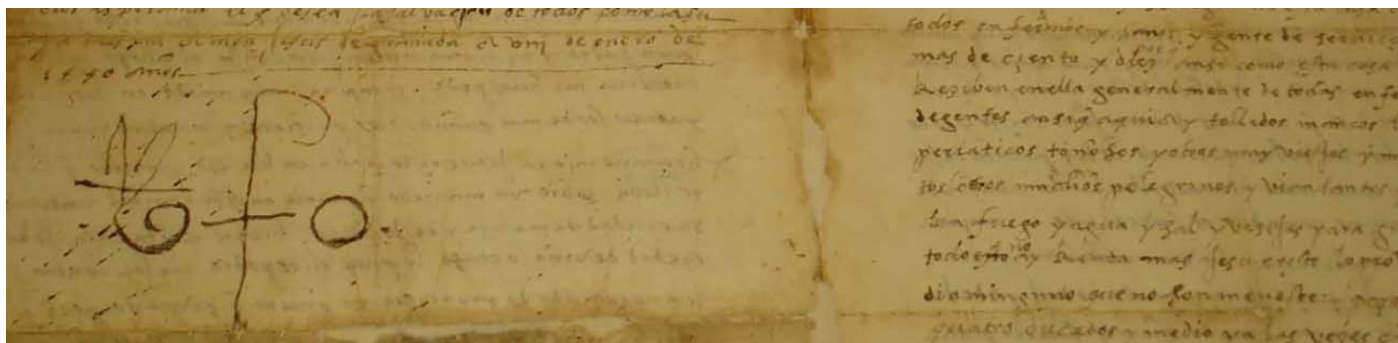
Introduction

The gift of consecrated life, both contemplative and apostolic, which the Spirit calls forth in the Church, has a particular prophetic value inasmuch as it is a joyful witness of the gratuitousness of love. When religious communities and new foundations live their fraternity authentically, they become schools of communion, centres of prayer and contemplation, places of witness of intergenerational and intercultural dialogue and arenas for evangelization and charity. The mission of many consecrated men and women who take care of the lowliest on the world’s peripheries manifests concretely the dedication of an outward-looking Church. If in some regions it is experiencing reduction in numbers and the fatigue of ageing, consecrated life continues to be fruitful and creative, not least through co-responsibility with many lay people who share the spirit and the mission of the various charisms. The Church and the world cannot be without this vocational gift, which is a great resource for our time.

(Synod of Bishops, Young people, the faith and vocational discernment)



Hospitaller Text: Letter of St John of God to Luis Bautista



I shall stop now, although I shall not stop praying to God for you and for everybody. I must tell you that I have been getting on very well with the Rosary, and I hope in God that I shall recite it as often as I can and as he wishes.

As I have already said, if you think making this trip will mean you lose yourself, you should do as you think best.

Before you leave that city, have some Masses said to the Holy Spirit and the Three Magi if you can afford to, and if you cannot afford it your good intentions will be enough — and if they are not enough may God's grace make up what is lacking.

The lesser brother of all, John of God, dying if God so wills, but keeping silent and hoping in God, slave of Our Lord Jesus Christ and with a great desire to serve him. Amen Jesus.

Although I may not be such a good slave as others, since I often serve him badly or betray him, and although, despite my deep sorrow over this, it should cause me much deeper sorrow, may God forgive me and save everybody.

Write and tell me everything that happens to you there. I am enclosing a letter they have sent me for you. Good manners have prevented me from opening it, so that I do not know if it is meant for you or for the prison Bautista. If, when you read it, you see that it is in fact meant for the other one, send it back to me, so that I can give it to him. And if he has written his letter, I shall send it now with these two.

Now stay with God and go with God.

Reflection



God before everything and above all the things of the world... a God whom we make present in our service in humility and self-denial. It is the "hospitality of the apron", of the one who wraps a towel around his waist to bend down and serve, to "wash feet" ... even knowing how limited and sometimes a little unworthy we are. Mindful that we may not always get it right, nor do things as we would have liked or expected.

St John of God, like St Paul, was aware that we do not always do the good we may desire. This is not a reason to be discouraged, nor must it detract from our determination to do good. Quite the reverse: the wounded person who knows and accepts their fragility has the great strength to be able to meet others, to understand, to be merciful, to share the fact that we all need one another, the need of sympathetic support. St John of God was also and above all the "healed healer".

The great strength of his unconditional dedication stems from his fragility and his wounded love. His madness opened him up to the great enterprise of hospitality. Mistreated and despised, he learned to treat and appreciate

every human being as a true brother and sister in God. John of God and of all people, without excluding anyone and giving total goodness and mercy. John of God is a living presence of dedicated service, both on God's behalf and with God.



Bidding prayers for the day

Let us pray to God the Father, who calls us all to work together in his creative enterprise, each one with our own vocations to which we have been called.

- For all those who have been called to live more closely the Charism of Hospitality at the service of the poor, the sick and the needy. **Lord, hear us.**
- For all the people who are involved in our social works, that they may discover the importance of the Christian witness of hospitality in their particular forms of service. **Lord, hear us.**
- For the people in charge of formation centres, that they may always bear in mind the good of humanity above all other interests. **Lord, hear us.**
- For the students who are in formation in the various educational institutions of the Hospitaller Order, that by living the charism of Hospitality they may understand the sense of humanisation in each of our centres. **Lord, hear us.**
- For all the patients and guests in our centres, which are the very purpose of our charism, that, following the example of St John of God, they may be welcomed with long care. **Lord, hear us.**
- May we learn to appreciate, from a Christian perspective, all work well done as a service to others, as a means of self-fulfilment, and as a contribution to justice and social peace. **Lord, hear us.**

Merciful God and Father, You are our refuge, hear our prayers which we have offered during this Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **R. Amen.**



Prayer for Vocations

God, our Father,
we place our trust in you,
and commit our difficulties, our hopes and our dreams
into your loving hands.

May the love that you have poured into our hearts
make us more hospitable, welcoming and merciful,
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Renew in us the call to follow Jesus, your Son
and make us understand that it is worthwhile to give our lives for the Gospel,
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Accept our praise and our prayer, O Lord,
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may eagerly welcome the mission to which you are calling them
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Health and Hope to all the people
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ORDINE OSPEDALIERO di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO



The drawings illustrating this year's 7th Hospitaller Week of Prayer for Vocations are the work of Brother Víctor Martín, a Brother of St John of God and member of the Granada Community in Spain. With a very personal style taking inspiration from Picasso's models, Brother Victor has reinterpreted the biography of Saint John of God.