

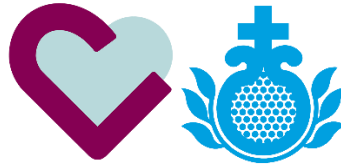
# 8TH WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOSPITALLER VOCATIONS

24 to 30 April 2023

Do not forget  
Hospitality,  
Go forth



Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God



## Introduction

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We send our greetings to all the communities of the Sisters Hospitaller and the Hospitaller Brothers and to all those who have set out with us on the mission of hospitality: co-workers, volunteers, benefactors, young people, lay hospitallers and their families.

The Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations is an opportunity for us to unite in spirit. This year we are inspired by the life of our Brother and Founder Saint Benedict Menni and the message of Pope Francis for World Youth Day, which has as its motto: "*Mary arose and went with haste*" (Lk 1:39).

As the Church is urging us to walk together in synodality, both our communities have joined together, as witnesses of God's Mercy and love, to walk together performing various activities, and in this particular case, we are joining forces to work for vocations to hospitality.

This week of prayer has brought us together, in which listening to the words of Jesus who told his disciples "*The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to do his harvesting.*" (Lk 10:2), we ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers who discover in hospitality a way to arise and awaken to life.

The material for this year's week of prayer for vocations is inspired by some of St. Benedict Menni's letters with vocational themes and by Pope Francis' message for the 37th World Youth Day 2022-2023, inviting young people to rise up, to re-emerge and set out along paths of closeness, to bear witness to the good news, to be bearers of the Gospel of Jesus.

This prayer document for vocations is a simple aid that can be used at various moments of our community prayer, or at new and creative places for prayer. We invite you to share these moments of prayer with our co-workers and in general with all the members of the hospitaller family.

Let us pray together that the Lord master of the Harvest will send the Church and our Institutions men and women who are awake and ready to be witnesses of Hospitality.

**Vocatio Promotion and Formation**  
**Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
**Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God**



**Monday 24 April 2023**

Like Mary, let us arise and give thanks for the gift of the vocation

### **Introduction**

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After the Annunciation, Mary could have focused on herself and her own worries and fears about her new condition. Instead, she entrusted herself completely to God. Her thoughts turned to Elizabeth. She got up and went forth, into the world of life and movement. Even though the astonishing message of the angel had caused a seismic shift in her plans, the young Mary did not remain paralyzed, for within her was Jesus, the power of resurrection and new life. Within herself, Mary already bore the Lamb that was slain and yet lives. She arises and sets out, for she is certain that God's plan is the best plan for her life. Mary becomes a temple of God, an image of the pilgrim Church, a Church that goes forth for service, a Church that brings the good news to all!

To experience the presence of the risen Christ in our own lives, to encounter him "alive", is the greatest spiritual joy, an explosion of light that can leave no one untouched. Mary sets out immediately, anxious to bring the news to others, to bear witness to the joy of this encounter. This too is what caused the haste of the first disciples following the resurrection: "[the women] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples" (*Mt 28:8*).

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitalier text: Letter 661 St Benedict Menni**

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What do you want me to tell then, my daughters, if it is not what springs from my heart? And what springs from my heart is no other than whatever is for your greater good in this life and in Eternity? Well then, my daughters, I want Our Lord to imbue me and you with a higher understanding to be able to experience a little of the supreme joy of having been chosen out of thousands of our contemporaries to embrace the religious life. Oh, if we only knew even a little of the privilege we have been given, and the good fortune we have had!

We would certainly be in love with our holy vocation, and beside ourselves as it were, in a transport of delight at having been called to be admitted to the Court of our Divine Saviour, in the company of His Most Holy Immaculate Mother and our most loving Mother; in the company of the Angels and Saints, both of the Heavenly Court and of the souls who are still in Purgatory, praising and blessing God, and the souls who are still in this life, battling and struggling and bearing the Cross with Christ - the very people who urge us to



keep company with them by following Jesus who tells us: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him take up his cross and follow me."

## Reflection

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Like Mary, who set aside the fears and challenges of her new condition and set out on her journey, our founders, St John of God, St Benedict Menni, María Josefa and María Angustias, arose with their security rooted in God and set out on the adventure of leaving everything to go forth to meet Jesus in sick and needy people.

Thanks to their generous dedication and trust in God, our founders teach us to engender new life to serve our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Today we continue to carry hospitality wherever in the world we happen to be, glorifying and thanking God for so many gifts we have received, and for having been called to the Hospitaller life.

(Sister Monica Burbano - Chile - Sister Hospitaller)

## Petition of the Day.

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Let us thank God for all the good things we have received with the gift of our hospitaller vocation, asking Him to make us caring builders of hospitality, attentive to the cries of our sick and needy brothers and sisters. **Lord hear us.**

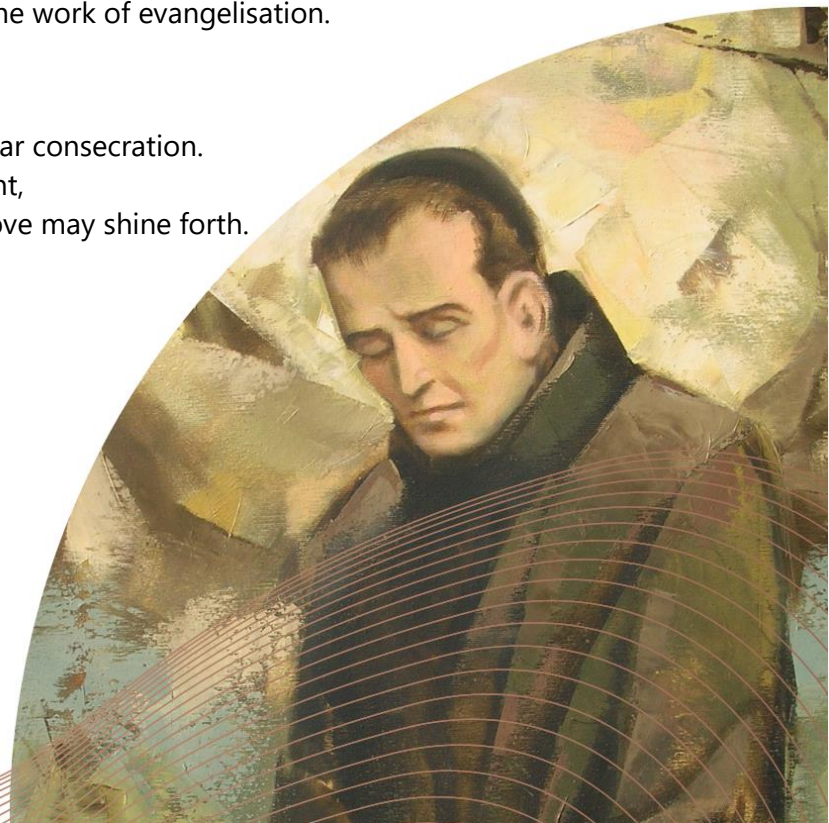
## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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Father of mercy,  
who gave your Son for our salvation  
and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous,  
which are fountains of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young  
the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelisation.

Sustain these communities in their commitment  
to offer appropriate vocational catechesis  
and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration.  
Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment,  
so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth.

May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus,  
intercede for each Christian community,  
so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit,  
it may be a source of true vocations  
for the service of the holy People of God. Amen





**Tuesday 25 April 2023**

## Always going forth, leaving the doors wide open: this is Hospitality

### **Introduction**

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In the accounts of the resurrection, we often encounter two words: “awake” and “arise”. With them, the Lord pushes us to go out towards the light, to let him lead us across the threshold of all of our closed doors. “This image has great meaning for the Church. We too, as disciples of the Lord and the Christian community, are called to get up quickly, to enter into the mystery of the resurrection, and to let the Lord guide us along the paths that he wishes to point out to us”

The Mother of the Lord is a model for young people on the move, who refuse to stand in front of a mirror to contemplate themselves or to get caught up in the “net”. Mary’s focus is always directed outwards. She is the woman of Easter, in a permanent state of exodus, going forth from herself towards that great Other who is God and towards others, her brothers and sisters, especially those in greatest need, like her cousin Elizabeth.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text:** Perfil Juandediano P. 365)

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Dear young friend in Our Lord Jesus Christ... At this point you must come with great strength of soul to truly serve Our Lord, and be completely detached from all worldly things, convinced that you will work without any other reward than the prize which virtue earns for you and which is found only in heaven, and to come determined to sacrifice yourself with great self-denial to serve the poor, the sick and all the people with disabilities placed by Divine Providence under our protection so that in heaven they will be our crown.

The first thing you must set aside is your own will, and come in readiness to enjoy doing whatever your superiors command, persuading yourself that by so doing you are doing God's will, and above all you must come determined to seek the living faith which Jesus Christ alone can teach, and which is what energises the soul to do His work, which will yield imperishable fruits that will accompany you for an eternity in glory.

## Reflection:

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Following Christ in the religious life is sometimes rather forbidding, and many young people, even though they may have the strength and the desire to dedicate their lives to others, find it somewhat difficult to place their trust in Him. We often find it hard to "arise" and "awaken", especially in the most complicated moments in our lives, but we must always know that, in reality, "loneliness" is in contradiction to the word "fraternity". Those of us who have received the vocation to the religious life are called to follow a God who is naked and poor, both physically and spiritually; a God who embodies Himself in the most vulnerable people. It is not an "attractive" proposition, but we have to learn to recognise that Christ is asking us to take fraternity where, in reality, loneliness reigns. Let us look at our brothers and sisters in need around us, and let stand close by their side, for that is precisely where God shows Himself.

(Martin Tuci - Italy - Novice of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God)

## Petition of the day.

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Lord God, the Good Shepherd, God, fill our hearts with the freshness and joy of fraternal life. Lord, give us the courage to surrender ourselves to Your will, to let ourselves be embraced by Your love and let us follow you through the least, the sick and the needy. **Lord hear us.**

## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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Father of mercy,  
who gave your Son for our salvation  
and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous,  
which are fountains of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young  
the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelisation.

Sustain these communities in their commitment  
to offer appropriate vocational catechesis  
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Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment,  
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May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus,  
intercede for each Christian community,  
so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit,  
it may be a source of true vocations  
for the service of the holy People of God. Amen





**Wednesday 26 April 2023**

## The Church needs young people willing to be challenged by the needs of others

### **Introduction**

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Saint Ambrose of Milan, in his commentary on the Gospel of Luke, writes that Mary set out in haste towards the hills, "because she rejoiced in the promise and sought to serve others with the enthusiasm born of her joy. Full of God, where else could she have gone if not towards the heights? The grace of the Holy Spirit permits no delay". Mary's haste is thus a sign of her desire to serve, to proclaim her joy, to respond without hesitation to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Mary was motivated by the needs of her elderly cousin. She did not hold back, or remain indifferent. She thought more of others than of herself. And this gave enthusiasm and direction to her life. Each of you can ask: "How do I react to the needs that I see all around me? Do I think immediately of some reason not to get involved? Or do I show interest and willingness to help?" To be sure, you cannot resolve all the problems of the world. Yet you can begin with the problems of those closest to you, with the needs of your own community. Someone once told Mother Teresa: "What you are doing is a mere drop in the ocean". And she replied: "But if I didn't do it, that ocean would have one drop less".

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text: Perfil Juandediano P. 421**

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Dear Sir, Yesterday the young man you recommended, José M<sup>a</sup> Ruiz, came to this Holy House and handed me your letter., in which you enclosed a 50 peseta note.

At first sight, he seemed to me to be a fine young man; he seems to be driven by very good desires; may the Lord grant that he may persevere in them, and thus achieve the greater glory of God and sanctify his soul, which must be the only things which must have brought him here, as I truly hope. I thank you for the interest you have taken in sending us this new labourer in Our Lord's vineyard, and I hope that in His mercy many vocations may be awakened, for never has it been said with greater reason than now that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

## Reflection

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We live in a world afraid of commitment and unable to react to the needs of the "other" that challenge us on a daily basis. I often see myself as a young woman trying to look beyond society, but perhaps too focused on finding solutions for the people who are most familiar to me, and perhaps motivated by the need to fill gaps, distancing myself from what really steers my life and gives it any meaning.

What are the gaps that are driving me, and casting a cloud on the horizon I am being called to reach? How far are these gaps awakening me and pushing me towards finding the answer I need to give, towards true happiness in Him?

Mary's "Yes" moves me because of the simplicity and humility with which she invites us today to be better, to be for Christ and with Him to learn to be disciples of His love. Knowing that I have been chosen to change the world makes me feel small, but assured that God loves me and has a mission for me.

(Patricia Teixeira - Portugal - Juventudes Hospitalarias)

## Petition of the day.

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Lord God and Father, we ask You for the grace to grow in our identity as children committed to our brothers and sisters like Jesus, learning from Him to live our lives faithful to Your plan. May we be receptive to Your grace and have Mary's docile responsiveness to the Holy Spirit, and be bearers and witnesses of a joyful life of gratuitous service, and as a sign of hope together with our brothers and sisters to whom you may send us.

**Lord hear us.**

## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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who gave your Son for our salvation  
and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous,  
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it may be a source of true vocations  
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**Thursday 27 April 2023**

## We cannot help but share this extraordinary gift of Hospitality

### **Introduction**

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When faced with concrete and urgent needs, we need to act quickly. How many people in our world look forward to a visit from someone who is concerned about them! How many of the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned and refugees have need of a look of sympathy, a visit from a brother or sister who scales the walls of indifference!

What kinds of “haste” do you have, dear young people? What leads you to feel a need to get up and go, lest you end up standing still? Many people – in the wake of realities like the pandemic, war, forced migration, poverty, violence and climate disasters – are asking themselves: Why is this happening to me? Why me? And why now? But the real question in life is instead: *for whom* am I living? (cf. *Christus Vivit*, 286).

The haste of the young woman of Nazareth is the haste of those who have received extraordinary gifts from the Lord and feel compelled to share them, to let the immense grace that they have experienced be poured out upon others. It is the haste of those capable of putting other people’s needs above their own. Mary is an example of a young person who wastes no time on seeking attention or the approval of others – as often happens when we depend on our “likes” on social media. She sets out to find the most genuine of all “connections”: the one that comes from encounter, sharing, love and service.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text:** Perfil Juandediano P. 352

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As for the three young men you have sent here, I am delighted to tell you that they are happier every day that passes, according to what they tell me; do not doubt that we show great interest in young men, trying to lead them on patiently and gently in the holy practices of the hospitaller religious life, for which we have a priest of the Order exclusively dedicated to ensuring their formation in its religious spirit.

I am not surprised to hear that the enemy who never sleeps has spread the word over there that our life is unbearable because of our being over-worked; for it does not suit the enemy for young people go out to serve God and the poor, sanctifying their souls, doing good, and saving others: it is the rage of the devil.

## Reflection

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Just how great is our hospitaller mission, the practice of charity and showing love for others, that it even provokes the "rage of the devil"?

Young people who have had in their heart (since birth) the seed and the desire to give their lives for others, for the most needy, for the suffering Christ, have has nothing more and nothing less than his own path of total happiness marked and sealed. That is the way God has moulded their hearts, and that is the way in practice way in which they will be happy. All the deepest yearnings of young people point with the greatest sincerity and certainty towards an encounter with Love, with God. And, in today's world, it is precisely these yearnings that our society discards first: commitment, giving one's life, risking discomfort, pain, giving up things...

We are perhaps not fully mindful of the fact that, as Hospitallers, we have an huge responsibility: to patiently and gently accompany the young people who share our same desires. Not because we "need" them, but because God puts them on our path, so that no-one is lost, and that all can reach and joyfully find their own Hospitaller vocation.

(Santiago Reyes - Spain – Co-worler of te Hospitaller Order of St John of God)

## Petition of the Day.

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For those who accompany, care for, awaken and encourage young people's deep yearning to offer Hospitality and dedicate themselves to others: that they may do so gently and firmly for the good of the young person concerned, guiding them, as the Church we are, to encounter and to enjoy intimacy with Jesus, where they will find the answers to their vocation. **Lord hear us.**

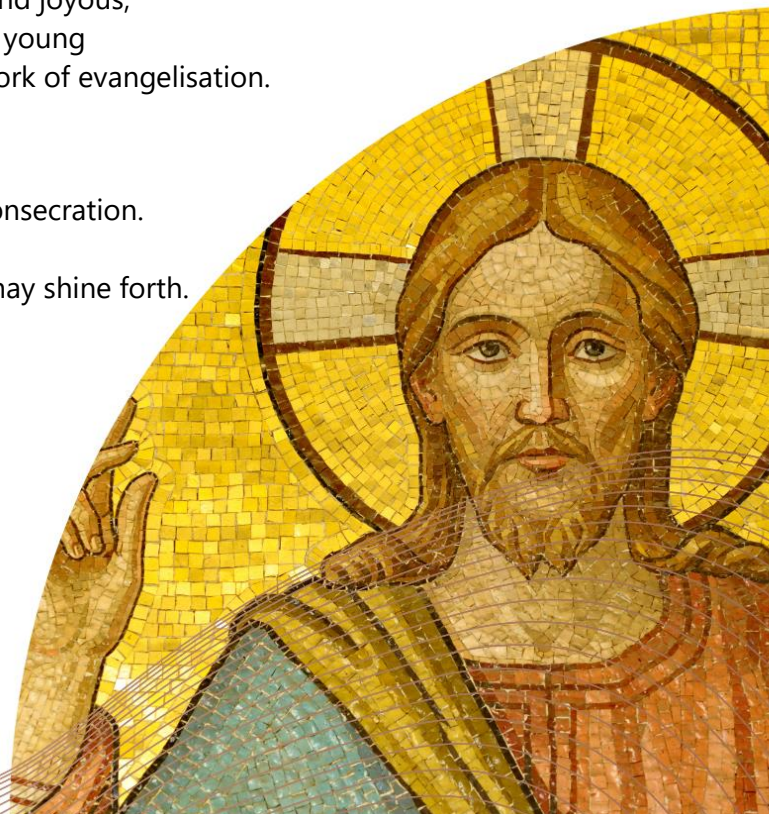
## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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**Friday 28 April 2023**

We are driven by our haste to stay faithful to our vocation.

### **Introduction**

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A healthy haste drives us always upwards and towards others. Yet there is also an unhealthy haste, which can drive us to live superficially and to take everything lightly. Without commitment or concern, without investing ourselves in what we do. It is the haste of those who live, study, work and socialize without any real personal investment. This can happen in interpersonal relationships. In families, when we never stop to listen and spend time with others. In friendships, when we expect our friends to keep us entertained and fulfil our needs, but immediately look the other way if we see that they are troubled and need our time and help. Even among couples in love, few have the patience to really get to know and understand each other. We can have the same attitude in school, at work and in other areas of our daily lives. When things are done in haste, they tend not to be fruitful. They risk remaining barren and lifeless. As we read in the book of Proverbs: "the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to want" (21:5).

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text: Letter 497 Saint Benedict Menni**

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But praise be to Almighty God who never deserts His beloved Institutes! which are only broken or destroyed when those who have professed them relax their observance, give up the spirit of prayer and self-denial, abandon the spirit on which their Founders grounded them, and they fall into ruin, not for external causes but because of what has happened inside. Because, believe me my daughters: external causes, even when they lead to war and break down externally, do not affect what is inside the Institutes, when their members are faithful to their vocation, and cling increasingly to their holy vocation, they do not affect the interior of the Institutes, when their individuals, faithful to their vocation, cling more and more to holy observance, and the higher the waves of persecution rise, the greater they affirm themselves in the spirit of their Institute, the more they devote themselves to prayer, whether it be in splendid Convents or in humble huts, and they perfect themselves in the spirit of holiness to which they have been called by Jesus to follow Him with the most tender love of His Divine Heart.



## Reflection

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We talk about people rushing about in an increasingly insubstantial world, which sometimes allows itself to be led by empty testimonies of love, help and compassion. A world surrounded by false prophets who use the networks and new mass media to circulate a meaningless and sometimes incoherent message. We forget that this haste and this society of "fleeting and empty immediacy" is creating a grey world, which sometimes turns dark for many people who experience loneliness and are seeking comfort. In spite of all this, in the midst of this greyness and darkness we find small bright glimmers of life, lights that accompany us, that heal and that awaken in us a meaning for our lives.

In an increasingly cold society, it is important to remember the message of Jesus, a message that becomes present in our lives through Hospitality and these small glimmers of light, by which I mean our communities, that help us and guide us in the practice of this Hospitality. They are lights led by the word of Jesus, St John of God, St Benedict Menni and countless others who have taught us to LOVE, with a love without borders, a love that fills the world with light, however dark it may become. A love that is increasingly necessary when we stop to analyse the society in which we live, a love that comes from the most beautiful and effective message that human beings have ever been given, and which bears fruit in abundance.

Let us be capable of being the light in an immediate and changing world, to guide those who are yearning to live their love for the sick and vulnerable in our society and to practise Hospitality as a life choice. Let us accompany those who, in this grey world, choose the Gospel of mercy as a way of loving and accompanying suffering people, and let us live to make this grey world a world that is increasingly full of light.

(Emilio Jose Morilla - Spain - Co-worler of te Hospitaller Order of St John of God)

## Petition of the day.

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For our communities, the lights of this world, that they may continue to practise Hospitality and live their lives based on the word of Our Lord, with a constant attitude of service and help for those who need it most. **Lord hear us.**

## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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Father of mercy,  
who gave your Son for our salvation  
and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
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**Saturday 29 April 2023**

## Mary's hospitality becomes serving and loving Jesus and, in Him, those who need it.

### **Introduction**

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When Mary arrives at the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth, a marvellous encounter takes place! Elizabeth herself had experienced miraculous intervention from God, who gave her a child in her old age. She would have had every reason to begin by talking about herself, yet she was not “full of herself”, but anxious to welcome her young cousin and the fruit of her womb. As soon as she heard Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Such surprises and outpourings of the Spirit come about when we show true hospitality, when we put others, not ourselves, at the centre. We see this too in the story of Zacchaeus. In the Gospel of Luke we read that “when Jesus came to the place [where Zacchaeus was], he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today’. So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him” (19:5-6).

Many of us have had the unexpected experience of meeting Jesus and for the first time having a sense of closeness and respect, a lack of prejudice and disapproval, a loving gaze that we never encountered in any other. Not only that. We have also realized that, for Jesus, it was not enough to glimpse us from afar; he wanted to be with us and to share his life with us. The joy of this experience made us hasten to welcome him, to feel the need to be with him and to get to know him better. Elizabeth and Zechariah welcomed Mary and Jesus into their home. Let us learn from these two elderly persons the meaning of hospitality! Ask your parents and grandparents, and the oldest members of your communities, what it meant for them to have welcomed God and others into their lives. You will benefit from hearing the experiences of those who have gone before you.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text: Letter 210 St Benedict Menni**

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The sister must live a life of prayer, in such a way that from morning to evening and from night to morning, all the movements of her heart, all the sighs of her soul and all her thoughts, must be directed to Our Lord, asking His Divine Majesty to strip her of herself and to make Him her new life. To this end, she must frequently lift up her heart to the Lord with fervent ejaculatory prayers and always walk in the presence of God, doing all things for His love, suffering in silence and being meek and humble of heart for His love, even if human creatures set no store by these things, and judge very differently.



## Reflection

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Elizabeth and Zacchaeus experienced at first-hand how Jesus transforms the lives of those who open their hearts without selfishness, without prejudice, to the point of forgetting themselves in order to welcome the other. Their lives are never the same again, they live only for Jesus and in Jesus. The hospitaller vocation is the gateway to love, a love that is not afraid of being hurt, a love that gives everything without expecting anything in return, a love that fights for its own space in the face of so much hostility in the world, a love that knows no bounds and does not know how to say stop. As Saint Benedict Menni says: to spend one's life drop by drop is a joy; everything that is done for the love of Jesus is worthwhile, even if few people notice it.

Following Mary's example, as a young woman with many concerns who was capable of risking her own personal project when she felt called, listened carefully, responded trusting at once, we want to learn to say, 'The time to arise and go to the encounter is now!'

(Lizeth and Irma - Argentina - Junior Sisters Hospitallers)

## Petition of the Day.

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Hospitality as a way of life and a sign of holiness invites us to pray for those who are victims of hostility, violence and discrimination, that they may find hope, comfort, tenderness and healing in us. **Lord hear us.**

## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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**Sunday 30 April 2023**

The best gift we can offer is JESUS.

### **Introduction**

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Saint Paul, writing to the Ephesians, announced that, “now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us” (2:13-14). Jesus is God’s response to the challenges facing humanity in every age. Mary carries that response within her when she goes to visit Elizabeth. The greatest gift that Mary brings to her elderly kinswoman is that of Jesus himself. Certainly, the concrete assistance she offered was most valuable. Yet nothing could have filled the house of Zechariah with such great joy and satisfaction as the presence of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin, now a tabernacle of the living God. In that mountain village, Jesus, by his mere presence and without uttering a word, preached his first “Sermon on the Mount”. He silently proclaimed the beatitude of the poor and the meek who trust in God’s mercy.

My message for you, dear young people, the great message entrusted to the Church, is Jesus! Yes, Jesus himself, in his infinite love for each of us, his salvation and the new life he has bestowed upon us. Mary is our model; she shows us how to welcome this immense gift into our lives, to share it with others, and thus to bring Christ, his compassionate love and his generous service to our deeply wounded humanity.

Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the XXXVII World Youth Day 2022-2023

### **Hospitaller text: Letter 331 Saint Benedict Menni**

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I beg you to tell all my beloved daughters in the Lord, the professed Sisters, novices, aspirants, in short all of them, that there is only one thing of value which deserves to be cherished: to serve and love Jesus, always working and suffering for his love.

This, my daughters, is the true joy to which we must aspire, the true and only life which contains all treasures; let us cast ourselves into the arms of our Good Mother the Immaculate Virgin and let us rest in the Heart of Jesus: and how wonderful it would be to sacrifice our lives drop by drop in this way, and die for the love of Jesus. This is the only true joy and the only true life, outside which there is only death. Pray, work, serve God and be silent.

## Reflection

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Mary's greatest gift to her elderly cousin was to take Jesus to her. We, too, are called to welcome Jesus into our lives, to allow ourselves to be transformed by Him and to become bearers of His compassionate love, of His hospitality. With his example, Father Menni teaches us that without prayer and a deep inner life it is not possible to communicate Jesus. Those who pray are people who feel loved by God and give themselves generously. Prayer leads us to ask ourselves "What can I do to requite love?" Prayer will dictate to us these movements of the soul and the will in order to enable us to discover the practical way of responding to the love of the Jesus, the hospitaller.

(Mario Guerrero - Colombia - Young Hospitaller)

## Petition of the Day.

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We thank you Lord for your hospitality and for calling us today to be shrines of your compassion and mercy. We ask that we may offer this gift we have received freely to all the young people who are seeking you and wish to experience your hospitality. **Lord hear us.**

## Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

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Father of mercy,  
who gave your Son for our salvation  
and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit,  
grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous,  
which are fountains of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young  
the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelisation.

Sustain these communities in their commitment  
to offer appropriate vocational catechesis  
and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration.  
Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment,  
so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth.

May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus,  
intercede for each Christian community,  
so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit,  
it may be a source of true vocations  
for the service of the holy People of God. Amen

