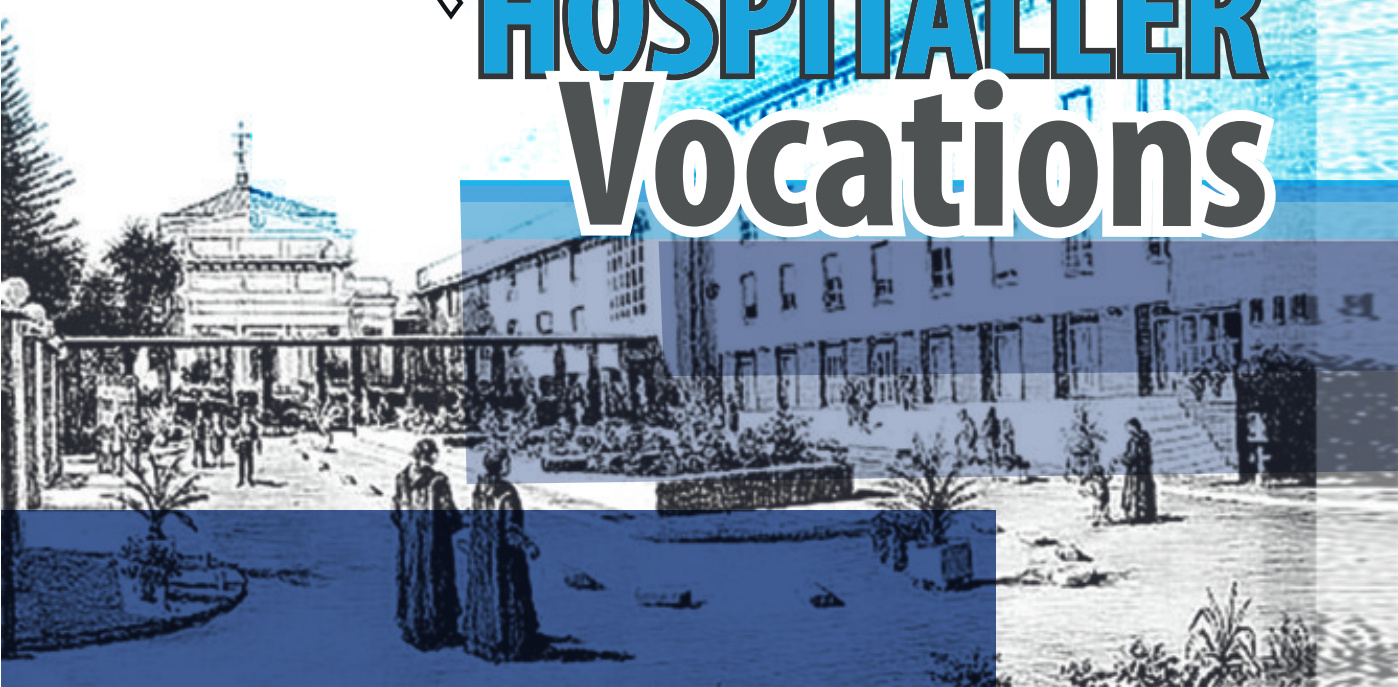


May 01 al 07 de 2017

Week of

For

PRAYER HOSPITALER Vocations



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



*"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."
(Mt 9, 37-38).*

The General Commission on Vocations Promotion and Formation is continuing to animate all the Brothers in their task of providing close accompaniment to all the people who come to our houses to find out more about our charism and our way of life, in order to respond to God's call to them. For the 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, the Commission has prepared this folder for the Second Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations.

The folder is a tool to enable the communities in every region to pray for Vocations to the Order. It is an invitation to unite ourselves to Pope Francis in his message for the World Day for Vocations, for which he has selected the theme Led by the Spirit for Mission for 2017. In his message, the Holy Father has invited us to take on our missionary dimension as Christians and to go out joyfully to proclaim the Gospel, as prophets and witnesses of God's love, a message which is the instrument of salvation for all our brothers and sisters.

The Pope goes on to urge us to remember that the fruits of the mission are not due to the missionary's own efforts: the basis of the mission is the Holy Spirit. This being so, the fruits are not based on our anxieties and on a spirit of conquest; but, like a seed which grows slowly even without our realising it, the Kingdom of God is germinating among ourselves. The disciple must be a Christ-bearer, a "Christopher", who proclaims the Word joyfully, and not with a listless faith

The Holy Father ends his message urging all Christians to continue to pray that our Lord will renew our missionary labours by sending new vocations, people who will give themselves to serve the Church and take forward the missionary work of evangelisation. Pope Francis offers the example of Our Lady who placed herself in readiness in the Lord's hands saying, "Here I am".

We are offering you this prayer aid for the Second Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations, and we invite all the Brothers to be united in prayer as our Lord has commande.

MONDAY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the last few years, we have considered two aspects of the Christian vocation: the summons to “go out from ourselves” to hear the Lord’s voice, and the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God’s call is born, nourished and expressed.

Now, on this 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I would like to reflect on the missionary dimension of our Christian calling. Those who drawn by God’s voice and determined to follow Jesus soon discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters through proclamation and the service of charity. All Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel! As disciples, we do not receive the gift of God’s love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern. We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God’s love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves. For “the Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 21).

Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration, but is instead an essential element of faith itself. A relationship with the Lord entails being sent out into the world as prophets of his word and witnesses of his love.

Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations

Introduction



Reflection

One evident sign of conversion and the experience of the Risen Lord is the desire and the interior need which the disciple feels to go out and joyfully tell the whole world about God's love for us; as Saint John of God experienced it, after recognising all the love and mercy that God had for him, he dedicated the rest of his life to proclaiming the infinite love of God, by his words and his service to the sick and needy: "If we reflected on the breadth of God's mercy, we would never cease doing good while we were able" (DS.1).

Being a missionary of the Kingdom of God entails before all else a profound experience of God's love, for it is in His love that we can find the strength that urges us on to go out everywhere to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

Like this sick man who was healed by Jesus, and whose experience led him to be a missionary of the Gospel, all Christians are called to go out to recount their experience of the Risen Jesus who restores us to health. The Hospitaller Brother of Saint John of God also has the mission of proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven joyfully and hopefully to the sick and those in need.

Petition for the day

Lord, we pray you to renew our vocational calling, so that we feel within us the power of the Holy Spirit who sends us out to be witnesses of God's love and mercy, and to proclaim a message of hope to the sick; may all the Brothers of the Order feel that they are missionaries of Hospitality, and that they are called to share the joy of the Gospel, particularly with those who have lost hope.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocational song

Biblical text: (Mc 1,40-45)

A leper came to him (and kneeling down) begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



Prayer for vocations

Enlightened and encouraged by your word,
We pray, O Lord, For all those who have responded to, and now live
your call As Hospitaller Brothers at the service of the sick,
Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
and Saint John of God, That you will guide young people along the
paths of Your will, Especially those who respond generously
To your invitation to follow You as Good Samaritans,
In the Hospitaller Order at the service of the suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen



MONDAY

TUESDAY



Introduction

Even if at times we are conscious of our weaknesses and tempted to discouragement, we need to turn with God with confidence. We must overcome a sense of our own inadequacy and not yield to pessimism, which merely turns us into passive spectators of a dreary and monotonous life. There is no room for fear! God himself comes to cleanse our “unclean lips” and equip us for the mission: “Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I, send me!’” (Is 6:6-8).

In the depths of their heart, all missionary disciples hear this divine voice bidding them to “go about”, as Jesus did, “doing good and healing all” (cf. Acts 10:38). I have mentioned that, by virtue of baptism, every Christian is a “Christopher”, a bearer of Christ, to his brothers and sisters (cf. Catechesis, 30 January 2016). This is particularly the case with those called to a life of special consecration and with priests, who have generously responded, “Here I am, Lord, send me!” With renewed missionary enthusiasm, priests are called to go forth from the sacred precincts of the temple and to let God’s tender love overflow for the sake of humanity (cf. Homily at the Chrism Mass, 24 March 2016). The Church needs such priests: serenely confident because they have discovered the true treasure, anxious to go out and joyfully to make it known to all (cf. Mt 13:44).

**Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations**

Biblical text: (Jr 1,4-10)

The word of the LORD came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "¡Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD answered me, Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, To root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.



Reflection

One question that frequently comes to mind and even passes through our hearts as consecrated men is whether we can perform the mission to which we have been called, relying on our own capacities alone. Shall I be capable of going out into such an indifferent world to proclaim that the Kingdom of God is already at work among us? God never leaves us alone; He has given us the mission and sent us out to bear witness to His Gospel, but at the same time He has also given us His Holy Spirit to empower us with His gifts, to enable us to proclaim the Kingdom of hope.

Bearing witness to the Kingdom of Mercy and hope in the world of health care is not easy, considering how the regulations and technification make our patients despair and feel abandoned when they have to go to hospital. John of God changed the model of care of the age in his mission, and cared for the sick with respect and treated them with dignity. He bore witness to a God close at hand, who never abandons the weak.

New vocations must see the Brothers of Saint John of God as true Christ-bearers, as brothers close at hand and joyful in their mission, missionaries who provide company and hope to the sick and those in need; testimony of this kind will thereby attract others to say "Here I am, send me".

Prayer for vocations

Enlightened and encouraged by your word,
We pray, O Lord, For all those who have responded to,
and now live your call As Hospitaller Brothers at the
service of the sick,

Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
and Saint John of God, That you will guide young
people along the paths of Your will, Especially those
who respond generously

To your invitation to follow You as Good Samaritans,
In the Hospitaller Order at the service of the suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Petition for the day

Lord Jesus, send me out to the sick and needy to bear witness to your love and companionship with them, and do not let my limitations make me fearful and prevent me from making your mercy present in the world of suffering. May my work performed joyfully bear witness to your love, and attract many to respond to you, and build up your Kingdom, especially in the Hospitaller Order.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocational song

TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY

Certainly many questions arise when we speak of the Christian mission. What does it mean to be a missionary of the Gospel? Who gives us the strength and courage to preach? What is the evangelical basis and inspiration of mission? We can respond to these questions by meditating on three scenes from the Gospels: the inauguration of Jesus' mission in the synagogue at Nazareth (cf. Lk 4:16-30); the journey that, after his resurrection, he makes in the company of the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) and, finally, the parable of the sower and the seed (cf. Mt 4:26-27).

Jesus is anointed by the Spirit and sent. To be a missionary disciple means to share actively in the mission of Christ. Jesus himself described that mission in the synagogue of Nazareth in these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18-19). This is also our mission: to be anointed by the Spirit, and to go out to our brothers and sisters in order to proclaim the word and to be for them a means of salvation.

Introduction



Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations

Reflection

The Order has produced many documents and held many meetings dealing with the role of the Brothers in the centres. Each one of us belongs to the community in response to Jesus' call to follow Him, and to follow Him in a specific vocation – "Hospitality". As Brothers of Saint John of God, our mission is evident and takes the form which gives us our identity: "In virtue of this gift, we are consecrated by the action of the Holy Spirit which makes us participate in a special way in the Father's merciful love.

"This experience communicates to us attitudes of lovingkindness and self-giving, enables us to carry out the mission of proclaiming and bringing about the Kingdom among the poor and the sick, transform our existence, and results in our lives manifesting the father's special love for the weakest, whom we try to save after the example of Jesus." (Const 2b).

This is the mission of the Brothers of Saint John of God and the one we have to hand on clearly to all the people who are interested in our special way of taking up our calling. This is what our Lord has sent us to do.

Petition for the day

Lord, we pray that you will call people who are willing to proclaim your Kingdom to the sick and those who have lost all hope – people who have the ability to discover your merciful love working in their lives, as Saint John of God did, so that they can also make your Kingdom of love present to those who are sick in mind and spirit.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocacional song

WEDNESDAY

Biblical text: (Mt 9,35.10,1.6-8)

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness... Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.

Prayer for vocations

Enlightened and encouraged by your word,
We pray, O Lord, For all those who have responded to,
and now live your call As Hospitaller Brothers at the
service of the sick,

Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
and Saint John of God, That you will guide young
people along the paths of Your will, Especially those
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To your invitation to follow You as Good Samaritans,
In the Hospitaller Order at the service of the suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen



THURSDAY

Jesus is at our side every step of the way. The questions lurking in human hearts and the real challenges of life can make us feel bewildered, inadequate and hopeless. The Christian mission might appear to be mere utopian illusion or at least something beyond our reach. Yet if we contemplate the risen Jesus walking alongside the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-15), we can be filled with new confidence. In that Gospel scene, we have a true “liturgy of the street”, preceding that of the word and the breaking of the bread. We see that, at every step of the way, Jesus is at our side! The two disciples, overwhelmed by the scandal of the cross, return home on the path of defeat. Their hearts are broken, their hopes dashed and their dreams shattered. The joy of the Gospel has yielded to sadness. What does Jesus do? He does not judge them, but walks with them. Instead of raising a wall, he opens a breach. Gradually he transforms their discouragement. He makes their hearts burn within them, and he opens their eyes by proclaiming the word and breaking the bread. In the same way, a Christian does not bear the burden of mission alone, but realizes, even amid weariness and misunderstanding, that “Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 266).

Introduction

Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations

Reflection

Jesus walks by our side in crises. Society in general is going through a period of secularisation in which the spiritual value has lost importance, and the difficulties which the Church has been experiencing is seriously impacting on the interest of people in opting for the consecrated life. Inter-Congregational groups and even our seminaries all suffer from the dearth of vocations, a situation which might cause those responsible for spreading familiarity with the charisms of different religious communities to lose heart, and the Brothers of the Hospitaller Order are no exception. Beset by this spiritual frailty, God is continuing to call people to work on building up his Kingdom. This is God's time, and God is continuing to call. If this task is performed with the conviction that the Holy Spirit is transforming hearts and continuing to call, the numbers of candidates should not be of any concern to us, and we must go on performing our work, fully confident in our Lord. He is walking by our side and knows our need of vocations. Saint John of God sets us an example of trust in our Lord, even though his prospects were far from clear; even though he had no assurances about God's will for his life, and had all manner of problems as he tried to support his hospitaller house, he wholeheartedly placed all his trust in God's mercy.



Prayer for vocations

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Amen

THURSDAY

Biblical text: (Lc. 24,25-35)

And he said to them, "¡Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Petition for the day

Lord Jesus, we pray that you will enlighten all the Brothers who are tasked with animating new vocations to enable them to feel the inspiration of your Spirit, and to give them strength, to enable them to perform their task, trusting in your mercy and not in human efforts. May the Brothers responsible for disseminating the charism in society not lose heart, and may they be able to bear witness to a joyful and brotherly way of life.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocacional song

FRIDAY

Introduction

Jesus makes the seed grow. Finally, it is important to let the Gospel teach us the way of proclamation. At times, even with the best intentions, we can indulge in a certain hunger for power, proselytism or intolerant fanaticism. Yet the Gospel tells us to reject the idolatry of power and success, undue concern for structures, and a kind of anxiety that has more to do with the spirit of conquest than that of service. The seed of the Kingdom, however tiny, unseen and at times insignificant, silently continues to grow, thanks to God's tireless activity. "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep or rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how" (Mk 4:26-27). This is our first reason for confidence: God surpasses all our expectations and constantly surprises us by his generosity. He makes our efforts bear fruit beyond all human calculation.

**Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations**



Biblical text: (Lk 8,4-15)

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable.

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be. He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.' "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God. Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial. As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit. But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.



Prayer for vocations

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We pray, O Lord, For all those who have responded to,
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Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
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people along the paths of Your will, Especially those
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To your invitation to follow You as Good Samaritans,
In the Hospitaller Order at the service of the suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Reflection

As consecrated men, our mission is to proclaim the Gospel, and as Hospitallers we have the mission of spreading our charism of Hospitality and the way of life of the Brothers of Saint John of God. The seed of the Kingdom has already been sown in every heart, and needs the hands of workers to prepare the soil to enable the seed to germinate. As St Paul said, "But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?" (Rm 10.14). Each one of us must therefore spread the Good News of Jesus, to tell the story of Jesus in our own lives and thereby help the seed that God has planted in many restless hearts to germinate into a vocation.

The good soil for growing a vocation is a welcoming fraternal community in which people live the Gospel joyfully and reflect a life project of self-giving to the sick and needy. A weary and joyless community, worn out by activism and without fertile soil in faith, ends up by stifling new vocations who cannot find the life project to which they are being called.

When communities live and bear witness through their work to the presence of Jesus and the Kingdom of God among us, God surprises us generously by renewing our community with new vocations. John of God's generous self-giving to the sick was, and still remains, a fertile ground for attracting more vocations to our Order.

Petition for the day

Lord, we pray that you will cleanse our hearts and our communities from everything which is preventing the vocation to Hospitality from germinating among us, so that we can be the leaven of new vocations to devote themselves to serving the sick and the needy, as John of God did. May our communities reflect the fraternity of the first Christian communities and joyfully bear witness to dedicating themselves and to serving the Gospel.

Other petitions may follow

Vocacional song



FRIDAY

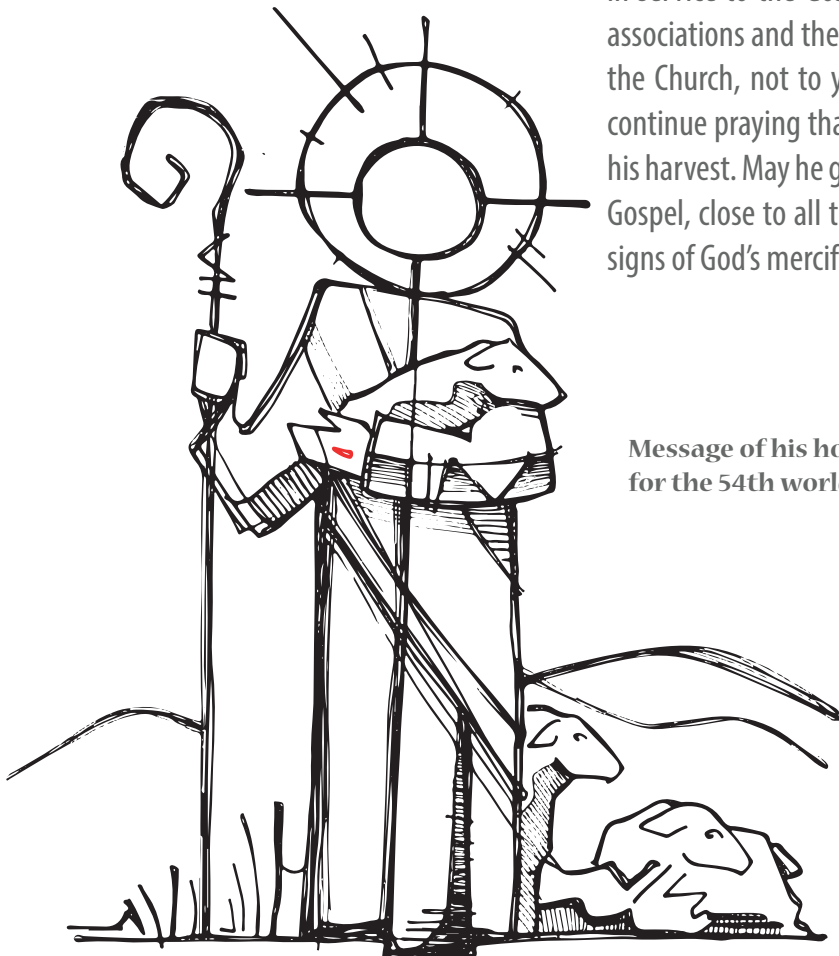
SATURDAY

Introduction

With this confidence born of the Gospel, we become open to the silent working of the Spirit, which is the basis of mission. There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.

I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. The People of God need to be guided by pastors whose lives are spent in service to the Gospel. I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love.

**Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations**



Reflection

This is a text to which, once again, reveals Jesus' works of mercy, and his unshakeable commitment to the suffering and the hopeless. A commitment that is made visible today through tangible acts of hospitality on the part of the Hospitaller Brothers, whose pastoral work performed with hope, is a response to sickness, suffering and personal pain within each community.

Jesus Christ's arduous work of liberation was suddenly interrupted when He caught sight of a huge crowd of people suffering from all kinds of needs. We can imagine countless people who received respite from their afflictions, and the many who were healed of different diseases, and others still who had been freed of evil spirits, while many others had received the Word of God directly from the lips of the Great Master himself, which had soothed their weary and thirsty hearts. But now we see Him looking at those crowds of people coming to him, hoping for God's finger to touch them. Jesus may have been standing on a hill from where he could see this vast multitude.

Matthew tells us that when Jesus saw them, His heart was moved to compassion, seeing the terrible plight of those people. We have seen on many occasions how Jesus had compassion on people (Mt 9,36; 14,14; 15,32; 20,34; Mk 1,41; Lk 7,13), and He still has compassion on each of us to this very day. His boundless mercy is a feature that identifies our Lord's ministry, and which also identifies the work of our founder, Saint John of God, and which must also identify every single Hospitaller Brother today.

Petition for the day

On this seventh day of reflection on the Hospitaller Vocation, on the eve of Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray that God will inspired generous hearts to commit themselves to serving and protecting all those who are suffering, and show the contemporary world acts of mercy and welcome, with the heart of true shepherds. May we, like our Father Founder, Saint John of God, be able to reach out to the sick, the poor and the needy and, once we have found them, may we welcome them in and serve them generously showing them special preference.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocacional song



Biblical text: (Mt 9,35-38)

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."



Prayer for vocations

Enlightened and encouraged by your word,
We pray, O Lord, For all those who have responded to,
and now live your call As Hospitaller Brothers at the
service of the sick,

Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
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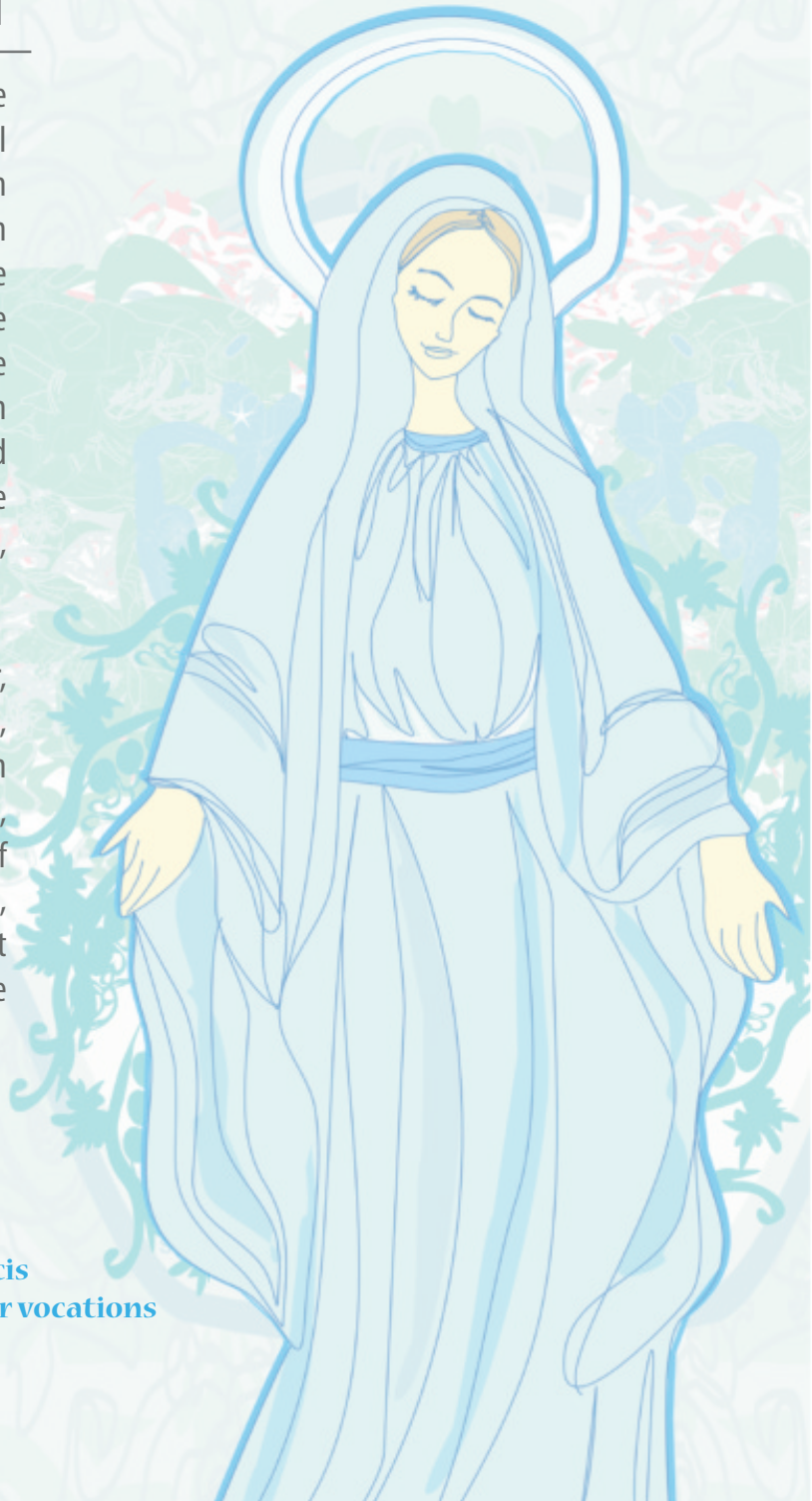
SUNDAY

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters, today too, we can regain fervour in preaching the Gospel and we can encourage young people in particular to take up the path of Christian discipleship. Despite a widespread sense that the faith is listless or reduced to mere “duties to discharge”, our young people desire to discover the perennial attraction of Jesus, to be challenged by his words and actions, and to cherish the ideal that he holds out of a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love.

Mary Most Holy, the Mother of our Saviour, had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God’s hands. Through her intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, “Here I am”, to the Lord’s call, and that same joy in setting out (cf. Lk 1:39), like her, to proclaim him to the whole world.

**Message of his holiness Pope Francis
for the 54th world day of prayer for vocations**



Biblical text: (Lc 10, 38-42)

As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary (who) sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me." The Lord said to her in reply, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.

Reflection

Jesus tries to help Martha to recover what was essential at that time: to listen to the Master's voice. He invites her to choose the better part that Mary had chosen spontaneously for herself. This episode alerts us to an all too-frequent danger in the Christian life: that of allowing eagerness, anxiety and activism to separate us from communion with Christ and with the Community. This danger emerges in a very subtle manner, because we are frequently inclined to consider our material concerns to be a form of service. Very often in our work of vocational accompaniment we may fall into the error of piling many activities onto our candidates, while neglecting the most important activity of all: sitting at the feet of the Master, listening to his Word, in contemplation. Before serving others, our guests' loved ones and the Church community itself must be served by Christ and with his Word of grace. When we are immersed in our daily tasks, like Martha, we forget that the Lord wants to care for us. So we must commit all our troubles to the hands of Jesus and God.



Petition for the day

On this eighth day of reflection on the Hospitaller Vocation which coincides with the celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday, let us pray that God will help us to maintain a contemplative attitude in His presence and to hear His Word, and especially help us to make sure that all activities have Him as its centre, and are directed to Him alone.

Other petitions may follow.

Vocational song

SUNDAY



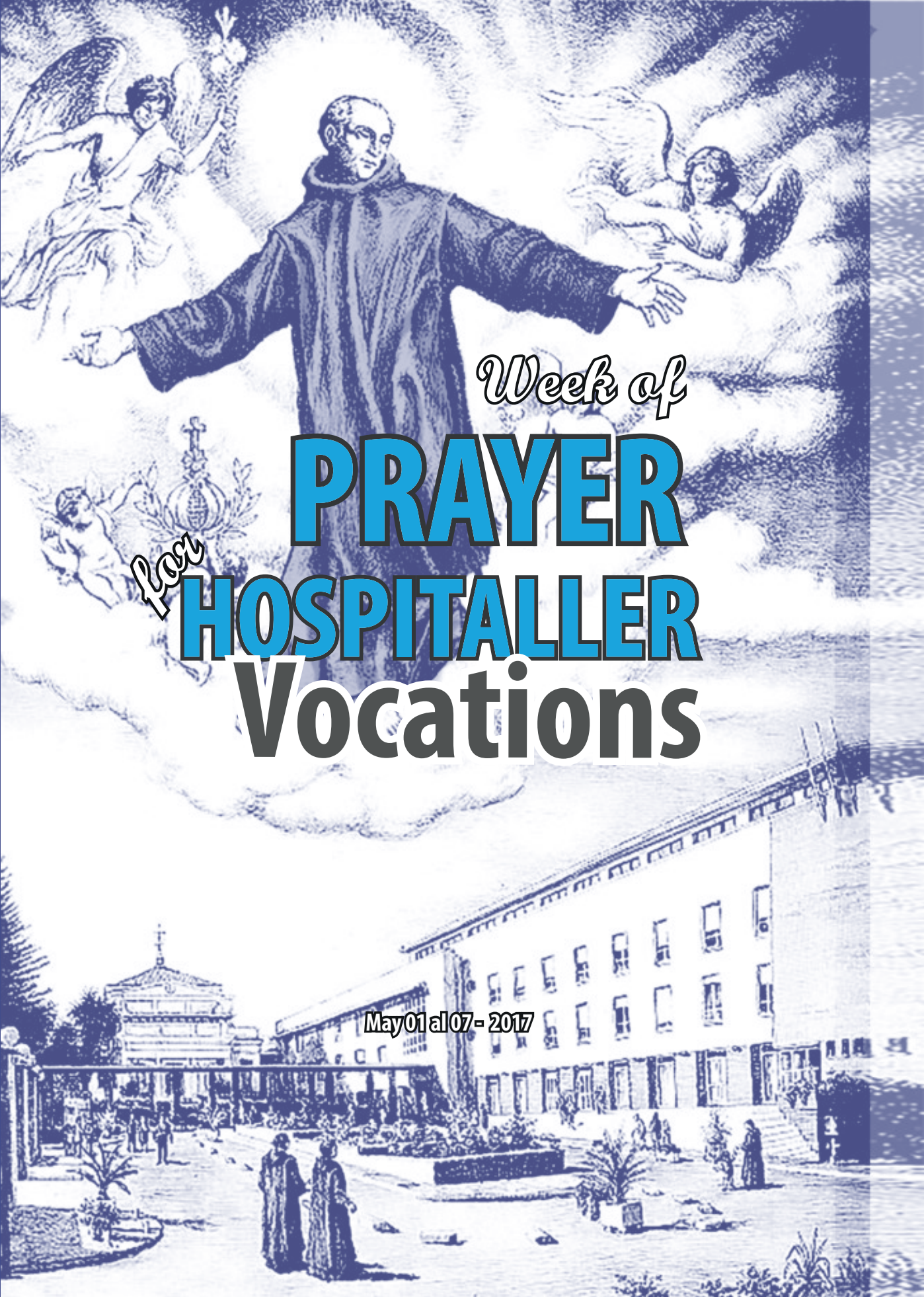
Prayer for vocations

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service of the sick,

Poor and the needy, We pray, O Lord,
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel
and Saint John of God, That you will guide young
people along the paths of Your will, Especially those
who respond generously

To your invitation to follow You as Good Samaritans,
In the Hospitaller Order at the service of the suffering.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen



Week of

For

PRAYER

HOSPITALLER

Vocations

May 01 al 07 - 2017