



ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO

4th WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOSPITALLER VOCATIONS 6 – 12 May, 2019

Dear Brothers, Co-workers and Members of the Hospitaller Family,

The General Chapter has appointed me to undertake the mission of accompanying the process of Vocations Promotion and Initial Formation, and Continuing Formation; it is a huge challenge when we look at the state of the Church and the expectations of today's youth. I wish to acknowledge the work done by the Vocations Promotion and Formation Commission in the last Sexennium, under the leadership of Brother Benigno Ramos, whom I thank for their excellent work.

One of the areas to be strengthened under the new government is Formation in the Order, which requires us to work harder to attract more vocations and to provide sound accompaniment to all the Brothers in their formation process. Pursuing the same dynamic of previous years I am happy to present the material that has been produced for the **Week of Hospitaller Vocations**, which has been produced this year by the Europe Region. It is an instrument to help us to join in prayer to ask the Lord of the harvest to send Hospitaller workers to make the dream of John of God to take proper care due to the sick and needy a reality.

In his message for this Vocations Year, Pope Francis is urging us to be **bearers of a promise and, at the same time, to have the courage to take a risk to walk with Jesus** in response to our calling. It is an invitation to acknowledge the fact that when we respond responsibly to His call it will bring us both joy and preoccupations.

When Jesus called the first disciples in Galilee as they were busily engaged in their daily work, he reached out to them and made a promise: "I will make you fishers of people" breaking with the normal routine of daily life, which sometimes makes it impossible for people to see any wider horizons for service. Pope Francis invites us to raise our eyes to discover the promise of Jesus, to discover that we are being called for much grander projects, and not to remain prisoners of daily routine, which deadens the heart and prevents us from dreaming of the project that God has for our lives.

The Church has also accepted this New project because, despite her weaknesses, the Church must also bear faithful testimony to God's love and make a contribution to growing the Kingdom in Society. The Hospitaller Family is also being called to bear witness to God's mercy in the world of suffering and pain.



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This week of prayer for vocations which culminates in the celebration of **Good Shepherd Day**, is an invitation to join forces as the Hospitaller Family, casting aside fear and giving up our safe places to embark on the novelty of the mission of Hospitality where we will be able to discover God's new project. It is also to ask our Lord to raise up new vocations to the Order who, like St John of God, will set aside their fears and discover in Hospitality the way of making the love and mercy of God present in the world of pain and suffering.

Brother Dairon Meneses
General Councillor