



ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di  
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO

## **2nd WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOSPITALLER VOCATIONS**

**1 – 7 May, 2017**

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

I am delighted to send you these materials to help us to pray during the Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations. This is the second year the Order has celebrated this week of prayer in preparation for “Good Shepherd Sunday” (the 4th Sunday after Easter), the day when the Church convokes the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. At every meeting and event, we always draw attention to the fact that prayer must be the fundamental pillar which must underpin vocations promotion, to encourage us along our way, and to pray trustingly that the Lord will send workers to the mission of evangelisation through Hospitality.

This year, Vocations Week begins with the Memorial of Saint Richard Pampuri, a Brother who progressed along the path of holiness by embodying the compassionate and merciful Christ in the manner of Saint John of God. Today, Saint Richard stands as a model for so many young people, and the Order calls on him to pray that our Lord will raise up new vocations to Hospitality in the Church.

Knowing that it is the Lord Jesus who calls us to follow Him, we are also aware that bearing testimony to our vocation is one of the means used by our Lord to continue calling others to consecrate themselves in Hospitality. We must therefore take on a personal commitment to undertake this task, not leaving the responsibility to others. All of us are duty-bound to bear witness as consecrated men and women, wherever we perform our daily work, and to pray perseveringly for vocations. Pope Francis reminds all consecrated people that we must propose and proclaim 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.” (Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 2017).

These materials follow the same dynamic as last year’s. They are simple aids designed to be introduced into our community prayer and any other prayerful moments that we may prepare. They are organised to cover a week, and culminate with Good Shepherd Sunday. This is a way in which we can feel that we are the Hospitaller Family at prayer, united to seize on this very important challenge to the Church and to our Order.

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I urge all of you do do your utmost to encourage one another, as members of the whole Hospitaller Family, to engage with this initiative, praying that Our Lord will raise up Brothers consecrated in Hospitality to carry on the mission bequeathed to us by a man who personally experienced mercy, and handed it down to us, all the days of his life, earning him the name of John of God.

Brother Benigno Ramos

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