



ORDINE OSPEDALIERO | di  
SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO

### **3rd WEEK OF PRAYER FOR HOSPITALER VOCATIONS**

**16-- 22 April 2018**

Dear Brothers and Co-workers, and dear Hospitaller Family:

I am happy, once again, to offer you these materials to help us with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Prayer for Hospitaller Vocations, in preparation for “Good Shepherd Sunday” (the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter), when the Church convenes the World Day of Vocations. Since prayer is the basic pillar for animating Vocations Promotion, we must continue to pray confidently to the Lord of the Harvest, that He will continue to send labourers on the evangelising mission through Hospitality.

In his message for this year’s World Day of Vocations, Pope Francis urges us to “listen, discern and live this word that calls to us from on high”. The theme of this message takes up the one chosen for the forthcoming Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October this year focusing on young people, and specifically on relations between young people, the faith and vocational discernment.

Pope Francis opens his message recalling that vocations are, above all else, a call from God addressed to individuals, and that “We are not victims of chance”. The three points around which this message hinges are recalling the life of Jesus and his mission, who, as Francis tells us, “visited his synagogue of Nazareth. There, he listened to the word, discerned the content of the mission entrusted to him by the Father, and proclaimed that he came to accomplish it ‘today’”.

These materials take up the same format as last year. They are simple materials designed to be introduced in our community prayer, or at other moments of prayer that we might prepare. They are organised to cover one week, culminating on Good Shepherd Sunday. This is a way which enables us to feel that we are the Hospitaller Family at prayer, united as we confront this extremely important challenge to the Church and to our Order.

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I urge everyone to animate the whole Hospitaller Family to take part in this initiative as far as possible, asking our Lord to call to Brothers consecrated to Hospitality, to continue the mission bequeathed to us by a man who himself experienced mercy and transmitted it to others all the days of his life, which earned him the honour of being called John of God.

Brother Benigno Ramos

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