

**DISCERNING OUR CALL IN LIFE
A CALL TO PRIESTHOOD, CONSECRATED LIFE and DEDICATED LAY
MINISTRY WHICH INCLUDES THE SINGLE AND MARRIED STATES**

**Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says.
"I know your works, your love, faith, service, and endurance,
and that your last works are greater than the first."**

Revelations 2: 17

In a separate entry entitled: Prayer to Know One's Call in Life, found at www.cbmidwest.org under LASALLIAN PRAYER, we are encouraged to pray for nine days for a variety of vocations lived out in the Christian life. All of us are called to a vocation or way of life and no one way is better but truly a means of salvation for each of us and the people we affect. Let us pray for one another that we may know our call in life, have the courage to follow it and be faithful to it whether it is to the single life, married life, the life of priesthood, brotherhood or sisterhood. In whatever path we choose, let us always be faithful disciples of Jesus the Christ and strive in grow in holiness and service.



How shall we dare to be in the presence of God without respect and without reverence!

How shall we forget the worship and reverence due to God in Whose presence we always are? Give us the grace that the thought of Your holy presence may occupy us always, so that, being always in Your holy presence, we may not pass a single moment without thinking of You.

Loving God,

You speak to us in so many ways; through Your creation and through Your word, in story and song, through one another.

Sometimes we are like people who put our hands over our ears, refusing to hear.

Sometimes we fill our lives with noise so that we cannot hear You.

Sometimes we hear so many voices we cannot make out which is Yours.

Loving God,

help us to open our ears,

make times for quietness

and recognize Your voice;

so that we can know what You are saying to us.

God of the ordinary,

we praise You.

You take the drabness of our thoughts,
and brighten them into vivid imagination.

You take our everyday lives,
and transform them into holy, precious moments.

You take our meager offerings
and multiply them into an abundance of delight.

Extraordinary God,



**You light up our thoughts, our lives, and our selves
with the wonder of Your call.
We praise You.
Amen.**

HYMN: WE REMEMBER

**We remember how You loved us to Your death,
and still we celebrate for You are with us here;
and we believe that we will see You
when You come in Your glory, Lord.
We remember, we celebrate and we believe.**

**Here, a million wounded souls
are yearning just to touch You and be healed.
Gather all Your people and hold them to Your heart.**

**Christ, the Father's great "Amen"
to all the hopes and dreams of every heart.
Peace beyond all telling and freedom from all fear.**

**See the face of Christ revealed
in every person standing by Your side,
Gift to one another and temples of Your love.**

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SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 4: 18-22

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of all people." At once they left their nets and followed Him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him.

SCRIPTURE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 4-12

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God Who produces all of them in everyone.

To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as He wishes.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

REFLECTION

Just as the Lord called Moses and Abraham, the prophets, Mary, John the Baptist and the apostles, so too He calls us to our unique vocation. We do not just “fall into” being married, ordained, professed or single.

Our vocation, whatever it may be, is a gift to the whole Church. Our lives are not something isolated or marginalized but rather a reality that affects the entire Church. Our lives are at the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for her mission. It is a precious and necessary gift for the present and the future. What are the gifts that you bring in your special calling that are so precious and necessary and that contributes to the mission of the Church?

We are called, we are chosen. We are Christ for one another.

We are promised for tomorrow while we are for Him today.

We are sign, we are wonder. We are sower, we are seed.

we are harvest, we are hunger. We are question, we are creed.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Beckoning God, we thank You for all those who have heard Your voice and answered Your call: to tell the story of Jesus and teach people about Your love; to care for people in need, and to work alongside struggling communities; to assist local churches and help them grow and to work with the church in other countries. Beckoning God, we thank You that you have something special for each of us to do. Help us to hear Your voice and answer Your call, each in our own unique way.

That we will take the time for prayer and quiet to discern our call in life, we pray:

That as members of the Christian community we will offer support, encouragement and prayer for our young people as they discern their vocation in life, we pray:

That those called to the single life will be resolute in their decision and enjoy the love of others through a life of love and service, we pray:

That those called to marriage will realize that in this great sacrament, love is given and shared in the context of family and faith, we pray:

That those called to the diaconate or priesthood will know of their special role in helping to lead us to the Father, we pray:

That those called to consecrated life as priests, brothers or sisters will realize their particular call to holiness and service in the context of community, we pray:

That each of us will rejoice in the vocation to which we have been called and do our best to live it to the fullest, we pray:



Let us pray:

**God, in Baptism You called us by name
and made us members of Your people, the Church.
Help all Your people to know their vocation in life whether it be single,
married, priesthood and/or consecrated life as sisters and brothers,
and to respond by living a life of holiness.
For Your greater glory and for the service of Your people,
raise up dedicated and generous people
who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers.
Send your Spirit to guide and strengthen us that we may serve Your people
following the example of your Son, Jesus the Christ,
in Whose name we offer this prayer. Amen.**

**MY LIFE IS AT THE SERVICE OF THE GOSPEL.
MAY THE WORK OF OUR MINDS, HANDS AND HEARTS
BRING THE LOVE OF CHRIST TO OUR WORLD.**

HYMN: SERVICE

**We are made for service to care for each
other
We are made to love each sister and brother
With love that will last through sorrow and
pain
A love that will never die with strain.
God sent His Son to show us the way
One Who shared His love every minute of
the day
One Who gave His life that we might live
And His Spirit to help us through the years.
Life can be so lonely when nobody cares
Life can be so empty when nobody shares
But if we give ourselves both time and again
The happiness of Christ will live within.**

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PRAYER

**Walk with me, good and loving God, as I journey through life.
May I take Your hand and be led by Your Holy Spirit.
Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond generously to Your call.
For I believe You desire my deepest joy,
and it is only in Your company
that my soul will be satisfied
and my life will find its meaning and purpose. Amen**



For the People of God who are sent to support us,
For the People of God who are sent to disturb us,
For the People of God who are sent to inspire us,
For the People of God who are sent to trouble us,
For the People of God who are sent to enthuse us,
For the People of God who are sent to still us,
Thanks be to God!

Peter Privett from JUST ONE YEAR, Orbis Books

WHAT WILL YOU HAVE US DO, LORD,
WE WHO ARE YOUR PEOPLE?

+

Saint John Baptist de La sale
and all you holy Brothers, and men and women
who have gone before us,
help us to listen to the Holy Spirit in knowing and being faithful to our
life's calling.

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!

**WHEN YOU HEAR
GOD'S VOICE TODAY,
HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART!**

Vocations Are Everybody's Business