

PRAYING for VOCATIONS to CHURCH MINISTRY

"Put out into the deep."

Mark 5: 4

*Peter and his other companions trusted Jesus' words
and cast their nets for a marvelous catch.*



Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has asked that we, the Church, set aside Sunday, April 17th as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and that we pray without ceasing everyday for an increase of laborers in the Lord's vineyard.

Through our baptism, all are called to follow Jesus whether in married life, the single life, consecrated life or ordained life. We each have a sacred calling in which we best live out our baptismal response.

On this day, the entire Church prays for, encourages and supports vocations to Church ministry whether it be the ordained ministry of Priesthood or Diaconate, vowed life as religious Brothers and Sisters or lay ministry within the Church.

We pray that many women and men will respond to the call to serve the holy people of God in a variety of life styles.





Jesus, Son of God, in Whom the fullness of divinity dwells,
You call all the baptized to "put out into the deep,"
taking the path that leads to holiness.

Waken in the hearts of young men and women
the desire to be witnesses in the world of today to the power of Your love.
Fill them with your spirit of fortitude and prudence
so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves
and their own vocation.

O Savior, sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love,
give to Your Church, the gift of men and women
who are ready to put out into the deep,
to be the sign among their brothers and sisters
of Your presence which renews and saves.

Holy Mary, Mother of the Redeemer,
sure guide on the way towards God and neighbor,
you who pondered His words in the depth of your heart,
sustain with your motherly intercession
our families and our church communities,
so that they may help men and women
to answer generously the call of the Lord. Amen.

(Pope John Paul II)

Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry;
All who dwell in darkness and sin My hand will save.

I Who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain,
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send.

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my hand.

(Dan Schutte, 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music)



Psalm 84

My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Happy they who dwell in Your house;

continually they praise You.

Happy are those whose strength You are.

I had rather one day in Your courts,

than a thousand elsewhere;

I had rather be at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Dear Father,

You are the Creative Origin of all that I am
and of all that I am called to be.

With the talents and opportunities I have,
how may I serve You best?

Please guide my mind and heart,
open to me the needs of the Church
and help me to choose wisely and practically

for Your honor and glory,
and for the good of all those whose lives I shall touch.



Come follow Me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of men and women.

I am the Vine and you are the branches, says the Lord:
they who live in Me and I in them, will bear much fruit.

I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord:
to go and bear fruit that will last.

I count all things worthless but this:
to gain Jesus Christ and to be found in Him.



Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as You deserve.
Teach me to give and not count the cost,
to fight and not heed the wounds,
to toil and not seek for rest,
to labor and not seek reward,
except that of knowing that I do Your will.
(Saint Ignatius Loyola)



Mary, the Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say 'yes' to the Lord Who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

Saint Charles Borromeo, patron and model of bishops, guide and direct those who lead the people of God.

Saint John Vianney, patron of parish priests, intercede on behalf of those laboring in the vineyard.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, foundress of the first American religious community of women, inspire women to lead a life of dedicated service to the Lord and their brothers and sisters

Saintly Brother Benilde, responsible for so many vocations, intervene on behalf of those interested in being "Brother" to one another.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Blessed Giana Beretta Molla, wife, mother and doctor, help all to live out their baptismal commitment and invite many to serve in lay ministry in the Church.



**PRAY, SUPPORT and ENCOURAGE
VOCATIONS to CHURCH MINISTRY
within your own family,
with those around you.
and
with all the people of God.**