

# Holy Hour for Vocations

## Scripture Meditations

- Matthew 4: 18-22
- Luke 10: 1-12
- Matthew 9: 35-38
- John 10: 1-30
- Matthew 9: 9-13

## Prayers and Meditations

### Intercession for the Priests in my Life

- For the priest who Baptized me.  
*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...*
- For the priest who heard my First Confession and gave me my First Communion.  
*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...*
- For the bishop who Confirmed me.  
*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...*
- For the priest who witness my marriage or ordained me (or will do so in the future).  
*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...*
- For the priest who will give me Anointing of the Sick and preside at my funeral.  
*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...*

O God, bless these priests, both living and dead. Thank you for the gift of their priesthood, which first caused Divine Life to come into my soul. Amen.

### Meditation on My Personal Witness

- Do others see God's love through my vocation? Am I a loving spouse? A good example to my children?
- Do I pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life? How often?
- Is there a vocation ministry at my parish or in my diocese that I can join?
- Do I encourage the young people in my life to listen for God's call, to discern their vocations?

### Serra International Prayer for Vocations

O God, who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, St. Joseph, her spouse, St. Junípero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

### St. John Vianney Prayer for Vocations

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, we ask for your intercession that young people called to the priesthood and consecrated life may hear God's call. We pray the Lord to send workers into His great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and His people may be strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Marian Prayer for Vocations

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.

Hail Mother of God; when asked by the angel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded: "Let it be done unto me."

Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.

Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation. Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time. Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.

## Meditations from the Popes

### **Pope Francis**

- "Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life there is always strong and intense prayer from someone: a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community... Vocations are born in prayer, and only in prayer can they persevere and bear fruit." - *Regina Caeli, April 21, 2013*
- "The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and live in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives." - *Message for the 51<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 11, 2014*

### **Pope Benedict XVI**

- "Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life are first and foremost the fruit of constant contact with the living God and insistent prayer lifted up to the 'Lord of the harvest,' whether in parish communities, in Christian families or in groups specifically devoted to prayer for vocations." - *Message for the 48<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 14, 2011*
- "It is important to encourage and support those who show clear signs of a call to priestly life and religious consecration and to enable them to feel the warmth of the whole community as they respond 'yes' to God and the Church." - *Message for the 48<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 14, 2011*

### **Pope Saint John Paul II**

- "The family that cultivates a missionary spirit in its lifestyle and in education itself prepares good soil for the seed of the Divine call and, at the same time, strengthens the loving ties and Christian virtues of its members. The Christian family, as the 'domestic Church' forms the original and fundamental school for training in the faith." - *Message for the World Mission Day 1994, May 22, 1994*
- "The lack of workers for God's harvest was already a challenge in Gospel times, even for Jesus himself. ... He also teaches us today that with prayer we can and must influence the number of vocations. ... Do not be afraid to go out into the streets and the public places like the first apostles, who preached Christ and the good news of salvation in the squares of the cities, towns, and villages. This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is the time to teach it from the rooftops." - *The Meaning of Vocations, Pope John Paul II, 1997.*