

Vocation Prayers

When using the following prayers, please give credit to the author. Thank you.

❖ *Loving God, We are busy about many things, and it is so easy to forget that it is the heart and the mission of Jesus that we wish to be about. At times our future may be uncertain, but our past reminds us that our congregation has been a gift to the church. Help us to be attentive and passionate inviters of the next generation of our congregation. May we be a welcoming presence to all whom we encounter, but especially for young people who long for you, for union with others, and for an opportunity to make a difference with their lives. Help us to open our hearts and homes to others, even when we feel too old, too busy, or too tired. As you once inspired our founder(s) and moved them to make radical choices, so now breathe new life and vision into us, urging us to be a congregation of presence and service, now and in the future. Amen. **Source: Opening our Hearts and Homes, NCCV***

❖ *Loving Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, you asked Juan Diego to help build a church that would serve a new people in a new land. You left your image upon his cloak as a visible sign of your love for us, so that we may come to believe in your son Jesus, the Christ.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego, help us respond to the call to build Jesus' church today. Help us recognize our own personal vocation to serve God as married or single persons, or as priests, brothers, or sisters as our way to help extend the Reign of God here on earth.

*Help us to pay attention to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. May all of us have the courage of Juan Diego to say "Yes" to our personal call! May we always encourage one another to follow Jesus, no matter where that path takes us! Amen. **Source: Father Clemente Barron, CP, NRV, C,***

❖ *Loving God, You call us through our baptism in the Spirit to continue the mission of your beloved Son, Jesus. Open us to listen attentively for your invitation. Empower us to respond to your call. Inspire women and men to follow the path of service. Together may we build up the Church to be a vibrant sign of your presence our world. We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Source: NCCV***

❖ *Generous God, You show us the way that leads to everlasting life. Through baptism you have called us to proclaim the Good News. Bless and strengthen those who have made a commitment to service in the Church. Guide and give wisdom to those discerning their vocation. Enrich our Church with dedicated married and single people, with deacons, priests and religious. Filled with joy and your Holy Spirit may we follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd now and always. Amen. **Source: NCCV***

❖ *Gracious God, You show your favor to us through the many gifts you give to us. You sent Jesus, your beloved Son, as your servant of justice in our world. Open our minds and hearts to hear your call to us today. Guide women and men to use their gifts to serve the Church and continue the mission of Jesus. We offer this prayer through Christ and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. **Source: NCCV***

- ❖ *Holy Spirit, Come, be the fire in our soul. Ignite us with passion for the gospel. Enlighten us with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Come, be the wind in our spirit. Breathe in us and move us to act on the gospel. Empower us with counsel and courage. Come, be the anointing of our whole being. Strengthen us to meet the challenges of the gospel. Touch our hearts with wonder and reverence. Come, Holy Spirit, confirm in us our commitment to witness to the gospel. Renew us and the world in your love now and always. Amen. Source: Sister Mary Therese Johnson, O.P. NCCV*

- ❖ *Lord Jesus Christ, revive in Your Church that spirit which You have Your Apostles. Call many to the priesthood and the religious life. Lead them to seek Your glory in all things and make them persons of solid virtue who spend themselves for the welfare of others that Your Church may grow in strength and holiness. Jesus, give us priests and religious after Your own heart. Amen. Source: Society of the Divine Savior*

- ❖ *Gracious and loving God, you have blessed us with the privilege of becoming parents. We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility. We pray that we will be open to your Spirit who is our source of strength as we witness to our children your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life. We ask your help so we may guide and encourage our children to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others.*

We pray, heavenly Father, that our children will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained, or consecrated life. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Source: NCCV, written by Mrs. Dorothy Foss

- ❖ *May the stirring you feel in your inner self continue to disturb you. May you wonder and wander until you find your bliss. May enthusiasm sparkle from your eyes and joy shine from your face. May you walk in the way of the disciple, following in the Master's path, until you arrive at the foot of the Master to learn the secrets of fulfillment. May difficulties not deter you, and obstacles turn into stepping stones for you. Be encouraged, bold, faith-filled to follow your inner voice. God be with you in your journeying. Amen. Source: Sister Shirley Bodisch, O.P.*

- ❖ *Lord, let me know clearly the work which you are calling me to do in life. Grant me the grace and generosity I need to answer Your call with courage and love and lasting dedication to your will. Amen. Source: Diocese of Scranton*

- ❖ *Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve: to give and not count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward except that of knowing that I am doing Your will. Amen.*
Source: Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

- ❖ *Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Source: Prayer of St. Francis

- ❖ *Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you; grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness from doing it; but that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find our perfect freedom through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Source: Prayer of St. Augustine*

- ❖ *Christ be with me; Christ within me. Christ behind me; Christ before me. Christ beside me; Christ to win me. Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me; Christ above me. Christ in quiet; Christ in danger. Christ in the hearts of all who love me. Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Amen.*

Source: Prayer of St. Patrick

- ❖ *Heavenly Father, we ask You to bless our diocese with selfless hearts that are willing to serve You, by serving Your Church. Lord Jesus raise up from our homes those called by the Father: courageous and humble men to the Priesthood, generous servants to the Permanent Diaconate, faithful people to Consecrated Life, and holy men and women to the sacrament of Marriage.*

Holy Spirit, help us to live our universal vocation to holiness, by listening to the Father's voice and responding with a sacrificial love.

Holy Mary, Model of Vocations, teach us to hear and follow your Son. Holy Mary, Queen of Priests, sanctify our priests and obtain for us many more. Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for our families and intercede for our children. Amen. Source: Diocese of Harrisburg

- ❖ *Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. You know each of us and you call us by name to serve in faith. Help us respond generously to your voice. Give us courage and guidance to those you call to the priesthood and the diaconate, to religious life and lay ministry, so they may respond wholeheartedly and serve devotedly. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Source: Companions of St. Anthony*

- ❖ *Creator God, Life is your gift to me. Through Baptism, you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others. Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world. Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call. I pray especially for those who serve you as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons, and lay ministers. Keep them close to you. Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom. Amen. Source: National Council Vocation Council*

- ❖ *Loving and merciful God, You call us into being and commission us to serve your people. We pray that our lives might make a difference and that our service might give you praise. Strengthen us, we pray, to be instruments of peace and justice in our Church and in our world. May the desire to make a difference inspire many to lives of ministry as lay ministers, sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests. We ask this in the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Source: NCCV, written by Ohio Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors*
- ❖ *Lord Jesus, You have asked us to pray for vocations, that there may be women and men willing to give their lives joyfully to witness to, proclaim, and build Your Kingdom. Hear my prayer and the prayers of your Church: send us good, faithful, and holy priests, deacons, and religious sisters and brothers. I offer You this day, all I shall think, do or say, for this good intention. Amen. Source: Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius*
- ❖ *Jesus, if You are calling me to serve You as a priest, deacon, brother, or sister, please help me respond generously to Your call. To be Your unselfish servant in leading Your people to attain everlasting happiness, peace, and joy, is what I desire most of all, if this is Your holy will. Amen. Source: Unknown*
- ❖ *Lord God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen. Source: Serenity Prayer*
- ❖ *Heavenly Father, bless your Church with an abundance of holy and enthusiastic priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him, and through Him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. Source: Canadian Vocations.*
- ❖ *Holy and provident Father, You are the Lord of the vineyard and the harvest and You give each a just reward for their work. In Your design of love, You call men and women to work with You for the salvation of the world. Send new worker into Your harvest.*

Christ Jesus, who on the shores of the Sea of Galilee called the Apostles and made them the foundation of the Church and bearers of Your Gospel, in our day, sustain Your people on its journey. Give courage to those whom You call to follow You in the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Spirit of holiness, help young people to discover the beauty of the divine call. Help them to read the signs of the times, so as to be faithful interpreters of Your Gospel and bearers of salvation.

Source: Archdiocese of Philadelphia

- ❖ *Father, in your goodness, please grant me:*

*Insight to recognize in your people Your call to use their unique talents and gifts to serve others.
Courage to speak to young people and to encourage them to respond to Your call.
Confidence to be a companion and mentor for those You call to serve Your Church.
Let your Holy Spirit help me to be an instrument of Your grace – praying, thinking, and acting to
promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and lay ministry in my family and my
parish. Amen. Source: Diocese of Venice in Florida*

- ❖ *May Wisdom be present in your discernment shedding light upon God's dormant dreams and unfolding
paths. May Trust invite you to explore the unknown with a hopeful heart. May supportive
companions keep vigil in your waiting. May you be blessed with patience and courage in the
expression of your true self. May the yearnings of the Spirit call forth Generosity and Great Love.
And, may your heart be opened always to welcome Holy Newness. Amen.
Source: Sister Pat Bergen, CSJ, Sisters of St. Joseph, LaGrange, IL*

- ❖ *O Mother, awaken among the young generation a willingness to serve God alone. Implore for us
numerous vocations for the priesthood, diaconate, and the religious life. O Mother, confirm the faith of
all our lay brothers and sisters so that, in every area of social, professional, cultural, and political life,
they may work according to the truth and the law which Your Son has proclaimed to humanity in
order to lead all to eternal salvation and, at the same time, to make life on earth more human and more
worthy of us all. Amen. Source: Rogationist Publications*

- ❖ *Gracious God, you have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism, you have sent
me to continue the mission of Jesus to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others.
Strengthen me to respond to your Call each day. Help me to become all you desire of me. Inspire me to
make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life you have planned for me. Open the
hearts of all to listen to your Call. Fill all with your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and
the courage to respond to you. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the
world a better place by serving as a lay minister, sister, priest, brother, or deacon. Amen.
Source: Sr. Margaret Mary Lavin, SCJ, Archdiocese of Boston*

- ❖ *O Jesus, Good and Gentle Shepherd, grant that men and women from our parish may hear and answer
your call to Priesthood and Religious Life. Call forth those you have chosen to spread your Gospel
message. Give them the courage and peace to respond generously to a life of service in the Church. May
the families of our parish support and encourage their children to follow their call to a life of
consecrated ministry in the Church. Amen. Source: Diocese of Harrisburg*

- ❖ *Loving God, you gave us hope and new life through the resurrection of your Son. Send your Spirit to
make us your enthusiastic and effective witnesses. Strengthen our families. Call from among us priests,
sisters, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers. May the Risen Christ help us know your will and live it
joyfully. Amen. Source: Diocese of Rochester*

- ❖ *O Lord of the Harvest, Your Word finds a home in our hearts, calls us to community, and invites us to generous service of the human family. Bless with courage and spirit your priestly people, called to full participation the one Body of Christ. May many choose to respond in public service to your call in Jesus' name. Amen. Source: Cardinal Bernardin's Vocation Prayer*
- ❖ *Holy Spirit... It is You who open the heart and the mind to the Divine Call; it is You who make effective every impetus toward good, toward truth, toward charity... Open the hearts and minds of women and men, so that a new flowering of vocations may show forth the fidelity of your love, and all may know Christ, the true light come into the world, to offer to every human being, the sure hope of eternal life. Amen. Source: Pope John Paul II*
- ❖ *Lord, in your love for the Church, you provide bishops, priests, and deacons as shepherds for your people, and you call men and women to leave all things to serve you joyfully in religious life. May those whom you have raised up as servants of the Gospel and ministers for your Church show forth dedication and compassion. May those whom you have chosen to serve you as religious provide by their way of life a convincing sign of your kingdom for the Church and the whole world. Source: St. Lawrence Seminary*
- ❖ *Lord, You chose St. Benedict to follow You and made him the founder of a great religious family in Your Church. Help me, through his intercession, to choose the vocation You have destined for me and to follow it with generosity, steadfastness and courage all the days of my life. May the spirit of St. Benedict inspire me to prefer nothing to You, to lead a life of prayer, to form myself on Your Word and to labor for the salvation of all. I ask this of You, Lord Jesus, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever. Amen. Source: Benedictine Mission House*
- ❖ *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and our hearts shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray: O God, who taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to delight in what is right and always to rejoice in his consolation. Through Jesus Christ o Lord. Amen. Source: Prayer to the Holy Spirit*
- ❖ *My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen. Source: Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude*

- ❖ *My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exalts in God my savior. For God has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness, and my name will be blessed forever. The Mighty One has done great things for me and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersing the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the mighty from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever. Amen. Source: **The Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55***

- ❖ *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Source: **The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-10***