**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**



Rome, February **2014**

**EXPOSITION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT**

 **Hymn**

*Pange, lingua, gloriósi*

*Córporis mystérium,*

*Sanguinisque pretiosi,*

*Quem in mundi pretium*

*Fructus ventris generosi*

*Rex effudit gentium.*

 *Nobis datus, nobis natus*

*Ex intacta Virgine,*

*Et in mundo conversatus,*

*Sparso verbi semine,*

*Sui moras incolatus*

*Miro clausit ordine.*

*In supremæ nocte cenæ*

*recumbens cum fratribus,*

*observata lege plene*

*cibis in legalibus*

*Cibum turbæ duodenæ*

*se dat suis manibus.*

*Verbum caro, panem verum*

*verbo carnem efficit:*

*fitque sanguis Christi merum,*

*et si sensus deficit,*

*ad firmandum cor sincerum*

*sola fides sufficit*

**INVOCATION**

**L.** † In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**R.** Amen.

Brothers and sisters, community prayer is a visible manifestation of a relationship in which we acknowledge the goodness and love of God. Indeed, feeling drawn by this love we entrust ourselves to the One who has called us into existence and who continues to confront us each day. That is why his invitation to follow him resounds endlessly in the heart of every human being. For this reason, we desire now to unite ourselves to Him and to ask him to send more workers to his harvest.

**WORD OF GOD**

**Revelation to Samuel (1 Samuel 3,1-18)**

1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent. 2 And it happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim *and* he could not see well), 3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God *was*, 4 that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, lie down again." So he went and lay down. 6 And the LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he answered, "I did not call, my son, lie down again." 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him. 8 So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy. 9 And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Thy servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Thy servant is listening." 11 And the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 "In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. 14 "And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." 15 So Samuel lay down until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 Then Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." 17 And he said, "What is the word that He spoke to you? Please do not hide it from me. May God do so to you, and more also, if you hide anything from me of all the words that He spoke to you." 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him."

**MEDITATION**

**Message of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations – 21 April 2013 (First Excerpt)**

Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life are born out of the experience of a personal encounter with Christ, out of sincere and confident dialogue with him, so as to enter into his will. It is necessary, therefore, to grow in the experience of faith, understood as a profound relationship with Jesus, as inner attentiveness to his voice which is heard deep within us. This process, which enables us to respond positively to God’s call, is possible in Christian communities where the faith is lived intensely, where generous witness is given of adherence to the Gospel, where there is a strong sense of mission which leads people to make the total gift of self for the Kingdom of God, nourished by recourse to the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and by a fervent life of prayer. This latter “must on the one hand be something very personal, an encounter between my intimate self and God, the living God. On the other hand it must be constantly guided and enlightened by the great prayers of the Church and of the saints, by liturgical prayer, in which the Lord teaches us again and again how to pray properly.” (*[Spe Salvi](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20071130_spe-salvi_en.html)*, 34).

**WORD OF GOD**

**Psalm 98 (alternating groups—1 and 2)**

**1°**

1 O Sing to the LORD a new song,

For He has done wonderful things,

His right hand and His holy arm

have gained the victory for Him.

**2°**

2 The LORD has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered His loving kindness

and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**1°**

All the ends of the earth have seen

the salvation of our God.

4 Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth;

Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

**2°**

5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre;

With the lyre and the sound of melody.

6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn

Shout joyfully before the King, the LORD.

**1°**

7 Let the sea roar and all it contains,

The world and those who dwell in it.

8 Let the rivers clap their hands;

Let the mountains sing together for joy

9 Before the LORD; for He is coming to judge the earth;

**2°**

He will judge the world with righteousness,

And the peoples with equity.

**MEDITATION**

**Message of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations – 21 April 2013 (Second Excerpt)**

Deep and constant prayer brings about growth in the faith of the Christian community, in the unceasingly renewed certainty that God never abandons his people and that he sustains them by raising up particular vocations – to the priesthood and the consecrated life – so that they can be signs of hope for the world. Indeed, priests and religious are called to give themselves unconditionally to the People of God, in a service of love for the Gospel and the Church, serving that firm hope which can only come from an openness to the divine. By means of the witness of their faith and apostolic zeal, therefore, they can transmit, especially to the younger generations, a strong desire to respond generously and promptly to Christ who calls them to follow him more closely.

**WORD OF GOD**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (5:1-10)**

2 Now it came about that while the multitude were pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the multitudes from the boat. 4 And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at Your bidding I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; and their nets *began* to break; 7 and they signaled to their partners in the other boat, for them to come and help them. And they came, and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

**MEDITATION**

**Message of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the 50th World Day of Prayer for Vocations – 21 April 2013 (Third Excerpt)**

(…) What exactly is God’s faithfulness, to which we adhere with unwavering hope? It is his love!He, the Father, pours his love into our innermost self through the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom* 5:5). And this love, fully manifested in Jesus Christ, engages with our existence and demands a response in terms of what each individual wants to do with his or her life, and what he or she is prepared to offer in order to live it to the full. The love of God sometimes follows paths one could never have imagined, but it always reaches those who are willing to be found. Hope is nourished, then, by this certainty: “We ourselves have known and believed in the love that God has for us” (*1 Jn* 4:16). This deep, demanding love, which penetrates well below the surface, gives us courage; it gives us hope in our life’s journey and in our future; it makes us trust in ourselves, in history and in other people.

**IINTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**L.:** Before the demanding and uplifting call of Jesus to follow him, we want to pray principally for young people, that they might respond to God’s call and discover true joy in living out their vocation in life. As a believing community, responding to the appeal of Jesus, let us ask the Lord of life and the Shepherd of the flock to send workers to his Church.

**R.: Lord of life and Shepherd of the flock, hear our prayer.**

That Christian families may live profoundly the Gospel values and educate their children to open themselves to God’s call, let us pray.

That young people may project their lives as “vocation” and feel the need to commit themselves actively and responsibly to the work of the Kingdom of God, let us pray.

That priests may live their priesthood fully, authentically and joyfully, so that their lives may draw young people to follow Christ, let us pray.

That those who are preparing for the priesthood or the religious life may have the constancy and the generosity necessary to carry through to this goal, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, let us pray.

**L.**: Lord of life and Shepherd of your flock, we beg you: grant vocations to be for us a sign of hope based on faith. You who are God and live and reign forever and ever.

**R.:** Amen.

**We pray with the intentions of the Holy Father:**

* Our Father;
* Hail Mary (10x);
* Glory be to the Father ...

**RESURRECTION PRAYER**

O Risen Lord,

the way, the truth and the life,

make us faithful followers

of the Spirit of Your Resurrection.

Grant that

We may be inwardly renewed,

dying to ourselves

in order that You may live in us.

 May our lives serve as signs

of the transforming power

of your love.

Use us as your instruments

For the renewal of society, bringing

Your life and love to all people

and leading them to Your Church .

This we ask of You, Lord Jesus,

living and reigning with the Father,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God forever. Amen.

**Hymn**

*Tantum ergo sacramentum*

*veneremur cernui,*

*et antiquum documentum*

*novo cedat ritui;*

*præstet fides supplementum*

*sensuum defectui.*

*Genitori Genitoque*

*laus et iubilatio,*

 *salus, honor, virtus quoque*

*sit et benedictio;*

*Procedenti ab utroque*

*compar sit laudatio.* Amen.

*(Continue with the rite of adoration and the Benediction)*

**Sung antiphon**

*Laudate omnes gentes,*

*laudate Dominum (x3)*

**PRAYER OF BLESSED JOHN PAUL II TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY FOR PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS (September 14, 2000)**

Most holy Virgin,

who without hesitation
offered yourself to the Almighty
for the carrying out of his plan of salvation,
pour trust into the hearts of young people
so that there may always be zealous pastors
who are able to guide

the Christian people on the way of life;
and consecrated souls

who may know how to witness,
in chastity, poverty, and obedience,
to the freeing presence

of your risen Son.
Amen.

**MARIAN SONG**

*Maria Regina mundi,*

*Maria Mater Ecclesiae,*

*Tibi assumus,*

*Tui memores,*

*vigilamus, vigilamus!*



***Collegium Resurrectionis Romae***