
LASALLIAN

VOCATIONS PRAYER –

A P R I L 2 0 2 0



Called and Sent

(Adapted from Prayer A75, Walk in My Presence Volume 2)

Reading: Fr. Paul Chetcuti S. J. Speaking to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity

BEING A MISSIONARY means seeing yourself as **BEING SENT TO OTHERS BY GOD**. It means going out to others – reaching out to them with the same love and compassion that God has for them. It means becoming as close to Jesus as possible, so as to be able to love in the way that he loves.

BEING A MISSIONARY means loving with the conviction that **THE VERY LOVE YOU GIVE IS NOT YOUR OWN**, but something that has simply been entrusted to you so that it can reach others. It means looking at others with contemplative eyes, seeing in them God's own beloved children.

BEING A MISSIONARY means **APPROACHING OTHERS WITH GOD'S OWN FREEDOM**, not seeking any sort of reward or gratitude, but giving your love, your time, yourself, in the same generous way that God does. It means listening to people with an open heart, trying to make yourself available to them for what they are, rather than turning them into what you want them to be.



BEING A MISSIONARY means **BEING A PERSON OF DEEP PRAYER**. Unless your heart is transformed and purified, you cannot love with God's own love. You may work much, you may exhaust yourself doing things for others, you may obtain satisfactory results, but you will not have given God to the people you pretend to love.

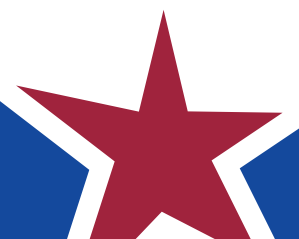
BEING A MISSIONARY means understanding that **GOD HAS CHOSEN TO NEED YOUR LITTLE TIME, YOUR IMPERFECT LOVE, YOUR POOR TALENTS, YOUR WEAK GENEROSITY**. Your small self is indispensable to God's way of working. Only you can do what is ask of you.

Prayer: St. Augustine (354-430)

God our Father, to be turned away from you is to fall, to be turned towards you is to rise, and with whom to stand is to abide forever: grant us your help in all our duties, your guidance in all our perplexities, your protection in all our dangers, and your peace in all our sorrows, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Mother Teresa 'Jesus, the Word to be Spoken' (William Collins, 1990) page 74

People are hungry for the Word of God that will give peace, that will give unity, that will give joy. You can not give what you don't have. That's why it is necessary to deepen your life of prayer. Allow Jesus to take you, pray with you and through you, and then you will be a real, true contemplative in the heart of the word.



For personal REFLECTION: The Guide for Formation, 53

(The General Council: Rome, 1992)

It would be impossible to try to live according to the characteristics which define our vocation as Brothers without rediscovering in a powerful way the contemplative meaning of our life.

Prayer:

Speak, Lord, Your servants are listening. Help us to live the Good News and be an expression of your kindness and compassion. May others know that, through us, you have been with them: loving, healing, and bringing happiness. Help us to live our lives in such a way that, however dimly, others may see you in us. Amen.

For choral RECITATION:

(Source unknown)

Lord, you welcome us: Help us feel at home in your presence. Take away any fear of being with you. Send people out to give your welcome to others.

Lord, you heal us: show us enough of our brokenness to accept your healing. Be with us when we feel hurt, ignored or not valued by others. Send more people out, sensitive to the hurt in other people.

Lord, you feed us: nourish us with your Word and Sacrament. Increase our hunger to do your will. Send more people out to feed those who hunger in body, mind or spirit.

Lord, empower us: be with us when we are fearful and feel unable to cope. Let us know the power of your Spirit as bearers of liberation and peace.

Lord, you restore us: when we abuse your goodness, bring us back to your love. Remind us of our need for you when we feel self-sufficient, and trust too much in ourselves. Send more people out to the world, to offer it the word of life.



Prayer:

(based on a prayer by St Aelred of Rievaulx)

We pray, O Lord, we beg you, send your Spirit to inspire more people to give themselves to your people. May all that they are - their mind and speech, their word and rest, their thoughts and deeds, their joys and sorrows, their strengths and weaknesses - may all that they live and think and feel be spent on those for whom you loved deeply and unconditionally.

Intercessions

We thank you, Lord, for endowing us with the gift of faith at baptism. Let this gift continue to grow in more young people, and enable them to grow in appreciation of your gifts.

Inspire more people, Lord, to be generous in time and patience in serving others.

Almighty, ever-living God, you watch over us with loving care; help more people to accept your will and give them the strength to follow your call so that they may be channels of your love to all they meet.

Inspire more people, Lord, to be generous in time and patience in serving others.

Almighty Father, your love exceeds our greatest longing; direct our thoughts and all our efforts so that our weaknesses and failings may not blind us to the vision of your glory.

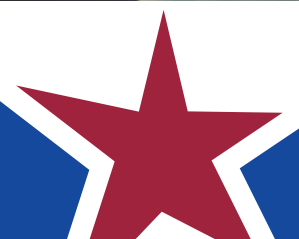
Inspire more people, Lord, to be generous in time and patience in serving others.

Father, Creator of heaven and earth, look graciously on us all, particularly in our times of need. You are the source of our peace. Fill us with your Spirit of peace, and may we reflect this peace to others through the quality of our lives.

Inspire more people, Lord, to be generous with time and patience in serving others.

Father, let your presence within us, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, bring us to love you, and to do your will, more and more.

Inspire more people, Lord, to be generous in time and patience in serving others.



Prayer: Sheila Cassidy ‘Good Friday people’, page 65 **(DLT, 1991)**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, comforter of widows, washer of feet, show us to love as you did: unconditionally, unilaterally, without fear or favour, pride or prejudice. Give us open hearts and wise minds, and hands that serve in your name.

Reading: Soren Kierkegaard ‘Christian Discourses’, page 322 **(OUP, New York, 1996)**

What have I to do, or what sort of effort is it that can be said to seek or pursue the Kingdom of God? Shall I try to get a job suitable to my talents and powers, in order thereby to exert an influence? No, thou shalt first seek God’s kingdom. Shall I then go out to proclaim his teaching to the world? No, thou shalt first seek God’s kingdom. But then in a sense, it is nothing I shall do. Yes, certainly, a sense it is nothing; thou shalt in the deepest sense make thyself nothing, become nothing before God, learn to keep silent; and in this silence is the beginning, which is, first to seek God’s kingdom.

Blessing: St. Patrick **(389-461)**

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God may protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us
against the snares of evil
and the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us:
Christ before us,
Christ in us,
Christ over us.
May your salvation, O Lord,
be always ours:
this day and forevermore. Amen.

