

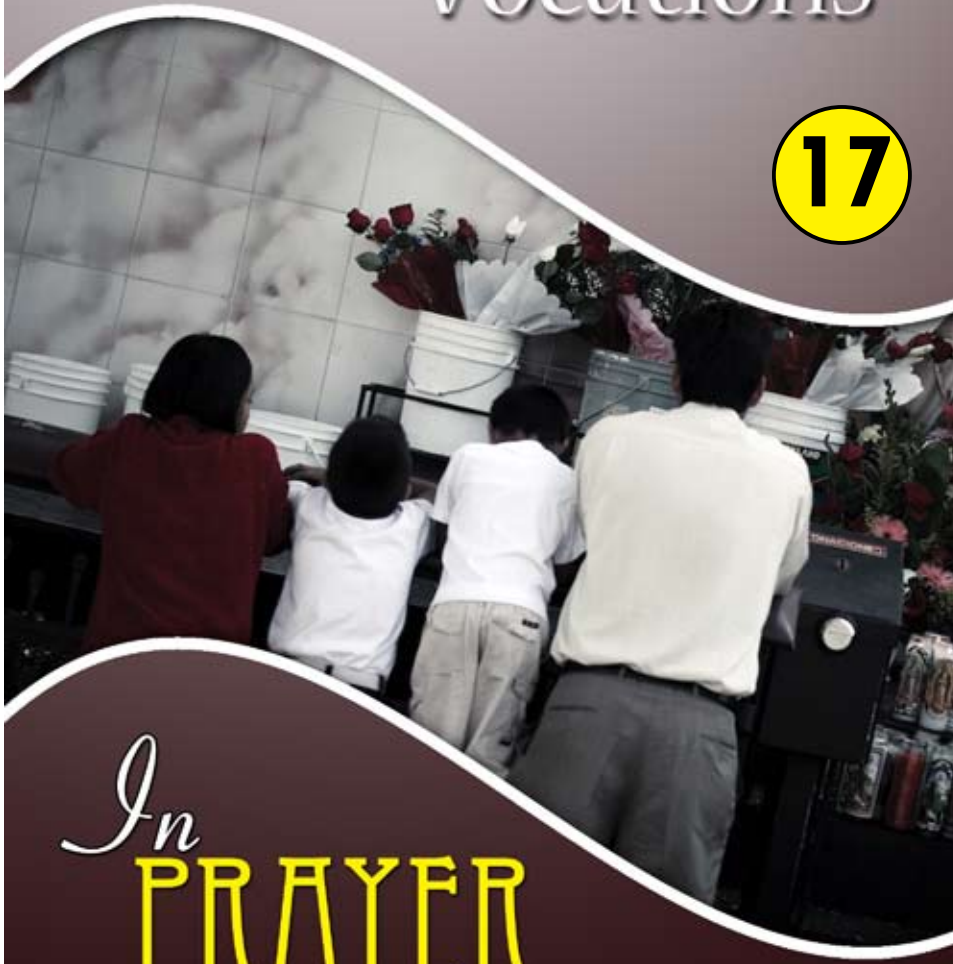
imperative, a call. When Jesus calls, it is not with words. As with the rich man of Mark's Gospel: Jesus looks steadily at him and loves him. Having experienced this loving glance of Jesus one is no longer free to refuse to belong to Him alone.

Short Pause

Reader: Karl Rahner says: "God called us at the generous age when our weakness and powerlessness were known only to Him. The discovery we make little by little of our limitations and our fault is no discovery for God. For the Lord, to make Himself known is a long and slow process. He whispers gently into the hearts of those who are open to him to him, a call that is humanly impossible, absurd, unheard, yet mysteriously a call which is heard. Now, how awesome, how holy it is to see someone stand before the alter and echo his word, his consecration, his abandonment. To vow is to follow and live the incredible risk of his abandonment into our hands so many centuries ago. He has not spoken a word since; he has not done another action. In his incredible abandonment and love, he depends upon our capacity to love, our capacity to be faithful no matter what the cost, what the suffering. Only in his vow to us can we vow to him; in his fidelity is our faithfulness "without me you can do nothing" whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works.

Pause for Reflection


Final Song



Liturgical Celebration for Vocations

17

In PRAYER with JESUS


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Guide: Our Lord is worthy of all praise and thanksgiving. Let us start our adoration by singing to Him a song of praise.

Song (kneeling)

Guide: Pope John Paul II on the world day of prayer for vocation said: The reason why we must pray is certainly a big one if Christ himself commanded us to do it: “Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Let us be faithful and obedient to the Lord’s command. From every heart let this insistent prayer rise to heaven to ask the Father what Christ wanted us to ask.

Reader: From the Gospel of Matthew 9:35-38 (standing)

Pause for Reflection (seated)

Guide: Let us kneel and pray together:

All: Lord of the harvest,
send laborers into your fields.
If I am worthy send me, if I am not worthy
send me still so that your strength may be manifested
through the weakness.
Breathe into my heart the gentleness and compassion
which filled the Heart of Jesus your Son. Amen.

Song (standing)

Reader: From the Gospel of Luke 11:5-11 (standing)

Pause for Reflection (seated)

Religious vocations, as an efficacious grace, must come from heaven. Our Lord Jesus Christ, before calling his apostles prayed overnight. He wants followers and propagators of the prayer he commanded. The harvest is rich but the laborers are few, pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to

send laborers into his harvest. Let us notice the word “therefore.” He did not say therefore work to obtain priests, or therefore collect money but He said therefore Pray. The best of the actions is to pray for religious and priestly vocations.

Short Pause

Meditation Song (seated)

Reader: From some passages of the Bible “I have called you by name, you are mine. I forbid you to be afraid.”

“I am with you.” “come follow me!” “I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learned from my Father.”

“You did not chose me, I chose you and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last.”

Reader: It is holy thing to hear, to follow, to bind oneself irrevocably to Him, to the one who makes fidelity possible. We can be faithful because He has first vowed himself to us. “I will be with you always.” The Moment of call is dramatic, subtle, brief, as simple as that one when Jesus passed and John stared hard at him and said: “Look, there is the Lamb of God.” Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. They followed Jesus and he knew that they were following Him, He did not have to hear their footsteps. He turned to them and asked the beautiful question: “What do you want?” Touching the deepest core of their hearts, the ripple of his passing by, drew them to Him and they could only utter the simple question: “Where do you live?” “Come,” He gently replied, “come and see.” So they went and saw, and stayed with him the rest of their lives. Jesus answered their question with an