

Kaya Idalangin

Prayer Aid for Vocations

January 2015

Intention of the Month:

Consecrated life. That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

Word of God:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Amen, I say to you, it will be hard for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and said, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life. (Matthew 19:23-29)

Reflection:

In the experience of vocation, God is indeed the

mysterious subject of an act of calling. We hear a voice that calls us to life and discipleship for the Kingdom. Pope Francis in recalling "You are important to me", uses direct speech, in the first person, so that awareness might emerge. He calls to consciousness my opinion and my judgement, requiring behaviour consistent with my self-awareness, with the call that I hear addressed to me, my personal call. "I would like to say to those who feel indifferent to God or to faith, and to those who are far from God or who have distanced themselves from him, and to us also, with our 'distancing' and our 'abandonment' of God, that may seem insignificant but are so numerous in our daily life: look into the depths of your heart, look into your own inner depths and ask yourself: do you have a heart that desires something great, or a heart that has been lulled to sleep by things? (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, *Rejoice! A letter to consecrated men and women*, 2014)

Prayer:

Most sweet Jesus, You have travelled the narrow road, sowing your words of pardon and peace, smiling with your eyes full of love and compassion. You have healed so many unhappy and hopeless souls, bringing them to heaven. You have generously given your very own life for us sinners, sacrificing yourself on the Cross, and thus giving us an example to follow. We thank you

for having called religious men and women to be your instruments in announcing salvation to the world. Send your Spirit to inspire them, and grant them passion in their daily witnessing and apostolate so as to become effective and fruitful laborers. May their dedication to the poor and to the orphans, to the persecuted and to the rejected serve as an offering pleasing to you. As the world augments its influence to be selfish, send us generous and courageous young men and women who are ready to offer themselves to become your servants. Invite them Lord, to be your holy and humble workers, and be joyful witnesses to the love you offer to the humanity.

We ask these in your Most Holy Name. Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Continue praying for all the Religious around the world. Spend a Eucharistic hour with a religious community. Extend a help to a religious community's apostolate. Send a card with your family's assurance of prayers for a Religious. Coordinate with your Parish Priest on how you can reach out to the needy religious communities. Invite Religious to serve as catechists in your Parish Community. Pray for the Religious who are sick and dying.



February 2015



Intention of the Month:

Separated spouses. That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

Word of God:

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother and

be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:21-33)

Reflection:

The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children. Marriage now tends to be viewed as a form of mere emotional satisfaction that can be constructed in any way or modified at will. But the indispensable contribution of marriage to society transcends the feelings and momentary needs of the couple. As the French bishops have taught, it is not born "of loving sentiment, ephemeral by definition, but from the depth of the obligation assumed by the spouses who accept to enter a total communion of life".

The individualism of our postmodern and globalized era favours a lifestyle which weakens the development and stability of personal relationships and distorts family bonds. Pastoral activity needs to bring out more clearly the fact that our relationship with the Father demands and encourages a communion which heals, promotes and reinforces interpersonal bonds. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 66-67)

Prayer:

Lord God, we praise and thank you for continuously raising families filled with love and generosity. Like the Holy Family in Nazareth, they continue to be powerhouses of your presence and love, creating and sustaining a culture of life and of vocations. Their presence today reminds us the possibility of the sustainability of mutual sharing, gratitude, forgiveness, generosity and mercy. Look upon the families suffering because of infidelities, indifferences and lukewarmness, that together with Mary and Joseph who cared for your Son, Jesus, may they experience your

healing and comfort. Send good laborers, filled with compassion, to animate couples and children towards love. Strengthen these Gospel workers, bringing families together in worship of you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Pray for separated couples and broken families for their eventual reconciliation and healing. Consult your Parish Priest on how you can extend your help to broken families and unsupported children. Coordinate with religious communities aimed at facilitating the healing process of separated couples. Attend a seminar-workshop on how you can help couples reconcile with each other. Consult with experts on how you can give constructive advises to couples struggling for reconciliation. Engage in the apostolate to families with your Parish Community. Organize among your friends a regular family visit within your Parish Community, through the help of your Parish Priest.

March 2015

Intention of the Month:

Scientists. That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Word of God:

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.

God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good... (Genesis 1:26-31)

Reflection:

Dialogue between science and faith also belongs to the work of evangelization at the service of peace. Whereas positivism and scientism “refuse to admit the validity of forms of knowledge other than those of the positive sciences”, the Church proposes another path, which calls for a synthesis between the responsible use of methods

proper to the empirical sciences and other areas of knowledge such as philosophy, theology, as well as faith itself, which elevates us to the mystery transcending nature and human intelligence. Faith is not fearful of reason; on the contrary, it seeks and trusts reason, since “the light of reason and the light of faith both come from God” and cannot contradict each other. Evangelization is attentive to scientific advances and wishes to shed on them the light of faith and the natural law so that they will remain respectful of the centrality and supreme value of the human person at every stage of life. All of society can be enriched thanks to this dialogue, which opens up new horizons for thought and expands the possibilities of reason. This too is a path of harmony and peace. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 242)

Prayer:

Lord God, you have graciously endowed every person the creativity to make good use of your creation at the service of their brothers and sisters. Throughout the years, you have taught them to use knowledge to reach wisdom and love. By your generosity, you have sent them to develop and prosper communities. We pray, therefore, O Lord, that every scientific research and endeavor be of true service to the realization of a sustainable environment. May such endeavors recognize

your primacy in the wonders of creation. Let not selfishness, indifference, profit, greed and pride dominate scientists, but instead engage in a fruitful dialogue with other experts. May they listen to the wonders of creation so as to take care of them as legacy for the future generations. May they be always conscious of your will to let the goods of creation be distributed equitably, especially to the poor and the needy. Send us good, faithful and holy scientists filled with your wisdom, awe, service, and fear of your presence. May everything they perform and work be for the good of people and for your greater glory. Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Get updates on the latest trends in scientific endeavors and discoveries. Get acquainted with known issues and challenges on the dialogue between science, religion, faith and reason. In your free time, organize a “science fun-fare” with children and youth. Facilitate an educational tour to botanical gardens, parks and countryside among the students in the Parish’s catechetical program. Continue praying for the progress of the dialogue between faith and reason. Organize your friends on how you can donate new textbooks for elementary and high school students in a school. Attend seminars and conferences engaged in the dialogue between faith and science.

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



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