

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Courage

Gratitude

Tiredness

Worship

During one stormy night

We are celebrating the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations this Good Shepherd's Sunday. The Pastor who "who came so that we might have life, and the abundant one". This year's theme is: THE WORDS OF VOCATION. Pope Francis wanted to give us four words for this occasion: gratitude, courage, pain/fatigue, and worship...

We suggest to put some sign/symbol with these 4 words (it could be a heart, a boat, sea...). If we desire, we can make exposition of the Holy Sacrament.

(Look for a suitable song)

These four words that Pope Francis wanted to give to us in this occasion: gratitude, courage, pain/fatigue and worship... he got them from the Reading of the Gospel according to Saint Mathew who relates the experience of the storm calmed by Jesus... Let us be open to listen the voice of Jesus in these moments that we are living.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people away. After sending the people away, he went up a hill by himself to pray. When evening came, Jesus was there alone; and by this time the boat was far out in the lake, tossed about by the waves, because the wind was blowing against it. Between three and six o'clock in the morning Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water. When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. "It's a ghost!", they said, and screamed with fear. Jesus spoke to them at once. "Courage!" he said. "It is I. Don't be afraid!" Then Peter spoke up. "Lord, it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you". "Come!" answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. "Save me, Lord!" he cried. At once Jesus reached out and grabbed hold of him and said, "What little faith you have! Why did you doubt?" They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. Then the disciples in the boat worshipped Jesus, "Truly you are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. Mathew 14.22-





The first Word of vocation is **GRATITUDE**, because Jesus comes always towards us because he loves us...

Each vocation is born out of loving sight with which the Lord came to encounter us, maybe exactly when our boat was being tossed in the middle of a storm. "Vocation, more than our election, is an answer to a free call of the Lord" (...); because of this, we can discover it and embrace it when our heart will be open with gratitude and will know how to welcome the marks of the Lord in our life. (Pope Francis)

**GOD AND THE NEIGHBOR, THAT IS, THE CHURCH, APPEARED TO ME
AS BEAUTIFUL AS DIVINITY... WITH HER I ENCOUNTERED MY
BLESSEDNESS AND HAPPINESS MR 1, 3**

Let us allow a song that we will listen now may open us to encounter with God who creates us for Loving and being loved, and in the silence of your heart let us **contemplate** the initiative of God who felt in love with our life, with your life.

(Look for a suitable song)

In a moment of silence, reflect on how God's LOVE went manifesting in your life and, from your heart filled with thankfulness, make your thanksgiving to Him who comes to you, walking on the water...

In each gesture of LOVE, God calls you, loves you... He invites you to walk, to continue walking with Him, even though it means walking on the water...

*“When they saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said, and screamed with fear. Jesus spoke to them at once. Y los discípulos, al ver a Jesús andar sobre el mar, se turbaron, y decían: «**Courage**, he said. “it is I. Don’t be afraid!”*



The second Word of vocation is **COURAGE**, a word that in the moments of difficulty, when ghosts make themselves present in the middle of the storm and tiredness, and they make our heart scream with fear, we need to listen...

**I HAVE COURAGE, MY
DAUGHTER, TO PERSEVERE...**

When we are called to leave behind our secure shore and embrace a state of life – like matrimony, priesthood, consecrated life - , the first reaction is frequently represented by “a ghost of incredulity”: It’s not possible that this vocation is for me; is it a certain way? Is this exactly what the Lord asks of me?

The Lord knows that the fundamental option in life – like the one of getting married or consecrated in a special way at His service – requires *courage*. He knows the questions, doubts and difficulties that agitate the boat of our heart, and because of that he assures us: “Do not be afraid, I am with you!” (Pope Francis)

(Look for a suitable song)



LET US INTERCEDE... “Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!

_For the young people who feel the calling to Love the Church and with courage answer Her, so they might know to become neighbors of all their brethren, to be alive sign of love to the Church. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**

_For men and women who spend their lives in creating communion in the service of the Gospel, announcing and restoring the beauty of the CHURCH. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**

_For all who have discovered and embraced priesthood so they may persevere in the mission of being shepherds according to the heart of Jesus. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**

_For all Christian matrimony to show the beauty of love that reflects the Love of our God, the perfect community in his being Trinity. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**

_For those who experience moments of doubt, discouragement, fear, uncertainty in their vocation. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**

_For the lay committed and encouraged to make known the beauty of the Church and serve Her in Her members who are most in need. For them, so they may hear: **“Courage, it is I. Don’t be afraid!**



“Peter spoke up. “Lord, it is really you, order me to come out on the water to you”. “Come!” answered Jesus. So Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he was afraid and started to sink down in the water. “Save me, Lord!” he cried”.

The third Word of vocation is: **PAIN** that Pope in his message traduced differently and referred to as **FATIGUE... seeing the strength of wind he was afraid...**

In the specific vocation that we are called to live, these winds can make us tired. I think in those who assume important responsibilities in civil society, in spouses whom – not without reason – I like to call “the courageous”, and specially in those who embrace consecrated life and priesthood. I know your fatigue, solitude that sometimes overwhelm your hearts, the risk of routine that slowly can put down the fire of the calling, the weight of uncertainty and precarity of our time, the fear of future (Pope Francis)

“I SEE ONE THING AND IT IS THAT GOD, AS A GOOD FATHER, TAKES ME BY HIS HAND AND GUIDES ME WHEREVER HE PLEASES... GOD KNOWS HOW READY I AM TO SERVE HIS CHURCH” . Letter 56, 1.

Let us bring to this prayer all fatigues of so many people who, from their different vocations, put their lives at the service of the Gospel... those who are giving their lives defending the weakest, the undefended, the sick, the abused, the lonely, taking care of their children, their parents, to whom they have to bring bread every day... let us also think about our own tiredness caused by serving to the Church... may it always be your cause, Lord, the cause of your Kingdom... so we may rest in you...

My soul finds rest in God alone, my salvation comes from Him
He alone is my Rock, my Salvation, my Fortress,
I shall never be afraid... I shall never be afraid...

(Look for a suitable song)

Father Good and merciful,
You invite us to be careful
With those who suffer the most.
We desire that you will become present
In our world,
Through the persons
Who would commit to live
The message of fraternity, dignity and justice
Towards all humans and whole creation.
To fulfill your will,
Give our live for others.
Give free what we received free.
Care like you care: caressing the sad one,
Lifting up the fallen, healing the beaten,
Fighting for the weak.
Sowing peace of the truth.
We are hungry of bread and tenderness.

Of justice and beauty.
Of contemplation and fight.
Of happiness and commitment.
Of tears and rejoicing.
We cannot be fully happy
Until whole humanity will be,
Until dignity won't be achieved
For all human beings.
Until we won't touch with tenderness
Our mother Earth.
Don't allow us
To get comfortable
To get cold
May we never lose the fire
That burns in our heart.
Amen, may it be in our life.
We ask it to you, our Good God.

Who cares for us with love.

«They both got into the boat, and the wind died down. Then the disciples in the boat **WORSHIPPED** Jesus. “Truly you are the Son of God! They exclaimed».

The forth and last word is: **WORSHIP**, a word that is born spontaneously out of a heart that recognizes the presence of God in her life and in the events of every day... even in the storm...



(Look for a suitable song)

And then, even in the middle of strong waves, our live opens to WORSHIP... it wants to be also an invitation to cultivate the interior attitude of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She, grateful for the sight with which God looked at Her, abandoned with faith all her fears and doubts, embraced with courage the call and made of her life an eternal song of worship to the Lord (Pope Francis)

**OH HOW HAPPY ARE, LORD, THOSE WHO CONTINUOUSLY WORSHIP YOU IN YOUR
HOLY TEMPLE** Leg III, 160

SIGN: While we sing one of Magnificat, five persons enter in procession up to the altar with kindled candles and papers with different intentions written in them:

