

The Vocations Crucifix



Prayer Book & Guide

*St. Charles Borromeo Parish
in the
Archdiocese of Omaha*

Pope St. John Paul II's Prayer for Vocations

Lord Jesus,

as you once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men,
let your sweet invitation continue to resound:

Come follow me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly
to your voice.

Support our Bishops, Priests, and consecrated people
in their apostolic labor.

Grant perseverance to our seminarians
and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life
totally consecrated to your service.

Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness.

Lord, send workers to your harvest
and do not allow humanity to be lost
for lack of pastors, missionaries,

and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation,
help us to say yes to the Lord
who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation.

Amen.



For Personal Discernment

My Lord and my God,
you have formed my inmost being,
and you have made plans to give me a future full of hope.

Grant me the vision
to perceive the gifts and talents you have given me,
the hearing to discern your call for me,
and above all a heart that trusts in your loving Providence.

May I follow your will for my life, which is my hope.

Grant that all people may discover and live their vocation,
especially to serve the world as vowed Religious and as Priests.

O God,
continue to form and guide me, as you form and guide all people.
Amen.

To Trust in God's Will

My Jesus,
how often we feel very small and inadequate
before great tasks and responsibilities.
What can we do but bring all that we have,
even though it isn't much,
and place all this in your hands,
wait for your blessing,
and receive back again with amazing power.
May we never hold back our gifts from you.
May we believe that your blessing multiplies our smallest gifts
to maximum powers.

May we rejoice that you call us to serve you
and that you become the strength that we need
to say "yes" to you always.

We adore your wisdom.
Amen.



For Those Who Serve

Make us worthy, Lord,
to serve our fellow men throughout the world
who live and die in poverty and hunger.
Give them through our hands this day their daily bread,
and by our understanding grant them love, peace, and joy.
Amen.

For Discernment of Religious Life

You make every vocation holy
and you call us to radical, selfless love.
Give strength in discernment
to those who hear a call to Religious Life,
that in the freeing vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience
they might bring to the world
your comfort, guidance, understanding, joy, and peace.
Amen.

Instructions

- ◆ A schedule will be created so that each family/household participating in the Vocations Crucifix Program will know when they are assigned to receive the crucifix in their home.
- ◆ Reminders of this schedule may be found in the bulletin, through an email, or a phone call from the Vocations Crucifix coordinator.
- ◆ When it is your weekend to receive the Vocations Crucifix at Mass, please check in with the Sacristan or an Usher and let them know that you are at Mass and are supposed to receive the Vocations Crucifix for that week.
- ◆ During the announcement time at Mass, the Priest will call you forward to receive the Vocations Crucifix.
- ◆ Take it home and put it in a place of prominence for the week.
- ◆ Using this prayer booklet or your own method of prayer, spend time each day during the week praying for vocations.
- ◆ Bring the crucifix back to church at whichever Mass you attend on the following weekend and return it to the Sacristan or an Usher. You may keep this prayer booklet.
- ◆ Keep praying for vocations!

Scripture Passages

1 Samuel 3:1-10

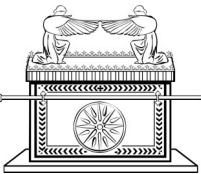
During the time young Samuel was minister to the LORD under Eli, the word of the LORD was scarce and vision infrequent. One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see. The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli answered. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

Samuel did not yet recognize the LORD, since the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and stood there, calling out as before: Samuel, Samuel! Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Jeremiah 1:4-9



The word of the LORD came to me: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I do not know how to speak. I am too young!" But the LORD answered me, Do not say, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD. Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying to me, See, I place my words in your mouth!



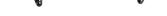
For All Priests

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent Priests,
for your unfaithful and tepid Priests,
for your Priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields,
for your tempted Priests,
for your lonely and desolate Priests,
for your young Priests,
for your dying Priests,
for the souls of your Priests in purgatory.
But above all,
I recommend to you the Priests dearest to me,
the Priest who baptized me,
the Priests who absolved me from my sins,
the Priests whose Masses I attended
and who gave me your Body and Blood in Holy Communion,
the Priests who taught and instructed me,
all the Priests to whom I am indebted in any other way.
O Jesus, keep them close to your heart
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

Amen.



For Courage



Dear Lord, teach us to be generous,
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to work and ask for no reward,
except to know that we are doing your will.

Amen.

For Vocations to Religious Life

Holy Father, who, through urging all the faithful to perfect charity,
never cease to prompt many to follow more closely
in the footsteps of your Son,
grant, we pray, that those you have chosen for this special calling
may, by their way of life,
show to the Church and the world a clear sign of your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Parents' Prayer for Their Children

Almighty God, you have called us to the holy state of Matrimony
and have shared with us your gift of creation.
We thank you for making our love fruitful.
May we be worthy representatives of you, dear Lord,
in forming our children in your knowledge and love.
You have given us children, Almighty God,
to teach in your ways
which will lead to their eternal home of heaven.
May our children ever walk in the ways of your commandments
and live according to the teachings of your holy Catholic Church.
May our example, dear God,
be such as to inspire our children
to grow into the likeness of your Son Jesus Christ
and to know their vocation in him.
May we be firm but kind in discipline.
May we stand as one untied in authority so as to be consistent.
May we never confuse permissiveness with love.
May we teach our children respect for your authority
in ourselves and in all your representatives upon earth.
May our home be as a Church,
for you, Lord Jesus Christ, are present
wherever two or three are gathered together in your Name.
May praises of God
frequently rise from the lips and hearts of our family
and may we all one day be united in our eternal home.
Amen.

Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of
the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At
the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity
for them because they were troubled and abandoned,
like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his
disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask
the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."



Mark 10:28-30

Peter began to say to Jesus, "We have given up everything and
followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who
has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or
children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who
will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age:
houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands,
with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.

John 1:35-42

John the Baptist was with two of his disciples, and as
he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb
of God." The two disciples heard what he said and
followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following
him and said to them, "What are you looking for?"
They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means
Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and
you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they
stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.
Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard
John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and
told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated
Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and
said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called
Cephas" (which is translated Peter).



John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13



No one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

For the Children of the Church

Look with favor on your family, O Lord, and increase it always with new offspring, so that it may lead its sons and daughters towards their goal of perfect charity and work effectively for the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



For Religious

O God,
who inspire and bring to fulfillment every good intention,
direct your servants into the way of eternal salvation,
and, as they have left all things
to devote themselves entirely to you,
grant that, following Christ and renouncing the things of this world,
they may faithfully serve you and their neighbor
in a spirit of poverty and in humility of heart.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



For Priests

O God, who have willed that your Priests should minister at the holy altar and serve your people, grant by the power of the Eucharist that they may constantly please you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Ministers of the Church

O God, who have taught the ministers of your Church
to seek not to be served but to serve their brothers and sisters,
grant, we pray,
that they may be effective in action, gentle in ministry,
and constant in prayer.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Vocations to Holy Orders

O God, who willed to provide shepherds for your people,
pour out in your Church a spirit of piety and fortitude,
to raise up worthy ministers for your altars
and make them ardent yet gentle heralds of your Gospel.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



For Holiness in the Family

O God, in whose eternal design
family life has its firm foundation,
look with compassion on the prayers of your servants
and grant that, following the example
of the Holy Family of your Only Begotten Son
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity,
we may, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Various Prayers

Prayer for All Occasions

Lord,
may everything we do begin with Your inspiration
and continue with Your help,
so that all our prayers and works may begin in You
and by You be happily ended.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Prayer to Saint Joseph

Blessed Joseph,
husband of Mary, be with us this day.
You protected and cherished the Virgin;
loving the Child Jesus as your Son,
you rescued him from danger of death.
Defend the Church, the household of God,
purchased by the Blood of Christ.
Guardian of the Holy Family,
be with us in our trials and vocational discernment.
May your prayers obtain for us
the strength to flee from error
and to wrestle with the powers of corruption
so that in life we may grow in holiness
and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.
Amen.

Mary, Help of Those in Need



Holy Mary, help those in need:
give strength to the weak, comfort the sorrowful,
pray for God's people,
assist the clergy, intercede for Religious.
May all who seek your help
experience your unfailing protection.
Amen.

Prayer for the Household

Hear us, O Lord,
and send your Angel from heaven
to visit and protect, to comfort and defend
all who live in this house
that we may always hear and answer your call.
Amen.

Prayer for Priestly & Religious Vocations

Lord,
in your love for the Church,
you provide Bishops, Priests, and Deacons
as shepherds for your people,
and you call men and women to leave all things
to serve you joyfully in Religious life.
May those whom you have raised up
as servants of the Gospel and ministers for your altars
show forth dedication and compassion.
May those whom you have chosen to serve you as Religious
provide by their way of life
a convincing sign of your kingdom
for the Church and the whole world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For the Pope

Let us pray for _____, our Pope.
May the Lord protect him and grant him length of days.
May the Lord be his shield and deliver him from all harm.
May the Lord give him happiness and peace
all the days of his life.
Amen.

For the Bishop

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on your servant, Archbishop _____,
whom you have set at the head
of your Church of Omaha as her shepherd;
grant we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides,
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



For Our Pastor

Incline your merciful ear to our prayers,
O God of all compassion,
and enlighten the heart of our pastor, Father _____,
by the grace of the Holy Spirit,
that he may worthily celebrate your mysteries,
faithfully serve your Church
and love you with eternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.