

Sursum Corda (Lift up your heart),

In the vast expanse of Heaven and Earth, Jesus Christ's dominion stands as an unwavering testament to faith. Embracing this truth compels us to live in Christ's light, as St. Paul poignantly stated, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives within me."

We are called to be torchbearers of hope in a world yearning for direction, with our priests at the forefront, amplifying the Gospel's message of salvation. God calls on men to courageously live for the greater good, ministering as priests within the military bringing the sacraments to places no civilian priest could otherwise go.

Your experience in the Air Force, steadfastly upholding "Integrity First", "Service Before Self", and "Excellence in All We Do", parallels the path of spiritual calling. These tenets echo the essence of priesthood. With "Integrity First", it's about nurturing a heart singularly devoted to God. Meanwhile, "Service Before Self" epitomizes the priestly ethos - prioritizing others and guiding them towards divine love.

The road to discernment isn't without its hurdles. But remember, the resilience you've cultivated in the Air Force equips you to navigate spiritual challenges too. At times, amidst the ordinary, we might overlook the truly remarkable, or face doubt and skepticism, much like the challenges St. John Vianney, the patron of priests, encountered.

Yet, St. John Vianney, undeterred by adversities, exemplified "Excellence in All We Do". His legacy is a testament to the brilliance that emerges from unwavering faith and service.

As you, as an airman, commit to a mission, commit also to discerning your vocation. The priesthood isn't just a profession but a divine vocation to echo God's boundless mercy. A vocation to which you may be called.

On this voyage of discernment toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, let St. John Vianney's life be an example that faith surmounts challenges. In moments of doubt or uncertainty, seek solace in prayer, ask for his intercession, and lean on God's unwavering strength to guide you.

Know that you do not tread this path alone in your discernment. Your Catholic Chapel Priest and I are willing to take this journey with you. Your faith, intertwined with the values of the Air Force, stand as pillars of encouragement. May the Lord illuminate your path, urging you to courageously answer His call with the same passion, dedication, and excellence that you exhibit in service to our nation.

God Bless,

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