



Remembering Vocations in your Lenten Devotions—2025

“God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters.”¹

Pope Francis

Meditations

March 5—Ash Wednesday: “In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken. ... It is time to act; and in Lent, to act also means to pause. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God ...”¹

March 9—First Sunday of Lent: “For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another ...”¹

March 16—Second Sunday of Lent: “In the account of the calling of the prophet Jeremiah, for example, God reminds us that he continually watches over each one of us in order that his word may be accomplished in us.”² We are part of his plan for the salvation of humanity; we must accept His call.

March 23—Third Sunday of Lent: “Therefore every vocation, even within the variety of paths, always requires an exodus from oneself in order to centre one’s life on Christ and on his Gospel. Both in married life and in the forms of religious consecration, as well as in priestly life, we must surmount the ways of thinking and acting that do not conform to the will of God.”² We all have a vocation; it must be discerned through prayer and a willingness to sacrifice ourselves to the Lord’s will for the success of our vocation.

March 30—Fourth Sunday of Lent: “Today too, Jesus lives and walks along the paths of ordinary life in order to draw near to everyone, beginning with the least, and to heal us of our infirmities and illnesses. I turn now to those who are well disposed to listen to the voice of Christ that rings out in the Church and to understand what their own vocation is. I invite you to listen to and follow Jesus, ...”² We pray for priests to lead our celebration.

April 6—Fifth Sunday of Lent: “Thanks to men and women obedient to the Holy Spirit, many forms of charitable work intended to promote development have arisen in the Church: hospitals, universities, professional formation schools, and small businesses. Such initiatives demonstrate the genuine humanitarian concern of those moved by the Gospel message, far in advance of other forms of social welfare.”² Through our prayers for vocations and our sacrifices for the common good, God seeks holy men and women to minister to His flock.

April 13—Palm Sunday: “To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope. At this moment in time, we face enormous risks; we hear the painful plea of so many people. Yet let us find the courage to see our world ... in a process of giving birth ...”¹ Pray for vocations and support ministries to those who are in need.

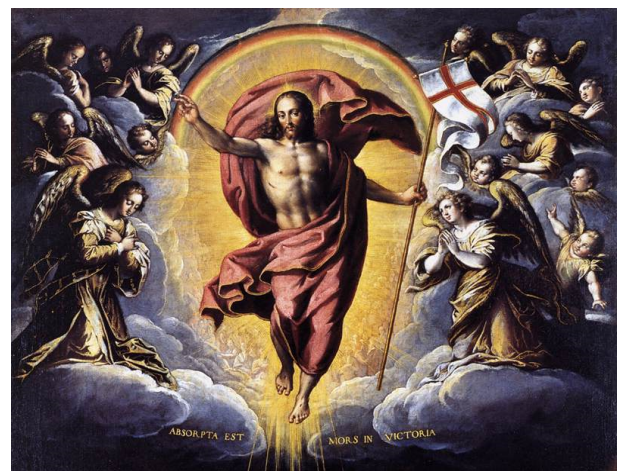
April 18—Good Friday: “A vocation is a fruit that ripens in a well cultivated field of mutual love that becomes mutual service, in the context of an authentic ecclesial life. No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people, in the experience of fraternal love.”² We must reflect upon the need for enough priests to minister to the needs of the faithful by celebrating the mass.”

*Prayer for Vocations*³

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Amen.

For information on vocations, go to: <https://SerraSpark.org>



¹ Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2024, December 3, 2023

² *A New Evangelization*, The Synod of Bishops for America, July 15, 1999

³ Serra Prayer for Vocations

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