

Traveling Crucifix



For An Increase in Vocations

How to Pray with the Traveling Crucifix

Thank you for praying for an increase in vocations to holy marriages, the single life, priesthood, permanent diaconate, religious and consecrated life, especially from our parish family.

Place the crucifix in a prominent place in your home where your family can gather each day to pray the following prayers. Each day begins with a “Vocation of the Day” which provides a description of a different vocation. Then there is a prayer to accompany that vocation and a concluding prayer for an increase in all vocations. It is recommended that you begin and end each day’s prayers with the Sign of the Cross.

Monday

Vocation of the Day: Married Life

Sacred Scripture begins with the creation and union of man and woman and ends with “the wedding feast of the Lamb” (Rev 19:7, 9). Scripture often refers to marriage, its origin and purpose, the meaning God gave to it, and its renewal in the covenant made by Jesus with his Church. Man and woman were created for each other.

By their marriage, the couple witnesses Christ’s spousal love for the Church. One of the Nuptial Blessings in the liturgical celebration of marriage refers to this in saying, “Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church.”

The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant, which is more than a contract. Covenant always expresses a relationship between persons. The marriage covenant refers to the relationship between the husband and wife, a permanent union of persons capable of knowing and loving each other and God.

Intentions and Prayers of the Day

We pray for our parish, that we may grow in holiness and that some of our parishioners may give their whole lives to serve the Church. We also pray for holy marriages, that God strengthen all those he has called to the married life, that they grow in their love of Christ and keep Him center of all they do, allowing them to be open to children and raise them as loving, devout disciples of Jesus.

Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters. To those you have called to

the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, grant them special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in him, with him, and through him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere.

Closing Prayer: Prayer for All Vocations

***Holy Spirit**, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.*

***Inspire** us daily to respond to your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.*

***Help us** to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to your call.*

***Inspire** parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.*

***Touch the hearts** of inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about vowed and associate commitment in apostolic life, cloistered life, evangelical life, lay ecclesial ministers, missionary life, monastic life, and societies of apostolic life.*

***Ignite** the Church with confident humility there is an urgent need for all the baptized to live their vocation in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.*

***Disrupt** or comfortable lives and complacent attitude with new ideas to respond courageously and creatively with a daily 'yes!'*

Amen.

Tuesday

Vocation of the Day: Consecrated Single Life

Monastic Life

All information is from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

920. Without always professing the three evangelical counsels publicly, hermits “devote their life to the praise of God and salvation of the world through a stricter separation from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.”

921. They manifest to everyone the interior aspect of the mystery of the Church, that is, personal intimacy with Christ. Hidden from the eyes of men, the life of the hermit is a silent preaching of the Lord, to whom he has surrendered his life simply because he is everything to him. Here is a particular call to find in the desert, in the tick of spiritual battle, the glory of the Crucified One.

Consecrated Virgins and Widows

All information is from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

922. From apostolic times Christian virgins and widows, called by the Lord to cling only to him with greater freedom of heart, body, and spirit, have decided with the Church’s approval to live in the respective states of virginity or perpetual chastity “for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven.”

923. “Virgins who, committed to the holy plan of following Christ more closely, are consecrated to God by the diocesan bishop according to the approved liturgical rite, are betrothed mystically to Christ, the Son of God, and are dedicated to the service of the Church. “By this solemn rite (*Consecratio Virginum*), the virgins “constituted ... a sacred person, a transcendent sign of the Church’s love for Christ, and an eschatological image of the heavenly Bride of Christ and of the life to come.”

924. As with other forms of consecrated life, “the order of virgins establishes the woman living in the world (or the nun) in prayer, penance, service of her brethren, and apostolic activity, according to the state of life

and spiritual gifts given to her. Consecrated virgins can form themselves into associations to observe their commitment more faithfully.

Intentions and Prayers of the Day

We pray that, if it be God's will, there might be vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and the consecrated single life from our own families and parish and that they may be supported through encouragement and prayers. We also pray for all women living as Consecrated Virgins and all men living as hermits, that through their dedication to prayer and our Eucharistic Lord that more people will be inspired to hear and respond to God's will in their lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, we bring to you in prayer all children and their families. Give them hearts that are open to hear your voice. Help them to be generous in responding to your call. Give them the grace to persevere in overcoming all the pressures in our world that keep them from embracing and truly living their vocation.

Graciously grant parents, grandparents, and godparents a living faith and an ardent love, which will inspire them to encourage their children to live holy lives. May they genuinely encourage and foster the God-given vocation of their children and help them to respond generously. Let them rejoice when a child of theirs is called to their particular vocation. May the example of your life and that of Joseph and Mary encourage parents and their children to form holy families and let your grace sustain them.

Closing Prayer: Prayer for All Vocations

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

Inspire us daily to respond to your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to your call.

Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Touch the hearts of inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about vowed and associate commitment in apostolic life, cloistered life, evangelical life, lay ecclesial ministers, missionary life, monastic life, and societies of apostolic life.

Ignite the Church with confident humility there is an urgent need for all the baptized to live their vocation in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

Disrupt our comfortable lives and complacent attitude with new ideas to respond courageously and creatively with a daily 'yes!'

Amen.

Wednesday

Vocation of the Day: Priesthood

A priest is a baptized man who has received the Sacrament of Holy orders. Through this sacrament, a man enters into the ministerial priesthood which gives him a sacred power to serve (CCC1952). The *ministerial priesthood* is given to serve the *common* priesthood (CCC 1546-1547). A priest is “a means by which Christ unceasingly builds up and leads his Church”; therefore it is the mission of the Catholic priest “to feed the Church by the word and grace of God” (Lumen Gentium 11). As such, a priest is a mediator or ‘bridge-builder’ between God and humanity; he does this by participating in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ, who unites God and humanity in his very being. The priest carries out this ‘bridge-building’ through teaching, divine worship and leading the people (CCC1592).

A priest offers the ministry of Jesus Christ to us today. When a priest offers the holy sacrifice of the Mass, it is Christ who offers the sacrifice. When he absolves sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, it is Christ who forgives. When he partakes in the mission of the Church to teach and evangelize, it is Christ who speaks through him. When he offers love, comfort and support to God’s people, Christ is truly present with them. For this reason, St John Vianney explained the priesthood in the following terms: “The priest continues the work of redemption on earth ... If we really understood the priest on earth we would not die of fright but of love ... The priest is the love of the heart of Jesus” (CCC 1589).

What is a diocesan priest?

Another name for a diocesan priest is to be simply called a parish priest. The word “diocesan” comes from a Greek word meaning “to keep house.” A diocesan priest is the priest involved in the everyday lives of the people in a particular parish. A parish priest could be a pastor, the one in charge of a parish, or an associate pastor who helps the pastor with the everyday duties of running the parish, both administrative and sacramental.

What's the difference between a religious priest and a diocesan priest?

A religious priest is a member of a particular religious order or society. A religious priest takes the vow of poverty as well as the vows of celibacy and obedience. Usually, he lives with a number of other priests or brothers of his religious community. His service to the Church can go beyond the boundaries of a parish, and he can be sent anywhere in the world that his religious community is working.

A diocesan priest on the other hand, ordinarily serves within the boundaries of the diocese for which he has been ordained. He makes a commitment directly to his bishop. He does not have to take a vow of poverty but instead is given a salary from which he can take care of his personal needs.

Intentions and Prayers of the Day

We pray that we might grow in our love and devotion to Mary and that through her intercession all God's people may love Jesus with greater passion and desire to do his most holy will. We pray also for all men that are priests, those in formation, and for an increase in the vocation of the priesthood especially in our diocese.

We turn to you, Mary, Mother of the Church. Through your 'yes,' you have opened the door that makes Christ present in the world, in history, and in individual lives. In humble silence and total availability, you welcomed the call of the Most High. May there be many men and women in our day who respond to your Son's invitation: "Follow me!" Grant them the courage to follow Christ along the road that he walked.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us and for the increase of priestly vocations.

Closing Prayer: Prayer for All Vocations

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

Inspire us daily to respond to your call with boundless compassion, abundant generosity, and radical availability.

Help us to remember our own baptismal call to rouse us to invite the next generation to hear and respond to your call.

Inspire parents, families, and lay ecclesial ministers to begin a conversation with young Catholics to consider how they will live lives of holiness and sacred service.

Touch the hearts of inquirers and motivate discerners to learn more about vowed and associate commitment in apostolic life, cloistered life, evangelical life, lay ecclesial ministers, missionary life, monastic life, and societies of apostolic life.

Ignite the Church with confident humility there is an urgent need for all the baptized to live their vocation in solidarity with those who are poor, neglected, and marginalized.

Disrupt our comfortable lives and complacent attitude with new ideas to respond courageously and creatively with a daily 'yes!'

Amen.

Thursday

Vocation of the Day: Religious Life

All information is from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

925. Religious life was born in the East during the first centuries of Christianity. Lived within institutes canonically erected by the Church, it is distinguished from other forms of consecrated life by its liturgical character, public profession of the evangelical counsels, fraternal life led in common, and witness given to the union of Christ with the Church.

926. Religious life derives from the mystery of the Church. It is a gift she has received from her Lord; a gift she offers as a stable way of life to the faithful called by God to profess the counsels. Thus, the Church can both show forth Christ and acknowledge herself to be the savior's bride.

Religious life in its various forms is called to signify the very charity of God in the language of our time.

927. All religious, whether exempt or not, take their place among the collaborators of the diocesan bishop in his pastoral duty. From the outset of the work of evangelization, the missionary "planting" and expansion of the Church require the presence of the religious life in all its forms. "History witnesses to the outstanding service rendered by religious families in the propagation of the faith and in the formation of new Churches: from the ancient monastic institutions to the medieval orders, all the way to the more recent congregations."

Intentions and Prayers of the Day

Today we pray for all vocations, but in a special way for all men and women living as a religious brother or sister, for those discerning a religious vocation, and for an increase to the religious life especially from our parish and or diocese.

Litany of Vocations

Lord have mercy. *Lord have mercy.*

Christ have mercy. *Christ have mercy.*

Christ hear us. *Christ hear us.*

God the Father of heaven, *Have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *Pray for us.*

St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church, *Pray for us.*

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, *Pray for us.*

St. John Vianney, patron of priests, *Pray for us.*

St Elizabeth Ann Seton, *Pray for us.*

St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians, *Pray for us.*

St. Katherine Drexel, *Pray for us.*

St. Stephen, patron of deacons, *Pray for us.*

St. John Berchmans, patron of altar servers, *Pray for us.*

St. Junipero Serra, *Pray for us.*

All you holy men and women, *Pray for us.*

Through Your mercy, *Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through our prayers and sacrifices, *Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through the power of the Mass, *Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Through the holiness of families, *Send workers into Your harvest, Lord.*

Friday

Vocation of the Day: Permanent Diaconate

Men ordained as permanent deacons promise to live out the charism of service to God's people through proclaiming the word, administering sacraments and practicing charity for the rest of their lives. A permanent deacon is a helper of bishops and priests and a witness to the Church's call to serve the needs of others. A deacon is the animator and promoter of what the community of faith must be: a community of service.

Intentions and Prayers of the Day

Today we pray for all those who may not know their vocation. Through prayer and with God's help, may they come to know His will for their lives. We pray also for all men that are permanent deacons, those in formation, and for an increase in the vocation of the permanent diaconate especially in our parish and diocese.

Lord, we, your people, want to be happy in this life and spend eternity with you in the life to come. From the moment of our existence, you knew our vocation. Please reveal to all people who are not yet aware of your calling in their lives their vocation and strengthen those who are already living their vocation. Dispel all fear within us, allowing us to trust fully in your merciful love and plan in our lives. Increase in your people the desire to follow your will, respond to you with our yes, and bring all people to you.

Closing Prayer: Prayer for All Vocations

Holy Spirit, stir within us the passion to promote vocations to the single and married life, consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, diocesan priesthood, and permanent diaconate.

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