

## **World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2012 - Resources**

### **A Parent's Prayer**

Loving God, You have given us the privilege as well as the responsibility of parenthood. Guide us as we invite our children to hear your call to service in the Church. May they respond with deep faith and generosity to the needs of others. Help us to be a source of encouragement by our own desire to be committed people who serve with love and enthusiasm. Amen

### **Prayer of Thomas Merton**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me, nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are with me, and you will never leave me to face my struggles alone. Amen

### **Prayer of St Francis**

All Highest and Glorious God,

Cast your light into the darkness of my heart.

Grant me right faith, firm hope, perfect charity, profound humility, with wisdom and perception, O Lord, so that I may always and everywhere seek to know and do what is truly your holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### **A Memo to Myself**

I have a vocation from God. If I already know what it is, I pray to be faithful. If I am still searching, I pray to hear God's voice and to respond generously. Amen

### **Prayer for Vocations** by Pope John Paul II

"Mary, humble servant of God Most High, the Son to whom you gave birth has made you the servant of humanity. Your life was a humble and generous service. You were servant of the Word when the angel announced to you the divine plan of salvation. You were servant of the Son, giving him life and remaining open to his mystery. You were servant of Redemption, standing courageously at the foot of the Cross, close to the Suffering Servant and Lamb, who was sacrificing himself for love of us. You were servant of the Church on the day of Pentecost and with your intercession you continue to generate her in every believer, even in these our difficult and troubled times. Let the young people of the third millennium look to you, young daughter of Israel, who have known the agitation of a young heart when faced with the plan of the Eternal God. Make them able to accept the invitation of your Son to give their lives wholly for the glory of God. Make them understand that to serve God satisfies the heart, and that only in the service of God and of his kingdom do we realize ourselves in accordance with the divine plan, and life becomes a hymn of glory to the Most Holy Trinity. Amen.

### **Prayer for Oblate Vocations**

God, we thank you for the blessings you have given us in Christ. Let your Spirit overshadow your people, making your gentle invitation heard in many hearts. Lord of the harvest, bless the Oblate Family with many vocations, so that those in greatest need will experience the good news. May your love grow among us & spread throughout creation... Amen

### **Prayer For Priests**

Lord Jesus, the ministry of priests is a sign of your unfailing care. Call from among us the priests needed for the Church of today and tomorrow. Bless all students for the priesthood. Grant them joy, wisdom, courage and a generous spirit. Sustain priests with a real sense of your love and the support of those they are called to serve. Keep them faithful to their calling. Amen.

**World Day of Prayer For Vocations 2012 - General Intercessions**  
**April 28, 29**

**Presider:** Aware of God's call, given to each of us in our baptism, let us offer our prayers today trusting in God's promise to always be present to His Church:

**Reader:** The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

For world and church leaders (pause): For the gifts of integrity, right-judgment, and vision that together we may build a just and peace-filled world. We pray to the Lord:

For married couples (pause): For the gifts of love, understanding, and fidelity that families may be rooted in Christ and be witnesses of the Gospel. We pray to the Lord:

For single men and women (pause): For the gifts of compassion, joy, and dedication that they may proclaim the Good News with their lives. We pray to the Lord:

For priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and all Church ministers (pause): For the gifts of courage, commitment, and passion that they may be a source of hope for our Church as they minister among God's people. We pray to the Lord:

For young men considering a call to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, and for all who are discerning their vocation (pause): For the gifts of openness, generosity, and faith that they may have a discerning heart to hear God's call. We pray to the Lord:

For the sick, for those who have died and for their caregivers (pause): For the gifts of comfort, consolation, and trust that they may receive the support they need in these difficult times. We pray to the Lord:

**Presider:** Gracious God, We thank you for your many gifts given to your people. Continue to bless us through Christ Jesus, your beloved son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.