

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS



Diocese of Kamloops
rcdk.org

Nihil Obstat:

Reverend Fred Weisbeck,
Chancellor

Imprimatur:

Most Reverend Joseph P. Nguyen,
Bishop of Kamloops,
February 22, 2017

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Bishop's Message

February 22, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

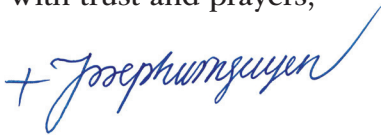
Prayer is the foundation from which all vocations begin, grow, and prosper. In other words, vocations are the result of the Christian community's active engagement in prayer that "the owner of the harvest will send out workers to gather his harvest."

In our faith and tradition, Eucharistic devotion and the priesthood are inexorably connected. By reaffirming the gift of the Real Presence in the Eucharist, we will rediscover the true meaning of the priesthood and religious life. With this conviction, we invite all Catholics in the Diocese of Kamloops to join in Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations with hope that through our fervent prayers before the Blessed Sacrament, the Holy Spirit will pour down a wellspring of grace on our Diocese, grace that will continue to build a culture of

life that fosters vocations in our homes, parishes, and schools. With our persistent prayers, many young men and women will be able to hear God's call through the noise of our modern society.

We believe that all members of the Church, without exception, have the grace and responsibility to pray for and look after vocations.

With trust and prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Phuong Nguyen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small blue cross symbol.

✠ Joseph Phuong Nguyen
Bishop of Kamloops

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Opening Thoughts

Pope John Paul II on his vocation

“I am often asked, especially by young people, why I became a priest. Maybe some of you would like to ask the same question. Let me try briefly to reply. I must begin by saying that it is impossible to explain entirely. For it remains a mystery, even to myself. How does one explain the ways of God? Yet, I know that, at a certain point in my life, I became convinced that Christ was saying to me what He had said to thousands before me: ‘Come follow me!’ There was a clear sense that what I heard in my heart was no human voice, nor was it just an idea of my own. Christ was calling me to serve Him as a priest.

“And you can probably tell that I am deeply grateful to God for my vocation to the priesthood. Nothing means more to me or gives me greater joy than to celebrate Mass each day and to serve God’s people in the Church. That has been true ever since the day of my ordination as a priest. Nothing has ever changed this, not even becoming a Pope.” (Los Angeles, September 14, 1987)

“The priestly vocation is essentially a call to sanctity, in the form that derives from the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sanctity is intimacy with God; it is the imitation of Christ, poor, chaste, and humble; it is unreserved love for souls and self-giving to their true good; it is love for the Church which is holy and wants us to be holy, because such is the mission that Christ has entrusted to it. Each one of you must be holy also in order to help your brothers pursue their vocation to sanctity.” (Rome, October 9, 1984)

“Your wish is to become priests, or at least your wish is to discover if you are really called. And so the question is a serious one, because you have to prepare thoroughly, with clear intentions and an austere formation.” (Rome, October 13, 1979)

“His calling is a declaration of love. Your response is commitment, friendship, and love manifested in the gift of your own life as a definitive following and as a permanent sharing in His mission and in His consecrations. To make up your mind is to love Him with all of your soul and all of your heart in such a way that this love becomes the standard and motive of all your actions. From this moment on, live the Eucharist fully; be persons for whom the Holy Mass, Communion, and Eucharistic adoration are the center and summit of their whole life. Offer Christ your heart in meditation and personal prayer which is the foundation of the spiritual life.” (Valencia, Spain, November 8, 1982)

“The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone sees the priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest!”
(Rome, October 13, 1979)

“Called, consecrated, sent. This triple dimension explains and determines your conduct and your lifestyle. You are ‘set apart’; ‘segregated’ but not ‘separated.’ What would separate you would be to forget or to overlook the meaning of the consecration that characterizes your priesthood. To be but one more in your profession, in your lifestyle, in your way of living, in your political obligations, would not help you to fully carry out your mission. You would betray your own faithful who want you to be priests through and through.”
(Valencia, Spain, November 8, 1982)

Pope Benedict XVI on the Eucharist and vocations

“I live, now not I; but Christ lives in me.” Galatians 2:20

In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic Adoration is simply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic Celebration, which is itself the Church’s supreme act of adoration. Receiving the Eucharist means adoring Him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with Him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself. Indeed, only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.

– Sacramentum Caritatis, 66

Every priest, every consecrated person, faithful to his or her vocation, radiates the joy of serving Christ and draws all Christians to respond to the universal call to holiness. Consequently, in order to foster vocations to the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life, and to be more effective in promoting the discernment of vocations, we cannot do without the example of those who have already said ‘yes’ to God and his plan for the life of each individual. Personal witness, in the form of concrete existential choices, will encourage young people for their part to make demanding decisions affecting their future.

– Forty-seventh World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Pope Francis on Vocation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel says that “Jesus went about all the cities and villages... When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” (Mt 9:35-38)...The prayer which Jesus asks of the Church...concerns the need to increase the number of those who serve his Kingdom... It is [Jesus]... who continually summons us by his word to place **our trust in him**, loving him “with all the heart, with all the understanding, and with all the strength” (Mk 12:33).

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. Did not Jesus say: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35)?

Let us dispose our hearts therefore to being “good soil”, by listening, receiving and living out the word, and thus bearing fruit. The more we unite ourselves to Jesus through prayer, Sacred Scripture, the Eucharist, the Sacraments celebrated and lived in the Church and in fraternity, the more there will grow in us the joy of cooperating with God in the service of the Kingdom of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. And the harvest will be plentiful, proportionate to the grace we have meekly welcomed into our lives.

(Message of Pope Francis for The 51st World Day Of Prayer For Vocations 11 May 2014)

Adoration for Vocations Initiative

Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis earnestly call us to pray for vocations before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. We need to be rooted and grounded in prayer. Without a deep personal relationship with Jesus Christ, every human effort will ring hollow (cf. 1 Cor 13:1).

Vocation is all about love. It is a life of love in a concrete and particular form that comes from God. Each vocation begins with His love for us. In that love for us, He is calling us to a particular form of life. This love involves first His total gift of Himself to us and then in response our total gift of self to Him.

In this personal encounter with Jesus, we make our most urgent desires known to Him, for He sees into the depths of our hearts and leads us to a deeper unity with Him.

On a human level, we also have a deep need for community. Jesus knew it. That is why He wanted His followers to live as a Eucharistic community. We are not merely in communication with Him, but in Communion with Him as His Church, in which we find nourishment and guidance from Him, mutual support, encouragement, and companionship. Certainly we cannot belong to Jesus Christ without belonging also to His flock.

This model of a “Holy Hour for Vocations” is prepared for use in your parish and/or school as an opportunity for the faithful to gather before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the strength necessary to pursue a life of holiness and to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

St. John Vianney once said: “If we truly understood the priesthood, we would die, not of fear, but of love.” May we discover this great truth each day in grateful adoration before our Eucharistic Lord, and may He bless you abundantly for your continued prayers and unwavering support to build a vocation culture in the Diocese of Kamloops.

Office of Vocations



*Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament to
Pray for Vocations:
General Public*

Procession

After all have assembled, a priest or a deacon, wearing cope and humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the altar in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles. A song may be sung. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded and a period of silent prayer follows.

Exposition Hymn

O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to us below!
Our foes press on from every side:
Your aid supply, Your strength bestow.

To Your great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O grant us endless length of days
When our true native land we see. Amen.

*O salutaris hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur fer auxilium.*

*Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna Gloria:
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.*

Affirmation

We intend in a very particular way to entrust all priests, deacons and religious of our Kamloops Diocese to Mary, the Mother of the High and Eternal Priest, bringing about in our Church a movement of prayer, placing Eucharistic adoration at the centre. We also wish to raise to God our payers of adoration, thanksgiving, praise, trust and petition, with the primary intention of awakening a sufficient number of holy vocations in men and women.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (10: 1-12)

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ²He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. ³Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" ⁶And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. ⁷Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. ⁸Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; ⁹cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." ¹⁰But whenever you enter a town and

they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹“Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.” ¹²I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Additional suggested readings from Scripture:

Judith 8: 9-14, 17-20

Isaiah 6: 1-10

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Matthew 4: 18-22; 9: 9-13

Mark 14: 3-9

John 21: 15-23

A homily may be given, followed by a period of silence.

A Litany for Vocations

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously 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 Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,

Pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Pray for us.

Holy Virgin of Virgins,

Pray for us.

St. Michael, leader of the heavenly host,

Pray for us.

St. Gabriel, messenger of God's divine plan,

Pray for us.

St. Raphael, companion of the journey,
Pray for us.

All you holy Angels and Archangels,
Pray for us.

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

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

St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of youth,
Pray for us.

St. Alphonsus Liguori, patron of vocations,
Pray for us.

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

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

St. Maria Goretti, patron of teenagers,
Pray for us.

St. Francis de Sales, patron of adult education,
Pray for us.

All you holy men and women,
Pray for us.

Be merciful,
Spare us, O Lord.

Be merciful,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

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

Through Your kindness,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the fervent prayers and sacrifices of Your people,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the sanctification of the family,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through parents being generously open to life,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

Through a renewed sense of fidelity to our Catholic Faith,
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.

That young people might seek to live the truth of Christ,
O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That young people might seek God's will for them in their lives,
O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That young people might hear the call to give their lives for the mission of the Church,
O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That all priests and religious might be renewed in the spirit of the new evangelization,
O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That Bishops might be strengthened to be courageous shepherds,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That we may always zealously pray for and promote vocations,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

That those who are being called to be priests and religious might respond generously,

O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

The harvest is great but the labourers are few.

Beg the harvest Master to send out labourers for His harvest.

Let us pray. Lord, You have always been our good shepherd and great High Priest. In every age we believe You call others to follow Your example and be of special service to Your holy people. It is not always easy to understand the way You want us to follow You. Send Your Spirit, Lord, so that all those You call will know how to respond with a generous heart and come to experience the peace which is a sign of Your Love for us. Amen.

Prayer for Vocations

O God, You have chosen the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and by Baptism and Confirmation have called all of us to build up Your Holy Church. We earnestly implore You to choose from among us, Your children, many priests, brothers, and sisters who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives to make You known and loved by all. Amen.

Benediction

At the conclusion of the Prayer for Vocations, the presiding minister goes to the altar, genuflects, and then kneels. As he kneels, "Tantum ergo" or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung, and he incenses the Blessed Sacrament.

Come adore this wondrous presence,
Bow to Christ the source of grace.
Here is kept the ancient promise
Of God's earthly dwelling place.
Sight is blind before God's glory,
Faith alone may see His face.

Glory be to God the Father,
Praise His coequal Son,
Adoration to the Spirit,
Bond of love, in Godhead one.
Blest be God by all creation
Joyously while ages run.

*Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui:
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:*

*Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.*

*Genitori Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio: Procedenti ab utroque
Compare sit laudatio.*

After the hymn is finished, he rises and sings or says:

You have given them bread from heaven (Alleluia).
Having all sweetness within it (Alleluia).

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of Your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of Your body and blood help us to experience the salvation You won for us and the peace of the kingdom, where You live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

The priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Eucharist.

Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time.

Amen.

Reposition

After the Divine Praises, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and brought to the place of reservation. A hymn is sung, and the presiding minister and the servers bow to the altar and leave.

Concluding Hymn

*(“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”
or other suitable song may be sung)*

Holy God, we praise Thy Name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee;
All on earth Thy sceptre claim,
All in heaven above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign!

Hark, the loud celestial hymn;
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and Seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord;
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!



*Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament to
Pray for Vocations:
Young Adult, Teen,
and Youth*

Procession

After all have assembled, a priest or deacon, wearing cope and humeral veil, brings the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar in a monstrance. He may be accompanied by altar servers with candles. A song may be sung. The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the altar. The presiding minister then kneels before the altar and incenses the Blessed Sacrament. The opening song is concluded and a period of silent prayer follows.

Exposition Hymn

O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to us below!
Our foes press on from every side:
Your aid supply, Your strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to Thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end
In our true native land with Thee. Amen.

Affirmation

We intend in a very particular way to entrust all priests, deacons and religious of our Kamloops Diocese to Mary, the Mother of the High and Eternal Priest, bringing about in our Church a movement of prayer, placing Eucharistic adoration at the centre. We also wish to raise to God our payers of adoration, thanksgiving, praise, trust and petition, with the primary intention of awakening a sufficient number of holy vocations in men and women.

Opening Prayer

Leader: God, come to my assistance

All: Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Leader: Almighty Father, cleanse our hearts from all vain, evil, and distracting thoughts; enlighten our understanding and inflame our wills; that we may worthily, attentively, and devoutly spend this time in the presence of Your divine Majesty, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Reflection

Song: "You Are Everything" or any other suitable song

Prayer

Leader: In the quiet of our hearts, let us offer to God a prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

A period of a silent reflection

Song: "Take My Life" or any other suitable song

Leader: O loving and gracious God, Father of all, You bless Your people in every time and season

and provide for their needs through Your providential care. Your Church is continually in need of priests, sisters, and brothers to offer themselves in the service of the Gospel by lives of dedicated love. Open the hearts of Your sons and daughters to listen to Your call in their lives. Give them the gift of understanding to discern Your invitation to serve You and Your Church. Give them the gift of courage to follow Your call. May they have the spirit of young Samuel, who found fulfillment in his life when he said: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

A period of silent reflection

Song: "Here I Am, Lord" or any other suitable song

Litany for Vocations

Cantor: God, our Father, Creator who calls us to life,

All: Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Faithful Servant,

Have mercy on us.

God the Spirit, Life-Giver of Courage,

Have mercy on us.

Mother Mary,

Pray for us.

St. Joseph,

Pray for us.

St. Peter,
Pray for us.

St. Paul,
Pray for us.

St. Martha,
Pray for us.

St. Benedict,
Pray for us.

St. Scholastica,
Pray for us.

St. Dominic,
Pray for us.

St. Francis,
Pray for us.

St. Ignatius,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney,
Pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Pray for us.

All holy men and women of God,
Pray for us.

Lord, give the gift of generous heart to parents and those called to the priesthood and religious life. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (1: 16-20)

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Other suggested readings:

Luke 5: 1-11 Matthew 9: 35–10: 5

A homily may be given, followed by a brief period of silence.

Benediction

After the period of silence, the presiding minister goes to the altar, and then kneels. As he kneels, “Tantum ergo” or another suitable Eucharistic song is sung and he incenses the Blessed Sacrament.

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! The Sacred Host we hail;
Lo! O'er ancient forms departing
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying
Where the feeble senses fail.

To the Everlasting Father,
And the Son Who reigns on high,

With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from each eternally,
Be salvation, honour, blessing,
Might and endless majesty!

After the hymn is finished, he rises and sings or says:

You gave them bread from heaven (Alleluia).
Containing in itself all sweetness (Alleluia).

Let us pray. O God, in this wonderful Sacrament You left us a memorial of Your Passion. Grant us, we implore You, that we may so venerate the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood as always to be conscious of the fruit of Your redemption. You, who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

The priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Eucharist.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

Reposition

After the Divine Praises, the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the monstrance and brought to the place of reservation. A hymn is sung, and the presiding minister and the servers bow to the altar and leave.

Closing song

“Blessed Be Your Name,” “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name,” or any other suitable song may be sung.



Optional Prayers

Rosary for Vocations

Joyful Mysteries

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation

Mary answers “yes” to God’s call. Even though it was unexpected and the Archangel gives her only the details she needs to know at the present moment, she responds generously. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called to the priesthood or religious life that they, like Mary, may have the grace to respond wholeheartedly.

Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

Mary wastes no time in acting upon the grace of her vocation. Through her cooperation, the plan of salvation is already unfolding. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called but are hesitating. May God’s grace hurry them forward to answer the call and thus begin to labour for the harvest.

Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

Our Saviour comes to us in the midst of a family. How crucial is the role of the family! Let us offer this decade for all parents that they may provide an atmosphere of love and faith in the home. May parents thus help foster their children’s vocations.

Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation

Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the Temple and dedicated Him to Almighty God. They knew their Son was a gift from God to be given back to Him. Let us offer this decade for the grace parents need to recognize the gift of their children and thus offer them to the divine plan of God. May His will determine every moment of their lives.

Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

This mystery tells of a much unplanned event in the life of Joseph and Mary. For days their hearts ached with sorrow until they found their Son. Let us offer this decade for those parents who find it difficult to understand and thus support their child's vocation as a priest or religious. May they be graced with the faith to support God's will for their children and, like Joseph and Mary, to hold the mysterious ways of God in their hearts.

Luminous Mysteries

First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus

The mystery of Our Lord's Baptism is the mystery of Jesus taking upon Himself the mission of the Messiah. Thus begins His public ministry. Let us offer this decade for those who are called to the priesthood and religious life, but are afraid to answer because of what others may say or think. Grant them courage, O Lord, to accept the mission You are giving them.

Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana

Through the intercession of Mary, Jesus transforms ordinary water into extraordinary wine. What incredible things God's grace can do in our lives! Let us offer this decade for those who are being called, but doubt that they have much to offer. May they trust in the power of God to bring all things to completion and say "yes" to His call.

Third Luminous Mystery: The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Our Lord begins His public ministry by announcing the arrival of the Kingdom of God. What joyous news this is for all humanity to hear! Let us offer this decade for an increase in vocations, that there might be many more priests and religious who will proclaim this truth and bear witness to it with their lives.

Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration

Jesus strengthens the faith of His Apostles by allowing His divinity to be momentarily perceived. He wishes them to gain a supernatural perspective on His forthcoming Passion and death. Let us offer this decade for all those who are being called as priests and religious, that they may have the grace to recognize God's call in the midst of life and courageously accept carrying the Cross.

Fifth Luminous Mystery:**The Institution of the Holy Eucharist**

The gift of the Most Holy Eucharist is a mystery beyond our ability to fully comprehend. Our Lord's abiding Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, the saving mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – the world would suffer a great loss without these miracles. Jesus gives Himself in the Holy Eucharist through the ministry of His priests. Let us offer this decade for more priests for our Diocese. May God call many more men to share in the priesthood, and may they respond generously.

Sorrowful Mysteries

First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden

Jesus asked His Apostles to pray so that they “might not enter into temptation.” Our Lord knew they needed to pray in order to endure what would soon happen. Let us offer this decade for those men and women whom God is calling to be priests and religious, that they might have a deep and abiding life of prayer. Through the strength given to them through their spiritual life may they respond courageously to God’s call.

Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar

Our Lord’s suffering during the scourging was excruciating. For our sake Jesus offered Himself to obtain our salvation. Let us offer this decade for the grace that many young people might feel the desire in their hearts to offer themselves to God as priests and religious.

Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns

Jesus endured the terrible ridicule and mockery of the soldiers even to the point of accepting the painful crown of thorns. Let us offer this decade for those who have a calling to the priesthood or religious life but find it difficult to say “yes” because of painful obstacles in their lives. May concern for human respect never stand in their way of following God’s will.

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross

On the way to Calvary, Our Lord found comfort and assistance from a number of people: Simon of Cyrene, the women of Jerusalem, His Mother, and Veronica. How much those acts of love must have meant to Jesus! Let us offer this decade for the grace to always support, with our prayers and sacrifices, those whom God is calling to become priests and religious. May God find us seriously engaged in this very important apostolate!

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery:

The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

At the foot of the Cross, there came into existence a new type of family. Before Jesus died, He entrusted to the maternal care of Mary all of humanity, represented in the person of the “beloved disciple.” Through the New Covenant, the notion of family is greatly enlarged; it takes on a different dimension. Let us offer this decade for those who are being called but hesitate because of fears of not being able to have a family and living a lonely life. Help them, O Lord, to see that in serving You as a priest or religious, their desires for family will indeed be completely fulfilled.

Glorious Mysteries

First Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection

Our Lord’s Resurrection brought tremendous joy to His sorrowful followers. Never were their lives to be the same again. Let us offer this decade for an increase in grace in the hearts of those who are being called to be priests and religious. May they experience the immense joy of giving God their entire lives and saying “yes” to His call. Help them to realize that their unselfish response to God will change their lives forever.

Second Glorious Mystery: The Ascension

Jesus ascended into Heaven, not to abandon us but to be our hope. He continually intercedes for us before the throne of the Father and prepares a place for His faithful followers in the heavenly Kingdom. Let us offer this decade for an increase in the number of priests and religious to help us strive faithfully to attain the heavenly homeland. May these men and women always recognize the irreplaceable mission they have in the plan of our salvation.

Third Glorious Mystery:**The Descent of the Holy Spirit**

The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the timid Apostles into bold witnesses for the Gospel. The Church was sent forth with courage and zeal! Let us offer this decade for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon all He has chosen to labour as priests and religious. May they respond boldly to the invitation to lay down their lives for Christ and His Church.

Fourth Glorious Mystery: The Assumption of Mary

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that Mary's role in salvation history did not end with her Assumption into Heaven. She continually intercedes for all of us, her children, as we journey through life. Let us offer this decade asking Mary's intercession. Through her prayers may the Church be granted an abundance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary

This mystery brings before us the beauty of the faithfulness of Mary, the first disciple of the Lord. She who referred to herself as the "handmaid of the Lord" is now exalted far above even the angels. The one who said "yes" to God in all things is now the Queen of heaven and earth. Let us offer this decade for those who have been called, that they may have the grace to understand that to serve God is to reign with Him. Whatever sacrifices need to be made in order to live the mission God gives us will pale in comparison to the glory He has reserved for His faithful servants.

Litany for Priests

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis

Lord, give him the Heart of the Good Shepherd.

For the successors of the Apostles

Lord, give them fatherly concern for their priests.

For Your Bishops chosen by the Holy Spirit

Lord, keep them close to Your sheep.

For Your Pastors

Lord, teach them to serve rather than to seek to be served.

For confessors and spiritual directors

Lord, make them docile instruments of Your Spirit.

For those who announce Your Word

Lord, let them communicate Your Spirit and Life.

For those who help the lay apostolate

Lord, encourage them to give witness.

For those who work with the youth

Lord, may they commit the youth to You.

For those who work among the poor

Lord, make them to see and serve You in them.

For those who care for the sick

May they teach them the value of suffering, Lord.

For poor priests

Help them, Lord.

For sick priests

Heal them, Lord.

For elderly priests
Give them joyful hope, Lord.

For the sad and afflicted priests
Console them, Lord.

For anxious and troubled priests
Give them Your peace, Lord.

For the ridiculed and persecuted priests
Defend their cause, Lord.

For lukewarm priests
Inflame them, Lord.

For the discouraged priests
Give them courage, Lord.

For those who aspire to the priesthood
Give them perseverance, Lord.

For all priests
Give them fidelity to You and Your Church, Lord.

For all priests
**Give them obedience and love for the Holy Father,
Lord.**

For all priests
Let them live in communion with their Bishop, Lord.

That all priests
Be one as You, Lord, and the Father are One.

That all priests
**May promote the justice with which You, Lord, are
just.**

That all priests
Collaborate in the unity of the Presbyterate, Lord.

That all priests, filled with Your presence
Live joyfully in celibacy, Lord.

To all priests
**Grant them the fullness of Your Spirit, Lord, and
transform them into Yourself.**

Let us pray:
Divine Heart of Jesus, Heart full of zeal for the Glory of
Your Father, we pray for all Your priests. By Your Holy
Spirit, fill them with faith, zeal, and love.
Amen.

Litany of St. John Vianney

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously 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 Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,

Pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Pray for us.

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, model of the priesthood,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, glory of the diocesan priesthood,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, heroic in the practice of all virtues,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, humble of heart,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, lover of poverty,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, devoted to the conversion of sinners,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, mirror of purity,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, ardent lover of Jesus in the Most
Blessed Sacrament,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, most devoted son of the Virgin Mary,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, courageous shepherd of his flock,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, martyr of the confessional,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, filled with the spirit of self-sacrifice,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, exemplary in obedience,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, terror of the demons,
Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who was willing to suffer all things in order to sanctify his parish,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who loved God without limits,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who dedicated himself to the teaching of the Faith,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who sanctified himself through heroic prayer and fasting,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who found his joy and strength in the daily celebration of the Holy Mass,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who was nourished by the Divine Office and the Rosary,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who persevered through all difficulties,

Pray for us.

St. John Vianney, who models for us true priestly zeal and holiness,

Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Pray for us, St. John Vianney,
**That we may be made worthy of the promises of
Christ.**

Let us pray:

All-powerful, merciful God, You made St. John Vianney
admirable in his pastoral zeal and his constant ardour
for prayer and penance. Grant that we, following his
example and imploring his intercession, may win the
souls of our brethren for Christ and with them attain to
everlasting glory. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Saint Faustina's Praises of the Divine Mercy

God's is the flower - Mercy the fruit.

Let the doubting soul read these considerations on
Divine Mercy and become trusting:

Response: **I Trust in You**

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the
Father, **I trust in You**

Divine Mercy, greatest attribute of God,...

Divine Mercy, incomprehensible mystery,...

Divine Mercy, fount gushing forth from the mystery of
the Most Blessed Trinity, ...

Divine Mercy, unfathomed by any intellect, human or
angelic,...

Divine Mercy, from which wells forth all life and
happiness,...

Divine Mercy, better than the heavens,...

Divine Mercy, source of miracles and wonders,...

Divine Mercy, encompassing the whole universe,...

Divine Mercy, descending to earth in the Person of the
Incarnate Word,...

Divine Mercy, which flowed out from the open wound
of the Heart of Jesus,...

Divine Mercy, enclosed in the Heart of Jesus for us, and
especially for sinners,...

Divine Mercy, unfathomed in the institution of the
Sacred Host,...

Divine Mercy, in the founding of Holy Church,...

Divine Mercy, in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism,...

Divine Mercy, in our justification through Jesus Christ,...

Divine Mercy, accompanying us our whole life,...
Divine Mercy, embracing us especially at the hour of
death,...
Divine Mercy, endowing us with immortal life,...
Divine Mercy, accompanying us every moment of our
life,...
Divine Mercy, shielding us from the fire of hell,...
Divine Mercy, in the conversion of hardened sinners,...
Divine Mercy, astonishment for Angels,
incomprehensible to Saints,...
Divine Mercy, unfathomed in all the mysteries of God,...
Divine Mercy, lifting us out of every misery,...
Divine Mercy, source of our happiness and joy,...
Divine Mercy, in calling us forth from nothingness to
existence,...
Divine Mercy, embracing all the works of His hands,...
Divine Mercy, crown of all of God's handiwork,...
Divine Mercy, in which we are all immersed,...
Divine Mercy, sweet relief for anguished hearts,...
Divine Mercy, only hope of despairing souls,...
Divine Mercy, repose of hearts, peace amidst fear,...
Divine Mercy, delight and ecstasy of holy souls,...
Divine Mercy, inspiring hope against all hope,...

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury
of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and
increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we
might not despair nor become despondent, but with
great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will,
which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.

Prayer for the Increase of Priestly, Permanent Diaconal and Religious Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Eternal Father, Son of the Virgin Mary, we thank you for offering your life in sacrifice on the Cross, and for renewing this sacrifice in every Mass celebrated throughout the world.

In the power of the Holy Spirit we adore you and proclaim your living presence in the Holy Eucharist.

We desire to imitate the love you show us in your death and resurrection, by loving and serving one another.

We ask you to call many young people of our Diocese to religious life, and to provide the holy and generous priests and permanent deacons that are so needed [in our Kamloops Diocese] today.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer. **Amen.**

(by Archbishop Justin Rigali, St. Louis – adapted)

Saint Faustina's Prayer for the Holy Church and the Priests

(Diary 1052)

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit and give power to the words of priests so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; You Yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.

May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things. I ask You, Jesus, for a special blessing and for light for the priests before whom I will make my confessions throughout my lifetime. Amen.

Prayer For Priests

O Almighty, Eternal God, look upon the face of Thy Son, and for love of Him Who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on Thy priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands. Keep them close to Thee, lest the enemy prevail against them so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray to Thee for Thy faithful and fervent priests; for Thy unfaithful and tepid priests; for Thy priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Thy tempted priests; for Thy lonely and desolate priests; for Thy young priests; for Thy dying priests; for the souls of Thy priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I commend to Thee the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Thy Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me or helped and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way. O Jesus, keep them all, close to Thy heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in all eternity. **Amen.**

(By Cardinal Cushing)

St. Thérèse Of Lisieux

A Prayer For Priests

O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within
the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.

Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them
and shield them from the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister
be their joy and consolation here,
and in heaven their beautiful and
everlasting crown. **Amen.**

Prayer of Adoration by Saint Teresa of Calcutta

O God, we believe you are here. We adore you and love you with our whole heart and soul because you are most worthy of all our love. We desire to love you as the blessed do in heaven. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being utterly, that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us, that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus!

*Daily prayer for
vocations to be said at
home or in front of the
Most Blessed Sacrament*

**All Parishioners including Spiritual Mothers
without Children**

“O God, grant that one of our Diocesan sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide any young people that I meet to always do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give You a holy priest! Amen.”

Spiritual Mothers with Children

“O God, grant that one of my children may become a Diocesan priest or religious! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give You a holy priest or religious! Amen.”

Invocation for the Priesthood and Religious Life

Leader: Lord Jesus, Your great love for us moved You to remain with us under the appearance of the Eucharistic Bread. We kneel before You and offer You our faith, love, gratitude, and adoration, and we place in Your hands all that we are and all that we have.

In union with Your most beloved Mother, we have come here to accompany You and meet You, the Friend of our souls and the Light of our lives. The wonderful works of creation show us the extent of Your power and the glory of Your majesty. In the Eucharist we experience the joy of Your humble presence, hidden in the sacrament but revealed to every believing heart.

We come to offer You our heartfelt prayer for the world, for all people, for Your priests, and for all those who have consecrated their lives totally to You. O Lord and Master of the harvest, we especially implore You to send numerous and holy labourers to reap the harvest You, Yourself, have sown in souls.

All: We need You, Lord.

Leader: We need men who will give You their mouths to tell us about You, their feet to travel the world preaching Your Gospel, their hands to

bless us, their eyes to reflect the love with which You, our Father, look upon us.

We need You, Lord. The world and the Church need You. Humbly and earnestly, we ask You to send us priests, vessels of Your saving power. Send us missionaries, consecrated men and women who will shine as light in the darkness of the world and be as salt to free us from the corruption of sin and evil.

All: Lord, send Your labourers to Your harvest.

Leader: You took pity on the crowd that followed You for they were as sheep without a shepherd. Look upon us who strive to follow You today, and hear our prayer.

All: Send us shepherds after Your own heart.

Leader: The harvest is indeed great, and You bought it at the price of Your Passion and death. Do not let it go unharvested for want of labourers.

All: Lord, send labourers into Your fields.

Leader: The priest is another Christ. In him our faith recognizes and honours You, Our Lord, walking alongside us through time. The priest is a man among men, yet chosen to celebrate the sublime mystery of the Eucharist, to perpetuate Your love through the ages, to forgive sins in Your name, to save in Your name, and to consecrate mankind and all creation in the name of the Blessed Trinity.

All: Lord, send priests to Your Church.

Leader: Men and women who live consecrated lives leave everything in order to follow You alone, the Supreme Good, in perfect charity. They give their freedom out of love for You; they make You the exclusive centre of their heart and love, and they follow You in poverty on the path of sacrifice. Great is their generosity and their consecrated life is a great gift to Your Church.

All: Lord, send Your Church vocations to the consecrated life.

Leader: In the remotest corners of the world, at times in the midst of persecution and at great personal risk, Your missionaries preach Your Gospel to those who have not heard of You. They endure loneliness, fatigue, and misunderstanding, yet they bear it all with love, so long as they can see Your love take root in the hearts of those people to whom they reach out.

All: Lord, send men and women missionaries to Your Church.

Leader: Lord, we have total trust in Your promise, "I will be with you until the end of time." You are with us, and You never stop calling men and women to take Your place at our side as we journey toward You. You continue to pronounce the words that have changed the story of so many lives: "Follow me." Help those You call to be generous, not to close their hearts to Your call, to answer it promptly like the prophet Isaiah: "Here I am, Lord, send me."

All: Grant generosity, faith, and courage to those whom You have called.

Leader: Renew all Your priests and those You have called to the consecrated life in their love for You and Your Church. We pray for each and every one of them: the fervent and the weary, those passionately in love with You and the struggling, and those whose hope has faded. May their lives radiate the virtues of purity, obedience, patience, charity, gentleness, and understanding together with a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, humility, and simplicity.

All: Grant us priests and consecrated souls after Your own heart.

Leader: Lord, inspire and help all those who serve You in seminaries and houses of formation. May their labours provide Your Church with a new generation of saints, doctors, martyrs, and apostles – a new host of witnesses on fire with zeal for the new evangelization.

All: Lord, send us holy priests and consecrated souls.

Leader: We pray to You, Lord, for all those who dedicate their lives to promote vocations. May they be faithful to their call to be fishers of men, and never tire of casting their nets into the deep. Give them persevering love, and bless their efforts and prayer so that the Church will always have the vocations she needs to fulfill her mission.

All: Lord, bless Your Church with new generations of priests and consecrated persons.

Leader: The enemy of our souls knows the good that a single priest or consecrated vocation will

do for the Church, and he continually tempts those You call, through fear, selfishness, and the desire for an easier life. They all have to overcome as well the atmosphere of the world and their own passions. We ask You to strengthen their souls and grant them the generosity and courage to reject firmly anything that could endanger their faithful answer to Your call.

All: Lord, help those You call to be generous.

Leader: The harvest is great. The labourers are few.

All: Lord, send labourers to Your harvest.

Leader: For young people who feel You call,

All: Grant them the love to be generous.

Leader: For all those consecrated to You,

All: Increase their charity.

Leader: For young people You call who are doubting,

All: Grant them the certainty that only faith and love can give.

Leader: For those who feel Your call at an early age,

All: Grant them supernatural wisdom.

Leader: For seminarians and those information for the consecrated life,

All: Grant them perseverance.

Leader: For consecrated souls and priests who are undergoing temptation,

All: Grant them fortitude and perseverance in their love.

Leader: For zealous consecrated souls and priests,

All: Grant them even greater love.

Leader: For consecrated souls and priests who have declined in their fervour,

All: Look with love on their original sacrifice, and in Your mercy revive their initial love.

Leader: For consecrated souls and priests experiencing desolation,

All: Be their consolation.

Leader: For consecrated souls and priests experiencing loneliness,

All: Be their company.

Leader: For missionary priests and consecrated souls,

All: Fill them with Your zeal.

Leader: For young priests and consecrated souls,

All: Move them strongly to seek Your glory.

Leader: For elderly priests and consecrated souls,

All: Sustain them in Your service.

Leader: For all deceased priests and consecrated souls,

All: Grant them a share in Your glory.

Leader: The harvest is great. The labourers are few.

All: Lord, send labourers into Your harvest.

Leader: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the Shepherds of the Church,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who most need Your grace,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who are far from You,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the particular needs of our local Church,

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus, eternal priest, never cease to send Your Church new priests and consecrated men and women, shepherds after Your own heart. We need Your ministers. We need Your envoys. They are the instruments of Your grace and love. They console us in Your name; they nourish our hope, strengthen our faith, and intensify our love. We need them, Lord, because we need You, we need Your love. Do not abandon us, Lord. Send labourers to the harvest of the world. Send fishers of men who will gather us up in the nets of Your mercy. With humility and trust we implore You to send us shepherds after Your own heart. The harvest is great, the labourers are few. Lord, send labourers to Your harvest. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Inspirational Stories

Blessed Alessandrina da Costa

A story from the life of Alessandrina da Costa, beatified on April 25, 2004, reveals the transforming power and visible effects of the sacrifice made by a sick and forgotten girl.

In 1941, Alessandrina wrote to her spiritual director, Fr. Mariano Pinho, telling him that Jesus told her, “My daughter, a priest living in Lisbon is close to being lost forever; he offends Me terribly. Call your spiritual director and ask his permission that I may have you suffer in a special way for this soul.”

Once Alessandrina had received permission from her spiritual director, she suffered greatly. She felt the severity of the priest’s errors, how he wanted to know nothing about God and was close to self-damnation. She even heard the priest’s full name. Poor Alessandrina experienced the hellish state of this priest’s soul and prayed urgently, “Not to hell, no! I offer myself as a sacrifice for him, as long as you want.”

Fr. Pinho inquired of the Cardinal of Lisbon whether one of the priests of his diocese was of particular concern. The Cardinal openly confirmed that he was, in fact, very worried about one of his priests, and when he mentioned the name of the priest, it was the same one that Jesus had spoken of to Alessandrina.

Some months later, a friend of Fr. Pinho, Fr. David

1 The stories of Blessed Alessandrina da Costa, Bishop William Emmanuel Ketteler, Pope John Paul I, and Eliza Vaughan were taken from *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity*, by the Congregation for the Clergy (Rome, 2007). The story of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan was taken from the booklet *Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan*, by Helena Scott and Ethel Tolanski (London: Catholic Truth Society, 2009).

Novais, recounted to him an unusual incident. Fr. David had just held a retreat in Fatima, where attended a modest gentleman whose exemplary behaviour made him pleasantly attractive to all the participants. On the last night of the retreat, this man suddenly had a heart attack. He asked to see a priest, to whom he confessed and from whom he received Holy Communion. Shortly thereafter he died, fully reconciled with God. It turned out that this man was actually a priest – the very priest for whom Alessandrina had suffered so greatly.

My Priesthood and a Stranger

William Emmanuel Ketteler (1811-77)

Each of us owes gratitude for our lives and our vocations to the prayers and sacrifices of others. One of the leading figures of the German episcopacy of the nineteenth century, and among the founders of Catholic sociology, Bishop Ketteler owed his gratitude to a simple nun, the least and poorest lay sister of her convent.

In 1869, a German diocesan bishop was sitting together with his guest, Bishop Ketteler from Mainz. During the course of their conversation, the diocesan bishop brought up his guest's extremely blessed apostolate. Bishop Ketteler explained to his host, "I owe thanks for everything that I have accomplished with God's help, to the prayer and sacrifice of someone I do not even know. I can only say that I know somebody has offered his or her whole life to our loving God for me, and I have this sacrifice to thank that I even became a priest."

He continued, "Originally, I wasn't planning on becoming a priest. I had already finished my law degree and thought only about finding an important place

in the world to begin acquiring honour, prestige, and wealth. An extraordinary experience held me back and directed my life down a different path.”

“One evening I was alone in my room, considering my future plans of fame and fortune, when something happened which I cannot explain. Was I awake or asleep? Did I really see it or was it just a dream? One thing I do know, it brought about a change in my life. I saw Jesus very clearly and distinctly standing over me in a radiant cloud, showing me His Sacred Heart. A nun was kneeling before Him, her hands raised up in prayer. From His mouth I heard the words, ‘She prays unremittingly for you!’”

“I distinctly saw the appearance of the sister and her traits made such an impression on me that she has remained in my memory to this day. She seemed to be quite an ordinary lay sister. Her clothing was very poor and rough. Her hands were red and calloused from hard work. Whatever it was, a dream or not, it was extraordinary. It shook me to the depths of my being so that from that moment on, I decided to consecrate myself to God in the service of the priesthood.”

“I withdrew to a monastery for a retreat, and I talked about everything with my confessor. Then, at the age of 30, I began studying theology. You know the rest of the story. So, if you think that I have done something admirable, now you know who really deserves the credit – a religious sister who prayed for me, maybe without even knowing who I was. I am convinced, I was prayed for and I will continue to be prayed for in secret and that without these prayers, I could never have reached the goal that God has destined for me.”

“Do you have any idea of the whereabouts or the identity of the sister who has prayed for you?” asked the diocesan bishop.

“No, I can only ask God each day that, while she is

still on earth, He bless and repay her a thousandfold for what she has done for me.”

The sister in the barn

The next day, Bishop Ketteler visited a convent of sisters in a nearby city and celebrated Holy Mass in their chapel. He was distributing Holy Communion to the last row of sisters when one of them suddenly caught his eye. His face grew pale, and he stood there, motionless. Finally regaining his composure, he gave Holy Communion to the sister, who was kneeling in recollection, unaware of his hesitation. He then concluded the liturgy.

The bishop who had invited him the previous day came and joined him at the convent for breakfast. When they had finished, Bishop Ketteler asked the Mother Superior to present to him all the sisters in the house. Before long, she had gathered all the sisters together, and both bishops went to meet them. Bishop Ketteler greeted them, but it was apparent that he did not find the one he was looking for.

He quietly asked the Mother Superior, “Are all the sisters really here?”

She looked over the group of sisters and then said, “Your Excellency, I called them all, but, in fact, one of them is not here.”

“Why didn’t she come?”

“She works in the barn,” answered the Superior, “and in such a commendable way that, in her enthusiasm, she sometimes forgets other things.”

“I would like to see that sister,” requested the Bishop.

A little while later, the sister who had been summoned stepped into the room. Again Bishop Ketteler turned pale, and after a few words to all the sisters, he asked if he could be alone with the sister who had just come in.

“Do you know me?” he asked her.

“I have never seen Your Excellency before.”

“Have you ever prayed for me or offered up a good deed for me?” he wanted to know.

“I do not recall that I have ever heard of Your Excellency.”

The Bishop was silent for a few moments and then he asked, “Do you have a particular devotion that you like?”

“The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus,” was the response.

“You have, it seems, the most difficult task in the convent,” he continued.

“Oh no, Your Excellency,” the sister countered, “but I cannot lie, it is unpleasant for me.”

“And what do you do when you have such temptations against your work?”

“For things that cost me greatly, I grew accustomed to facing them with joy and enthusiasm out of love for God, and then I offer them up for one soul on earth. To whom God chooses to be gracious as a result, I have left completely up to Him and I do not want to know. I also offer up my time of Eucharistic adoration every evening from 8 to 9 for this intention.”

“Where did you get the idea to offer up all your merits for someone totally unknown to you?”

“I learned it while I was still out in the world,” she replied. “At school our teacher, the parish priest, taught us how we can pray and offer our merits for our relatives. Besides that, he said that we should pray much for those who are in danger of being lost. Since only God knows who really needs prayer, it is best to put your merits at the disposition of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, trusting in his wisdom and omnipotence. That is what I have done,” she concluded, “and I always believed that God would find the right soul.”

Day of birth and day of conversion

“How old are you?” Ketteler asked.

“Thirty-three, Your Excellency,” she answered. The Bishop paused a moment. Then he asked her,

“When were you born?”

The sister stated her day of birth. The Bishop gasped; her birthday was the day of his conversion! Back then, he saw her exactly as she was before him now.

“And have you any idea whether your prayers and sacrifices have been successful?” he asked her further.

“No, Your Excellency.”

“Don’t you want to know?”

“Our dear God knows when something good happens, and that is enough,” was the simple answer.

The Bishop was shaken. “So continue this work in the name of the Lord,” he said. The sister knelt down immediately at his feet and asked for his blessing. The Bishop solemnly raised his hands and said with great emotion, “With the power entrusted to me as a bishop, I bless your soul, I bless your hands and their work, I bless your prayers and sacrifices, your self-renunciation and your obedience. I bless especially your final hour and ask God to assist you with all his consolation.”

“Amen,” the sister answered calmly, then stood up and left.

Servant of God Pope John Paul I (1912-78)

“My mother taught it to me.”

Pope John Paul I began his last general audience in September of 1978 by praying an Act of Love:

“O my God, I love You above all things with all my heart. You who are infinitely good and our eternal happiness. Out of love for You, I love my neighbour as myself and forgive any injustice which I have suffered. Lord, grant that I may love You more and more!”

“This very well-known prayer was inspired by words from the Bible. My mother taught it to me, and I still pray it repeatedly throughout the day.”

He spoke these words about his mother with such an affectionate tone of voice that those present in the audience hall responded with a wave of applause. A young woman in the audience said, with tears in her eyes, “It is so touching that the Pope mentioned his mother. Now I understand better what an influence we mothers can have on our children.”

Eliza Vaughan

It is a fact that vocations to the priesthood must be prayed for; Jesus speaks about it Himself in the Gospel: “The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest!” (Mt 9: 37-38)

The Englishwoman Eliza Vaughan is a particularly encouraging example of a mother imbued with a priestly spirit who frequently prayed for vocations.

Let us give our children to God

Eliza came from a strong Protestant family, one of the founders of the Rolls-Royce car company. Yet even during her childhood education in France, she was

deeply impressed by the exemplary efforts of the Catholic Church toward the care of the poor.

After she married Colonel John Francis Vaughan in the summer of 1830, Eliza converted to the Catholic Faith, despite the objection of her relatives. During the Catholic persecution in England under Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603), Vaughan's ancestors preferred imprisonment and expropriation to being unfaithful to their beliefs.

Courtfield, the ancestral family home became a place of refuge for priests during the decades of terror in England, a place where the Holy Mass was often celebrated secretly. Nearly three centuries had now passed, but the Catholic beliefs of the family had not changed.

So profound and zealous was Eliza's religious conversion that she proposed to her husband to offer all of their children back to God. This remarkable woman made a habit of praying for an hour each day before the Blessed Sacrament in the house chapel at Courtfield. She prayed to God for a large family and for many religious vocations among her children. And her prayers were answered! She bore fourteen children, and died shortly after the birth of the last child, John, in 1853.

Of the thirteen children that lived, six of her eight boys became priests: two priests in religious orders, one diocesan priest, a bishop, an archbishop, and a cardinal. Of the five daughters, four became nuns in religious orders. What a blessing for the family, and what an impact on all of England! The Vaughan children enjoyed a pleasant childhood because their virtuous mother knew how to educate them in a very natural way by uniting spiritual and religious obligations with amusement and cheerfulness. Thanks to their mother, prayer and daily Mass in the house chapel were just as much a part of everyday life as music, athletics, amateur

theatre, horse riding, and playing. It was never boring for the children when their mother told them stories from the lives of the saints, who little by little became their dearest friends.

Eliza happily let her children accompany her on visits to the sick and needy of the area. On such occasions, they learned how to be generous, to make sacrifices, and to give away their savings or their toys.

Shortly after the birth of her fourteenth child, Eliza died. Two months after her death, Colonel Vaughan wrote in a letter that he was convinced Divine Providence had brought Eliza to him. "I thanked the Lord in adoration today that I could give back to him my dearly beloved wife. I poured out my heart to him, full of thankfulness that, as an example and a guide, he gave me Eliza with whom I am still now bound by an inseparable, spiritual bond. What wonderful consolation and grace she brought me! I still see her as I always saw her before the Blessed Sacrament: her inner purity and extraordinary human kindness which her beautiful face reflected during the prayer."

Labourers in the vineyard of the Lord

The many vocations from the Vaughan family are a unique legacy in British history and a blessing which came especially through their mother, Eliza.

At the age of sixteen, Herbert, the oldest son, shared his priestly vocation with his parents. Their reactions were very different. His mother, who had prayed a great deal for it, smiled and said, "Child, I have known it for a long time." His father, however, needed a little time to come to terms with the decision, since the inheritance goes to the oldest, and he had hoped Herbert would have a prestigious military career. How could he have known that his son would one day be the Archbishop of Westminster, founder of the Millhill Missionaries, and

then a cardinal? Yet the father also bowed to his wishes writing once to his friend, "If God wants Herbert for himself, he can have all the others as well."

Although Reginald married, as did Francis, who inherited the family estate, the Lord did call nine other Vaughan children. Roger, the second oldest, became a Benedictine prior and later the beloved Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, where he built the cathedral. Kenelm was a Cistercian and later a diocesan priest; Joseph, the fourth son, became a Benedictine like his brother, and founded a new abbey.

Bernard, the most lively of them all, loved dancing, sports, and anything fun; he became a Jesuit. On the day before he entered the order, he went to a ball where he told his dance partner, "This dance with you is my last, because I am joining the Jesuits."

Shocked, the girl replied, "Really? You want to become a Jesuit? But you who love the world so much and are such an excellent dancer!?"

His equivocal, but beautiful answer was, "That is why I am consecrating myself to God."

John, the youngest, was ordained a priest by his oldest brother, Herbert, and later became the Auxiliary Bishop of Salford, England.

Four of the five daughters in the family entered convents. Gladis entered the Order of the Visitation, Teresa joined the Sisters of Mercy, Claire became a Poor Clare, and Mary an Augustinian prioress. Margaret, the fifth Vaughan daughter, wanted to be a religious sister, but could not do so because of poor health. Consecrated to God, she lived at home, but spent the last years of her life in a convent.

Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan

April 30, 1975. The communists of North Vietnam had taken over South Vietnam. Just seven days earlier, Pope Paul VI had appointed Bishop Thuan Van Nguyen as coadjutor Archbishop of Saigon (the capital of South Vietnam).

On August 15, 1975, Archbishop Thuan was arrested and began thirteen years of imprisonment, nine of which he was to spend in solitary confinement in horrendous conditions.

In prison, he managed to celebrate Mass. Some local Catholics sent him a bottle of medicine for a reported stomach complaint, but the “medicine” was in fact wine. They also managed to send him altar breads secretly. Carefully hidden from the camp guards, Archbishop Thuan was able to say Mass every evening, sometimes even with a congregation of a few Catholic prisoners, and to receive and distribute Holy Communion. To make the wine last longer, he used just a few drops each day, and because he had nothing to use as a chalice, he held the wine in the palm of his hand.

Archbishop Thuan’s spiritual life, always focused on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, drew immense strength from his daily Mass and Holy Communion. At night, the Catholic prisoners kept a vigil of adoration, taking turns staying awake in prayer with the Blessed Sacrament. Many Christians among the prisoners returned to the fervent practice of their faith, and made a deep impression on their fellow captives by their love and service towards others, learned directly from Jesus in the Eucharist. Soon Buddhists and those of other religions or none were asking to know more about Christianity, and the small circle of light grew quietly and steadily, with conversions and baptisms.

Thoughts for Reflection

A great need

The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic Adoration. Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of love. May our adoration never cease.

– Pope John Paul II

Without Him we can do nothing

I know I wouldn't be able to work one week if it were not for the continual force coming from Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. In our society we begin our day with Mass and Holy Communion and we end it with one full hour of Adoration. We have permission from the different bishops to expose the Blessed Sacrament. All of us know that unless we believe and can see Jesus in the appearance of bread on the altar, we will not be able to see Him in the distressing disguise of the poor. Therefore, these two loves are but one in Jesus.

– Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Faith is to believe

For those who believe, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.

– St. Augustine

Prayer is so important

To lose one's way is nothing more than the giving up of prayer. Whoever does not pray does not need the devil to lead him off the path. He will throw himself into hell.

– St. Teresa of Avila

A way to conquer the devil

Do you want the Lord to give you many graces? Visit Him often. Do you want Him to give you few graces? Visit Him rarely. Do you want the devil to attack you? Visit Jesus rarely in the Blessed Sacrament. Do you want the devil to flee from you? Visit Jesus often. Do you want to conquer the devil? Take refuge often at the feet of Jesus. Do you want to be conquered by the devil? Forget about visiting Jesus. My dear ones, the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament is an extremely necessary way to conquer the devil. Therefore, go often to visit Jesus and the devil will not come out victorious against you.

– St. John Bosco

Guests at His table

Lord, we thank You for having us as guests at the banquet of the Eucharist.
Here we have listened to Your word and eaten the food of eternal life.
May we go forth from here nourished,
honoured, blessed, humbled yet exalted.
May we be so sure of our worth before You that the honours of this world will never ensnare us. And in Your goodness grant us a place at the heavenly banquet.
Amen.

Do this in memory of Me

Jesus said to His Apostles: “Do this in memory of Me.” We all love to be remembered. This was true even for Jesus. But if we want to be remembered, we have a duty also to remember. Memory is a powerful thing. Wrongly used, it brings death; rightly used, it brings life, and is a form of immortality. It keeps the past alive. Those who remember never die; they continue to walk and talk with us. Lord, when we celebrate the Eucharist, we are remembering You. May that remembering bring us life here and hereafter.

What group do we belong to?

There are only three kinds of persons: those who serve God, having found Him; others who are occupied in seeking Him, not having found Him; while the remainder live without seeking Him and without having found Him. The first are reasonable and happy, the last are foolish and unhappy, those in between are unhappy and reasonable.

– Blaise Pascal

Let your light shine

The most important thing about each of us is our capacity for goodness. We can be a source of light. We have hands that can care, eyes that can see, ears that can hear, tongues that can speak, feet that can walk, and above all hearts that can love. Unfortunately, through laziness, selfishness, and cowardice, our light can be dimmed, so we become shadows of the people we could be. Lord, help us to believe in our goodness, and let the light of that goodness shine. On seeing this light, others find their way, and You will be glorified.

Stir the hearts of young people

Lord, Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of our souls, You who know Your sheep and know how to reach man's heart ... Stir the hearts of those young people who would follow You but who cannot overcome doubts and fears, and who in the end follow other voices and other paths which lead nowhere. You who are the Word of the Father, the Word which creates and saves, the Word which enlightens and sustains hearts – conquer with Your Spirit the resistance and delays of indecisive hearts. Arouse in those whom You call the courage of love's answer: "Here I am, send me."

– Pope John Paul II

God's call

God's call is mysterious; it comes in the darkness of faith. It is so fine, so subtle, that it is only with the deepest silence within us that we can hear it. And yet nothing is surer or stronger, nothing is so decisive and overpowering, as that call. This call is uninterrupted: God is always calling us.

Only one thing necessary

Each one of us has some kind of vocation. We are all called by God to share in His life and in His Kingdom. Each one of us is called to a special place in the Kingdom. If we find that place, we will be happy. If we do not find it, we can never be completely happy. For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be.

– Thomas Merton

The two roads

Jesus said that there are two roads we can follow. The first is wide and easy to travel.

It is downhill most of the way.

It is the way of comfort and ease, pleasure and self-seeking.

Many are fooled and travel down this road.

But in the long run it leads them nowhere. They die in the desert.

The second road is narrow and difficult.

It is uphill a lot of the way. It is the way of struggle and sacrifice.

Few take this road. But they are the lucky ones.

This road leads to the Promised Land.

Holding up a mirror

There are people who have a steady flame shining from deep inside them. This flame is not extinguished when others criticize or ignore them, for it is not dependent on what others think of them; it is what they think of themselves with a quiet certainty. Each of us can behave in either of two ways: we can behave like a sinner or a saint. We help people more by giving them a favourable image of themselves than by constantly harping on their faults. The saints hold up a mirror before us. In this mirror we get a most favourable image of ourselves. We see what we are capable of. All we need is the will to walk in the light of what we have seen.

Ending a Holy Hour

I always spend the last few moments of this time with Christ, asking the help and protection of His Mother and our Mother. I also address a few saintly friends already in the Kingdom of God and ask them to pray for me. And, finally, I greet my guardian angel, that mysterious celestial citizen whom God gave me when I started out this brief human experience. I almost always leave the presence of Our Lord refreshed or at least better prepared for whatever the day may bring. Give me the Eucharist or let me die.

– St. Peter Julian Eymard

An unquenchable longing

All of us can experience moments of great joy because in His goodness God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come. However, moments of joy, no matter how wonderful, will never satisfy the human heart. What we long for is a permanent state of happiness. But that is unattainable here. So what must we do? Like desert travellers, we must go forward from one oasis to another, with the conviction that God has a homeland prepared for us at the end of our journey. This conviction will make it possible for us to travel onwards with an ache in our heart and an unquenchable longing in our soul.

Gratitude

Once there was a young man who had never thought of donating blood. But then his father got very ill and was hospitalized. One day the son was sitting by his father's bedside as he was getting a blood transfusion. As he watched the blood flowing into his father's veins, he suddenly realized that someone had donated the blood that was now keeping his father alive. Straightaway he made up his mind to become a donor, and he was as good as his word.

Many are willing to avail of the generosity of others, but few are willing to give something back. This is why gratitude is so important. It makes us want to give something back.

Faith for the new millennium

May your faith be certain, that is, founded on the Word of God, on the Gospel message, and especially on the life, person, and word of Christ.

May your faith be strong; may it not hesitate or waver before the doubts and uncertainties which philosophical systems or fashionable movements suggest to you.

May your faith be joyful, because it is based on awareness of possessing a divine gift.

Let your faith be active; let it manifest itself in generous charity towards those who are in need; let it be expressed in your availability for initiatives for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

– Pope John Paul II

Thou art a priest forever

To live in the midst of the world with no desire for its pleasures ...

To be a member of every family, yet belong to none ...

To share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds ...

To go daily from men to God to offer Him their petitions ...

To return from God to men to offer them His hope ... To have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity ...

To teach and to pardon,
console and bless always.

O God, what a life, and it is yours,

O Priest of Jesus Christ!

– J.B. Henri Lacordaire, OP

Sharing in the Lord's ministry

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes
so that we may see the signs of Your presence
in our lives and in the world.

Touch our ears so that we may hear Your work.

Touch our tongues so that we may profess our faith.

Touch our hands so that we may give and receive.

Touch our feet so that we may walk in Your paths.

Touch our minds so that we may understand Your ways.

Touch our wills so that they may be in tune with Your will.

Touch our hearts so that we may bring Your love
to our brothers and sisters,

To the praise and glory of God.

Amen.

Be not afraid

Confusion, frustration, and sometimes outright rebellion can be part of the discernment process. Nevertheless, Jesus tells us, “Be not afraid. I am here.” His love can conquer everything, and if we open ourselves to the power of His grace, we will come to find our vocation. Jesus’ desire to tell us is infinitely greater than our desire to know. We need but say with simple hearts, “Jesus, I trust in Thee.”

Question needs an answer

What will you do with your life? What are your plans? Have you ever thought of committing your existence totally to Christ? Do you think that there can be anything greater than to bring Jesus to people and people to Jesus?

– Pope John Paul II

Entering the Kingdom of Love

Jesus saw that the rich young man had great potential, so He invited him to enter the world of sharing. But he wasn’t up to it – riches got in the way. As he went away, sadness descended on him, the sadness that descends on us when we choose to live for ourselves. Even though Jesus was sad to see him go, nevertheless, He let him go.

There’s no point in forcing people to make sacrifices. If you take things from people, they are impoverished; but if you can get them to give them up, they are enriched. People are essentially good, but this goodness has to be awakened and called forth, if they are to enter the kingdom of love.

Will you also leave Me?

When many of His disciples were leaving Him, Jesus turned to the Apostles and said, "Will you also leave Me?" These words are addressed to us too. It's not the Lord who leaves us, but we who may leave Him. But why would we want to leave the Lord, who alone has the words of eternal life? We need to make our own Peter's profession of faith. Every Sunday we get a chance to do so. We need the Lord to strengthen our faith. We also need to confirm one another. Lord, confirm our decision to stay with You. Draw us closer to You in bonds of trust, so that we may follow You in love and freedom.

Disturb us, O Lord!

Disturb us, O Lord,
when we are too well pleased with ourselves;
when our dreams have come true because we dreamed
too little;
when we have arrived safely
because we sailed too close to the shore.
Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly,
to venture more seas, where storms shall show Your
mastery,
where losing sight of land we shall find the start.
In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of
our hopes
and invited the brave to follow Him. Amen.



Diocese of Kamloops
Office of Vocations