

Hearts on Fire: A Prayer Service for Vocations

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presider: Let us take a moment to recall that we are in the presence of our Creator,
that we are sinners loved unconditionally and accepted for who we are.

Pause

Come With Me Into the Fields

Based on John 4:35-38; Matthew 9:38

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1. The fields are high and sum-mer's days are few;
2. The seeds were sown - and by o - ther hands than yours;

green fields have turned care - to gold. The time is
nur - tured and cared for they grew. But those who have

here for the har-vest - ing, - for ga - ther - ing home in - to barns. -
sown will not har-vest them; - the reap - ing will not be their care. -

Refrain:

The har-vest is plen - ty; la - bor - ers are few. Come with me in - to the

fields. Your arms may grow wea - ry; Your shoes will wear thin.

1. Come with me in - to the fields. - - fields. 2. Come with me in - to the fields.

Presider: As Jesuits [or Jesuit Colleagues], we have been called in a special way to labor with our brother Jesus Christ to build the kingdom of God by proclaiming the Good News, by sharing God's unconditional love with others, and by working for justice wherever injustice is found.

We pray that the Holy Spirit enlighten our minds and hearts, that we may remember, with great gratitude, the graces that have stirred our hearts to service and recall those people in our lives who have inspired and continue to inspire us to carry on God's great work.

Pause

Presider: To our loving and gracious God, we pray:

***All:* We thank you, Lord, for the many gifts you continue to bestow on us, especially the people we now remember, in whom your grace is made manifest in our lives. We thank you especially for the graces we have received that have enabled us to respond to your loving call to service.**



Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o'clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called "the Beautiful Gate" every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple.

When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, (rise and) walk."

Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God.

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

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Presider: Let us take a moment to recall with amazement and astonishment the work that God has done and continues to do in our lives. Allow God to show us the ways in which God has worked through us to amaze and astonish others.

Pause

Presider: We have been entrusted with the task of inspiring others, in cooperation with God's grace, to embrace lives of Christian service and in a special way to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us reflect upon those times when we have cooperated with God's grace and helped to promote vocations.

Pause

Presider: To our Source and Inspiration, we pray

***All:* Loving and gracious God, we are humbled by the work that you accomplish through us. We thank you for the times we have been open to your Spirit and have encouraged others to follow your path in the priesthood and religious life, especially as members of the Society of Jesus. May you continue to bless those who have chosen this path and give them the strength to persevere.**



Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
***All:* Glory to you, O Lord**

John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

“Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”

He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, “Follow me.”

The Gospel of the Lord

***All:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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Presider: Let us call to mind those times when we have not been sensitive to the promptings of the Spirit in helping to promote and encourage vocations. Let us pray for the grace to be open and generous and to seek new ways to encourage vocations to the priesthood and brotherhood in the Society of Jesus

Pause

Presider: To our generous and forgiving God, we pray

***All:* Creator of all good things, your loving grace set ablaze the hearts of Ignatius and his first companions. Rekindle that fire in our hearts and help us to remain open to the promptings of your Spirit as we seek to find new companions to join us in our mission.**

Presider: Let us now invoke the intercession of our companions in the Lord:*

Ignatius Loyola, our holy founder, man of great desires and perfect humility,.....**All: Pray for us.**
Francis Xavier, courageous warrior ever seeking new souls for Christ,.....**Pray for us.**
Peter Faber, first companion of Ignatius and cherished friend of all,.....**Pray for us.**
Stanislaus Kostka, of ready heart and single mind,.....**Pray for us.**
Edmund Campion, fearless orator and source of courage to the persecuted,.....**Pray for us.**
Aloysius Gonzaga, consolation and care for the sick and dying,.....**Pray for us.**
Peter Canisius, scholar, builder, and teacher,.....**Pray for us.**
Alphonsus Rodriguez, mystical friend, model of hospitality,.....**Pray for us.**
John Francis Regis, compassionate confessor, rekindler of burnt-out faith,.....**Pray for us.**
Dominic Collins, martyr of Christ in Ireland.....**Pray for us.**
John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues and companions, martyrs of Christ in North America,.....**Pray for us.**
Peter Claver, tireless lover of the poor and powerless,.....**Pray for us.**
Gerard Manley Hopkins, catcher of fire and crafter of words,.....**Pray for us.**
Alberto Hurtado, agent of social change in Chile,.....**Pray for us.**
Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, mystical lover of all that is and all that is to be,.....**Pray for us.**
Ignacio Ellacuría and companions, fearless and faithful proclaimers of the Good News
in the face of persecution,.....**Pray for us.**
Pedro Arrupe, grace-filled leader of renewal and rededication,.....**Pray for us.**
All you Saints of the Society of Jesus,.....**Pray for us.**

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Presider: Let us pray:

**All: Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
though we are sinners, you have called us to be his companions
and to engage in the crucial struggle of our time,
the struggle for faith, justice and love.**

**Bring to completion in us the work you began in Ignatius and so many of his
followers. Set aflame the hearts of others to join us in our mission, especially
the hearts of men to join us as companions in the Society of Jesus. May we
always encourage the People of God to listen to the promptings of the Spirit.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



* Adapted from "Litany of Jesuit Saints" by Louis J. McCabe, SJ and Philip G. Steele, SJ in *Hearts on Fire*.