

Elijah Cup – PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

O Almighty and Eternal God, look upon the Face of Thy Christ, 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 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 aged priests; for Thy sick 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 at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Thy Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed or helped me and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly (your priest's name here). O Jesus, keep them all close to Thy heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. Amen. Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us; obtain for us many and holy priests. Amen.



Prayers for vocations are for more men and women to dedicate themselves to serving our Lord and His flock in the religious life. Now more than ever, in these difficult times, "the world needs heroes," as the New York Archdiocese's Office of Vocations puts it. Our police and firemen are considered heroes when they save lives. Why not also think of our priests that way when they do so much to save souls?

As Christ once said, in sending out His disciples in ministry, "the harvest is great but the laborers are few" (Matt 9:37). We offer these prayers for vocations to help send more "laborers" to bring our Lord an abundant crop of people whose lives have been transformed by the graces they receive from our faith!

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps more and more people discern whether or not the Lord is calling them to the priesthood or the religious life (perhaps as a Priest, Deacon, Brother, Sister, or Lay/Third Order Religious).

The first of our prayers for vocations brings up the theme of our clergy and religious as being much needed laborers for our faith.

God who willest not the death of the sinner, but rather that he be converted and live; grant, by the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all the saints, laborers for thy Church, fellow laborers with Christ, to spend and consume themselves for souls. Through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The second reminds us of the importance of the Holy Spirit in giving priests and religious "unselfish zeal" for God's glory and our salvation!

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, show forth, we beseech Thee in Thy Church the Holy Spirit with whose power the apostles were so abundantly filled. We thank Thee for the blessings bestowed upon the work of priests and religious; and we pray that Thou wilt add to the number of those who now pray, labor and sacrifice themselves for Thy glory and the salvation of souls. Give them unselfish zeal for Thy glory. O good Jesus, give us more priests and religious after Thine own Heart!

And, finally the last of our prayers for vocations, lengthier but nonetheless quite moving, was composed by Pope Pius XII, who referred to the priest as being "the ambassador of the divine Redeemer" in his 1947 encyclical *Mediator Dei*.

Jesus, who from the tenderness of Your divine Heart, uttered prayers of compassion for poor humanity, seeking a guide that might conduct it along the difficult paths of the world towards the light and the life; O Lord, who made messengers of Your angels and flaming fires of Your servants, send to these people who are Yours, and who wish to be Yours, many priests, and clothe them with holiness so that Your saints may rejoice.

You who know all hearts, point out the elect to whom You wish to entrust so sublime a ministry of truth and love. Enlighten their minds so that they may understand the great grace of Your divine call. Strengthen their wills so that they may not allow themselves to be overcome by carelessness and pleasure or trapped by the hidden evil desires of human nature and so that they may not fear sacrifice, but spread their wings and, like the royal eagle, soar towards the serene and glorious heights of Your eternal Priesthood.

Reveal to their parents the honor and matchless beauty of the gift of their own sons that they would make to You. Grant them the strength to overcome opposing interests and affections. Inspire in generous souls a desire to aid generously those of Your elect whom poverty prevents from following Your voice. Bestow upon their teachers the necessary light to cultivate in their young hearts the delicate plant of a vocation until the day when, ardent and pure, they will mount to Your holy altar.

Then, Jesus, in their turn may they become true angels for Your people-*angels of purity* who renounce for Your divine love all human love, tender and holy though it be; *angels of charity* who renounce the consolations of an earthly family to create another and greater family of which they will be both father and pastor, and in which the little ones, the unfortunate, the weary and the abandoned, will be the object of their love; *angels of light* through whom faith in You will cause human understanding to be as resplendent as the morning star; *angels of sacrifice* who will be consumed for the welfare of their brethren; *angels of counsel and comfort* who will console them in their grief, sustain them in the combat, and point out to them in the trying hour of doubt, the bright way of virtue and duty; *angels of grace* who will purify and comfort souls and unite them to You by distributing among them the Bread of Life; *angels of peace* who, at the moment of death, will cause them to taste the inexpressible sweetness of desire for and love of You and will open to them the gates of heaven, where You are the light and the infinite joy of hearts forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Pope

O God, the Shepherd and Ruler of all Your faithful people, mercifully look upon Your servant [name of Pope], whom You have chosen as the chief Shepherd to preside over Your Church. We beg You to help him edify, both by word and example, those over whom he has charge, that he may reach everlasting life together with the flock entrusted to him. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and Everlasting God, have mercy on Your servant [name of Pope], our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to Your loving kindness, in the way of eternal salvation, that with Your help he may ever desire that which is pleasing to You and accomplish it with all his strength. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord Jesus, shelter our Holy Father the Pope under the protection of Your Sacred Heart. Be his light, his strength and his consolation.

Prayer #1

Parents Prayer for Vocations

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church of _____ as priests. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us that, faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, we may: announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free, and renew the face of the earth.

Prayer #2

O God, Father of all Mercies, Provider of a bountiful Harvest, send Your Graces upon those You have called to gather the fruits of Your labor; preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you. Open the hearts of Your children that they may discern Your Holy Will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of Your son, Jesus Christ. Teach all Your faithful to follow their respective paths in life guided by Your Divine Word and Truth. Through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the Angels, and Saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant Your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #3

Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church as we experience it today. Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice. Bless the Church of _____ by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers. Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call. We ask this through our Lord.

Prayer #4

Loving God, you call all who believe in you to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ your Son. Call from among us more men and women who will serve you as religious. By their way of life, may they provide a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Archdiocese of _____.

Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.

Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #5

He said to them "Come and See." They came and saw where he was staying (John 1:39).

God of all nations, we are most grateful for the first Catholic missionaries and explorers who came to _____.

As strangers in a strange land they brought with them countless skills, talents and traditions, but their greatest treasure was their faith. May the good News of Jesus Christ, which molded and shaped their lives, continue to mold and shape our lives today.

Bless our diocese with men and women who will follow in their footsteps to serve the Church as religious brothers, sisters, priests, and deacons.

Lord Jesus Christ, help to hear your call to "Come and See." Amen.

Prayer #6

Hail Mary, full of grace; all generations call you blessed.

Hail Mother of God.

When asked by the angel to bear the Son of the Most High, filled with faith, you responded:

"Let it be done unto me."

Holy Mother of Jesus, at the wedding feast at Cana, you prompted your Son to perform his first sign.

Be with us as we discern our life's work and guide us in the way we are called to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

Holy Mother of the Savior, at the foot of the cross you mourned the death of your only Son.

Bless and embrace the loving parents, godparents, and families of all priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Holy Mother of the Good Shepherd, turn your motherly care to this nation. Intercede for us to the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers to the harvest in this land dedicated to your honor.

Queen of Peace, Mirror of Justice, Health of the Sick, inspire vocations in our time.

Let the word of your Son be made flesh anew in the lives of persons anxious to proclaim the good news of everlasting life. Amen.

Prayer #7

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways.
Through Baptism You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others.
Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day.
Help me to become all You desire of me.
Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives.
Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me.
Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call.
Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You.
Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place by serving as
Lay Minister, Sister, Priest, Brother or Deacon.
Amen.

Prayer #8

Father, we're your people, the work of your hands.
So precious are we in your sight that you sent your Son, Jesus.
Jesus calls us to heal the broken-hearted, to dry the tears of those who mourn, to give hope to those
who despair, and to rejoice in your steadfast love.
We, the baptized, realize our call to serve. Help us to know how.
Call forth from among us men and women to be priests, deacons, sisters, brothers and lay ministers.
With our hearts you continue to love your people.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer #9

Loving God, Your Son, Jesus, has shown us that an open heart finds the way.
Help me to find my way in this world.
Keep my heart open to following Jesus' way of serving others in love.
Give me the courage to accept the guidance you offer me through my family, my friends, and my parish
community.
Through the Holy Spirit, you call me to a particular way of life.
If it is the way of a priest, sister, brother, or deacon, then help me to walk it in joyful service to your
people.
With you, my God, I know I can find my way. Amen.

Prayer #10

O God, Who wish all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of Your truth:
Send, we beg You, laborers into Your harvest, and grant them grace to speak Your word with all
boldness; so that Your word may spread and be glorified, and all nations may know You, the only God,
and Him Whom You have sent, Jesus Christ Your Son, Our Lord, Who lives and reigns world without end.
Amen.

Prayer #11

Loving God, Is it I, Lord?

Are you calling me to a vocation of ministry in the Church as Priest, Sister, Brother, or Deacon?

Or if I am already living out a life's vocation, are you asking me to help call others to the ministry of leadership in the Church?

We do need men and women to help lead us as Church, Lord. We are your people of the valley, prairie and pines, the Diocese of _____.

Speak to us, Lord.

Open the minds and hearts of many men and women to live your Word and build your Kingdom.

Speak to me, Lord.

Plant your Word within me so that whatever you call me to be or do, I may say Yes, Here I Am Lord.

Lord here I am!

What would you like me to do with my life? (Pause a while to listen to God for a moment.)

Teach me to do your will, Lord.

Let your Holy Spirit guide me!

Prayer #12

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy.

Stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many men and women.

Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and their talents to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His Holy Church.

May more men and women go forth as priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to all others so that soon they, too, may know You better and love You more... and serving You, be truly happy. Amen.

Prayer #13

Father you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.

Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer #14

Creator God, Life is your gift to me.

Through Baptism you invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others.

Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world.

Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call.

I pray especially for those who serve you as Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Deacons, and Lay Ministers. Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom.

Loving God, You have made me in Your image and likeness, and for this I shall praise You forever.

Through baptism You invite me to serve as Your son Jesus served.

I offer You this day all that I have and all that I am in union with His saving cross.

Father, in the power of the Spirit, You send us forth to build up Your kingdom.

I pray especially for those whom You are calling to serve the church as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers. Help them to hear and answer Your call to discipleship.

The harvest is plenty, but laborers are few.

Please provide for us men and women who will help to gather in a great harvest of souls.

I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #15

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, deacons, 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 to you, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Prayer #16

Loving God, You speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community.

In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church.

We pray especially, in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, deacon, sister, or brother.

May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service. Amen.

Prayer #17

Father in heaven, You sent us Your only Son to redeem us and to build Your kingdom on earth.

Please give us the wisdom and strength we need to follow His call.

Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, that Church vocations may flourish.

Bless our priests with holiness and courage, that they may lead your people to Christ.

Help all sisters and brothers to fulfill their sacred promises and so be effective signs of your kingdom.

Lord, invite more men and women to your service.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #18

Loving God, the provider of all our needs, we, Your faithful people, ask that you bless this parish and our Diocese with an increase of men and women for priestly and committed ministry. Provide from among us those who will lead and work with us in priestly and consecrated service. As You call, so may you also provide the context for listening so that they may respond with generosity and joy. Form our hearts so that we may be a people given to Gospel living and generous for Christian service. Help us all to discern and pursue our vocation in life with strength and courage, making of us a priestly people. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, the High Priest and Servant of our hearts. Amen. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Prayer #19

Loving God, to be Your prophet is my desire, but too often I am more concerned about the bottom line. I want to bring Your message to the world as so many before me have done. My heart leads me to You, but I am not always sure how to respond. Let me know what it is You are calling me to do and the life you are asking me to live. Give me the strength to share with others who are in need of the blessings with which You have enriched my life. Thank You, God, for hearing my prayer. Amen.

Prayer #20

Good and gracious God,
You have called us through Baptism to discipleship with your Son, Jesus Christ, and have sent us to bring the Good News of salvation to all peoples. We pray You to grant us more priests and religious to build up your Church here within the Archdiocese of _____.
Inspire our young men and women by the example of Blessed Junipero Serra to give themselves totally to the work of Christ and His Church. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen!

Prayer #21

Thank you, Lord, for all the many great and wonderful gifts You give to our family. Help us to live each day with joy and humility. Keep us totally dedicated to serving You. Teach us to recognize the many ways You make your Spirit known. Then help each of us to accept your gift – The grace to answer your call to form, strengthen, and expand the Body of Christ.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #22

Father, hear the prayers of Your people, and bring to maturity the seeds You have sown in the field of Your Church.

May many of your people choose to serve You by devoting themselves to the service of their brothers and sisters.

Raise up worthy ministers for Your altars and ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel.

May those who follow in the footsteps of Christ Your Son grow, and provide by their way of life a convincing sign of Your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world.

May all the ministers of Your Church increase in numbers, and persevering in their prayer, perform their ministry with gentleness and concern for others.

Father, keep them all faithful to the call of the Gospel that the world may see in them the living image of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer #23

Lord Jesus, we pray to You for the Catholic priesthood.

Give us more priests, but most especially we ask You to give us holy priests; Messengers of a truth that is all-encompassing and eternal.

Holy priests who know how to offer this truth to the people of their own time and place.

Holy men for today, priests firmly rooted in the tradition, yet imbued with the spirit of this age.

They have undertaken a mission in Your name, Lord.

May the reflection of Your power in them always make it clear that they are your witnesses.

Grant that they may conform their lives to the Paschal Mystery that they celebrate each day in the Eucharist.

May they sense in this mystery the anxious hunger of the world and of their own brothers and sisters for salvation.

May they know, despite this hunger, how to respect the spiritual freedom of others; for it is Your word which has given the world a taste for this freedom.

May they understand and speak the language of their own time.

And may they be careful never to compromise, with opinions that come and go, the imperishable newness of your Gospel.

May they always keep through the dark wintry night of the soul an obstinate hope for the springtime to come.

And when they meet those who persecute you, may they always remember the road to Damascus and the hidden ways of your providence.

Prayer #24

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Savior of the world.
Please manifest in Your Church the Spirit whom You also abundantly bestowed on Your apostles.
Call very many to Your priesthood and Your religious life.
May zeal for Your glory and for the salvation of the world inflame those You have chosen.
May they be saints in Your likeness.
May Your Holy Spirit strengthen them.
May they be priests and religious according to Your own heart!
Amen.

Prayer #25

O Lord, help me know Your will for me.
Let Your light shine in the depths of my heart that I may know what You want me to do with my life.
Help me believe that You have a special plan for me.
Lord, I know I pass through this life only once;
Help me decide how You want me to make a difference.
Like our Blessed Mother, give me the wisdom to hear Your voice and the courage to answer Your call.
Above all, give me peace of mind and heart.
I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer #26

God our Father,
You will all men and women to be saved and come to the knowledge of Your Truth.
Send workers into Your great harvest that the Gospel may be preached to every creature
and Your people, gathered together by the word of life and strengthened by the power of the
sacraments, may advance in the way of salvation and love.
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer #27

LORD, JESUS,
We ask You to send more servants to Your people.
Choose from our parishes, from our homes, from our schools and colleges, an abundant harvest of
apostles for Your Kingdom: priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers.
We pray that those You call may never lose awareness of the dignity and need of their vocation.

O Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
teach to all those the Master calls to say a joyful "yes" as you did at the Annunciation
Amen.

Prayer #28

Gracious God, thank you for calling us at Baptism to be Your people.

In response to Your call we again say, "Yes."

Keep us faithful to Your mission and our vocation.

Bless with a renewed spirit of zeal and enthusiasm all who dedicate their lives in service to Your people.

Inspire more women and men of faith and compassion to serve as lay ministers and deacons, sisters, brothers and priests.

Fill them with your Spirit of Wisdom to proclaim the Good News and to witness your presence among us. Amen.

Prayer #29

O, God, You have asked us to pray for vocations;

that there might be young men and women willing to give their lives for the sake of souls.

Hear our prayer and the prayers of Your Church and send us good and holy priests and religious.

We offer You this day, all we shall think, do or say for this intention, through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

O God, You call all in Your Church to live a holy life.

Like a wise harvest master, clearly call laborers to reap the harvest of souls.

May some become holy priests, formed by the Gospel;

may some find their way to religious communities filled with love for You.

Inspire them by Your Holy Spirit to leave their way of life and share the work of Your Son,

Who lives forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer #30

Creator of the Universe, God of the Nations,

Your people are longing to hear your word.

Send laborers into your harvest -

women and men on fire with your love:

Dedicated single people - who incarnate your presence in their daily lives,

whose availability enables them to respond to a diversity of needs.

Married couples - whose relationships serve as a sign of your fidelity to your people,
whose love overflows to their children and neighbors.

Ordained Ministers - who gather the prayers and longing of your people who serve as a channel of your presence through the sacraments.

Religious sisters, brothers, and priests - whose life in community foreshadows our eternal unity in Christ,
whose service brings your life to the world.

May each of us respond with courage and generosity to our particular vocations, and may the Church recognize the Spirit's call to men and women of good will, trusting in Your abundance to answer all our needs. Amen.

Prayer #31

God, the source of creation and love,
You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift.
May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the church as priests, sisters, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers.

Make me an instrument to encourage others to give of themselves and challenge me to do the same.
Amen.

Prayer #32

Lord, through Baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others.
Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world.
Give me the courage and generosity to respond to your love, to your call.
I pray especially for those who serve you as priests, brothers, sisters, and deacons.
Keep them close to you.
Open the minds and hearts of many other men and women to be witnesses to Your Gospel.

Prayer #33

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate,
give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation.
Give to parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life.
May Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

Prayer #34

God, our Father,
in Baptism You called us by name making us members of Your people, the Church.
We praise You for Your goodness,
We thank You for Your gifts.
We ask You to strengthen us to live in love and service to others after the example of Your Son, Jesus.

Father, look upon Your Church with love and bless Your people
with generous single men and women, with loving husbands and wives, with understanding parents,
with trusting children, with dedicated priests, sisters, deacons and brothers.

Help us to see our vocations as a journey toward You.

You have called us, not to set us apart, but to bring us together with others who need our love.

Make us faithful signs of Your presence in their midst.

We ask You through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #35

O God, our Father, You have called us in Baptism to follow Your Son through lives of loving service to You and to one another.

Grant us your assistance as we seek to live out our vocation in life.

We pray especially for those who have answered Your call as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons and lay ministers.

Keep them faithful in following Your Son and dedicated in serving their brothers and sisters.

Grant that many more men and women will be open to the challenge of dedicating their lives in the ministry of building Your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #36

God, our Creator, Life is Your gift to me.

Through Baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others.

I ask LORD, "Who will be Your Priest, Deacon, Brother, Sister, Missionary, Lay Minister? Is it I?"

Give me the courage and generosity to respond to Your love, to Your call.

Give those you have called to the married and the single state the graces their lives require.

I pray especially for those who serve You as Religious. Keep them close to You.

This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #37

Heavenly Father, You so loved the world that You sent Your only Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in Him.

I join Him in His prayer for laborers in Your harvest.

May Your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue His mission in the World.

May this same Spirit make known to me Your will in my regard.

Where You lead, I will follow.

Let it be done to me according to Your word.

I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer #38

O God, in the past you called men and women to dedicate their lives to you through priesthood and religious life.

Today stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many within our parish community.

Grant them the willingness and generosity to place their lives completely in your hands as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.

Help me to support them by my own fidelity to your call to holiness through prayer & Christian service. If you desire that one of my family or friends follow you in this way, grant me the wisdom and insight to support and encourage that person to listen to your voice and follow you without delay. Amen.

Prayer #39

Loving God, You speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community.

In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church.

We pray especially, in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, deacons, sister, or brother.

May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service. Amen.

Prayer #40

Lord, I know you love me and have great plans for me.

But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future.

Show me how to walk forward one day at a time.

May I take heart while I search openly for what it is you want me to do with my life.

Inspire in me wisdom and understanding to see your vision for my life and respond with openness to whatever you call me to be.

Show me your way Lord! Amen.

Prayer #41

Gracious God,

You are the gentle presence, the peaceful light that fills our whole world.

We believe that you care for all your creatures with wisdom and love.

Take care of us, your Church, this day.

Give to us all grace and courage to live out our baptism as faithful disciples of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give us good pastors who will call us to love and forgiveness and lead us in worship in the community of the Spirit.

Bring forth from among us other ministers whose many-splendored gifts will strengthen our community.

Raise up people in religious life who by their unusual witness to the Gospel will call us to the love of God and neighbor.

You have enfolded the smallness of our humanity in your divinity.

Fill us all with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer #42

Jesus, high priest and Redeemer forever,

We beg you to call young men and women to your service, as priests and religious.

May they be inspired by the lives of dedicated priests, deacons, brothers, and sisters.

Give to parents the grace of generosity and trust toward you and their child so that their sons and daughters may be helped to choose their vocation in life with wisdom and freedom.

O God, you have called us to salvation and have sent your Son to establish the Church for this purpose, and you have provided the sacred ministers.

The harvest is ever ready but the laborers are scarce.

Inspire our youth to follow Jesus by serving Your People. Amen

Parents Prayer for Vocations #43

Gracious and loving God,

You have blessed us with the privilege of becoming Parents.

We ask that you provide us with all that we need in accepting this awesome responsibility.

We pray that we will be open to Your Spirit Who is our source of strength as we witness to our children Your love for each of them and your desire for them to be happy and to live a full life.

We ask Your help so we may guide and encourage our children to believe that they each have a special calling and to use their gifts and talents for others.

We pray, Heavenly Father, that our children will discover and respond enthusiastically to your desire for them, whether it be to the vocation of single, married, ordained or consecrated life.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, through the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

