

All: Having all sweetness within it. Alleluia.

Celebrant: 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 and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Divine Praises for Vocations
Blessed be God, the Author of all Vocations.
Blessed be the Name of Lord of the Harvest.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, the Compassionate Lord.
Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart, the Merciful.
Blessed be his most precious blood, who washed away our sins.
Blessed be Jesus, in the Eucharist, our spiritual food.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, Light of all those who are called.
Blessed be the Great Mother of God Mary, Mother of Vocations.

Blessed be her Immaculate Conception, the model of priests.

Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother of all missionaries.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption, intercessor of all the candidates to the consecrated life.

Blessed be St. Joseph, protector of the Universal Church.

Blessed be God, in His Holy Apostles and Saints of the Church.

FINAL SONG

CLOSING PRAYER:

Guide: Lord of the Harvest,

All: Be merciful to us and send us holy vocations.

Guide: Mary, Mother of Vocations,

All: Pray for us and obtain for us holy men and women.

Guide: St. Hannibal Mary, Patron of Vocations,

All: Intercede for us and assist those who are consecrated to the Lord.

Guide: Send, O Lord,

All: Holy Apostles into your Church.

49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations

April 29, 2012

Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God

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The 48th WDPV materials may be downloaded directly from:

<http://www.vocationsonline.net>

Please register to access the download area.



Celebrant: Lord Jesus, we pray together with your Most Holy Mother Mary who stood beside you in the hour of your redeeming sacrifice. We pray, that through her intercession, many youth may also have the courage and the humility, the fidelity and the love in answering Yes to you as Mary responded when she was called to collaborate with you in your mission of saving the world.

All: Amen.

Benediction (*Tantum Ergo*)

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
compar sit laudation. Amen.

Celebrant: Panem da caelo praestitisti eis. Alleluia.

All: Omne delectamentum in se habentem. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Oremus. Deus, qui nobis sub sacramento mirabilis passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti: tribue, quaesumus, ita nos nos corporis et sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis jugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Or

English Version

Down in adoration falling,
this great Sacrament we hail;
over ancient forms of worship
newer rites of grace prevail;
faith will tell us Christ is
present,
when our human senses fail.
To the everlasting Father,
and the Son who made us free,
and the Spirit, God proceeding
from them each, eternally,
be salvation, honor, blessing,
might and endless majesty.
Amen.

Celebrant: You gave us bread from heaven. Alleluia.

drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily or Shared Reflection

SONG

COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, Good Shepherd, you have offered your life that all may have life. Grant us, a believing community spread throughout the world, the abundance of your life and

enable us to become witnesses to it and communicate it to others.

Left Side: Lord Jesus, grant the abundance of your life to all those consecrated to you for the service of the church. Make them happy in their giving, indefatigable in their ministry, generous in their sacrifice. May their example open other hearts to hear and follow your call.

Right Side: Lord Jesus, grant the abundance of your life to Christian families that they may be fervent in the faith and in the service of the Church. May their favor the rise and development of new consecrated vocations.

All: Lord Jesus, grant the abundance of your life to all persons, particularly to young men and women whom you are calling to your service. Enlighten them in their choice, help them in their difficulties, sustain them in faithfulness, make them ready and courageous in offering their life according to your example that others may have life.

INTRODUCTION

“Even before manifesting Himself personally according to the mode of revelation, God disposes the mind and heart of His creature to meet joy...As everyone knows, there are several degrees of this ‘happiness.’ Its most noble expression is joy, or ‘happiness’ in the strict sense, when man, on the level of his higher faculties, finds his peace and satisfaction in the possession of a known and loved good. Thus, man experiences joy when he finds himself in harmony with nature, and especially in the encounter, sharing and communion with other people. All the more does he know spiritual joy or happiness when his spirit enters into possession of God, known and loved as the supreme and immutable good.” (*Paul VI, Gaudete in Domino – On Christian Joy*, 9 May 1975).

In the midst of the overwhelming phase of life and the fast growing “techno world”, a person’s quest for joy remains. Moreover, the options which are supposed to guide and eventually lead the person to possess joy, continue to multiply. Such multiplications tend to create a distorted idea of joy, and often leave the person confused. “*Technological society has succeeded in multiplying the opportunities for pleasure, but it has great difficulty in generating joy. For joy comes from another source. It is spiritual. Money, comfort, hygiene and material security are often not lacking; and yet boredom, depression and sadness unhappily remain the lot of many. These feelings sometimes go as far as anguish and despair, which apparent carefreeness, the frenzies of present good fortune and artificial paradises cannot assuage*” (Ibid.). The strong and imposing influence of materialism and consumerism are visible in the so-called “buy-have-throw” attitude. Hedonism grows within the person; the fleeting pleasure is equated with the true sense of joy. Paradoxically, as the modern men and women seek to seize the experience of happiness, the more it seems to fade away. But the truth is, there is so much hope even one finds

himself in this situation; true joy never leaves nor fades: it is still within our reach.

In this year's celebration of the 48th World Day of Prayer for Vocations (15th May 2011, 4th Sunday of Easter), Pope Benedict XVI invites the whole Church to reflect on the theme: "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church." In his message for this celebration, the Pontiff states that: "to understand that entering into God's will does not crush or destroy a person, but instead leads to the discovery of the deepest truth about ourselves...*it is only in being open to the love of God that we discover true joy and the fulfillment of our aspirations.*" 'Proposing Vocations in the Local Church' means having the courage, through an attentive and suitable concern for vocations, to point out this challenging way of following Christ which, because it is so rich in meaning, is capable of engaging the whole of one's life" (Benedict XVI, *Message of the Holy Father for the 48th World Day of Prayer for Vocations*). It is, therefore, within the context of God's call can one truly find the answer for his longing to possess joy. Vocations, particularly that of the priestly and consecrated life, could be best presented and be proposed in the local Church or local ecclesial communities as a life of joy which leads to the Supreme Joy, who is God Himself. Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Harvest, never ceases to call young men and women of our time to follow Him in the priesthood or consecrated vocations. The effective way to propose the beauty and grandeur of Christ's call is to be witnesses of joy. Hence, beginning from the experience of being called, to having responded to that calling, and to the living of such a calling (be it in the priesthood or consecrated life), the whole experience should be nothing but a privileged encounter with Jesus Christ, the source of joy. "Proposing Vocations in the Local Church", then, should be proposing a life of joy with the true and supreme joy of every man, Jesus Christ.

the Lord!" Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "See! I will bring spirit into you that you may come to life. I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put spirit in you so that you may come to life and know that I am the Lord." I prophesied as I had been told, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise; it was rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone. I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them and the skin cover them, but there was no spirit in them. Then he said to me: "Prophecy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man and say to the spirit: 'Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life.'" I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them; they have been saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off." Therefore, prophesy and say to them: "Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will

open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it," says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Pause for personal reflection. Reflection song or instrumental music may be played.)

GOSPEL READING
A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark (16:15-20)

[Jesus] said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will

and leaven of a more just and fraternal society. Obtain for us from the heavenly Father the spiritual guides which our communities need: true priests of the living God who, illuminated by your Word, will be able to speak of you and teach others to speak with you. Make your Church grow by means of a flourishing of consecrated persons, who will give all things over to you so that you might save all.

May our communities celebrate the Eucharist in song and praise, as thanksgiving to your glory and goodness, and may they know how to walk the paths of the world to communicate joy and Peace, precious gifts of your salvation. Look, O Lord, upon the whole human family and show your mercy to the men and women who in prayer and righteous living seek you without yet having encountered you: show yourself to them as the way which leads to the Father, as the truth which makes us free, as the life which has no end. Grant to us, Lord, to live in your Church in a spirit of

faithful service and of total gift, so that our witness will be credible and bear fruit. Amen!

Guide: *God has called us and predestined us to be his witnesses to all parts of the world. He invites us to teach, to preach, to prophesy, letting the world know how deep is his love for each and every one of us. With this sentiments, let us listen to the word of God and be reminded once again of the faithfulness of God.*

FIRST READING:

From the book of the Prophet Ezekiel (37:1-14)

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the Lord and set me in the center of the plain, which was now filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction so that I saw how many they were! He asked me: "Son of man, can these bones come to life?" "Lord God," I answered, "You alone know that." Then he said to me: "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of



**Message of
POPE BENEDICT XVI
for the
49th World Day
of Prayer for Vocation**

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER
FOR THE 49TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR
VOCATIONS



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be celebrated on 29 April 2012, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, prompts us to meditate on the theme: *Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God.*

The source of every perfect gift is God who is Love – *Deus caritas est*: “Whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him” (1 Jn 4:16). Sacred Scripture tells the story of this original bond between God and man, which precedes creation itself. Writing to the Christians of the city of Ephesus, Saint Paul raises a hymn of gratitude and praise to the Father who, with infinite benevolence, in the course of the centuries accomplishes his universal plan of salvation, which is a plan of love. In his Son Jesus – Paul states – “he chose us, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him in love” (Eph 1:4). We are loved by God even “before” we come into existence! Moved solely by his unconditional love, he created us “not . . . out of existing things” (cf. 2 Macc 7:28), to bring us into full communion with Him.

Thanking God with a grateful heart (Psalm 138)

Celebrant: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart. I will worship at your temple and give thanks to your name, because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me.

All: All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth. And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord: Great is the glory of the Lord. The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar.

Celebrant: Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me; against the anger of my enemies you raise your hand; your right hand saves me. The Lord will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands.

All: I give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.

Celebrant: O Lord, how great is your love for us! Thank you for creating us in your own image and likeness. We offer to you at this moment all our desires, all our talents, all our strength, all the things you have given to us for our own good and for your greater glory. We ask you also to forgive us if oftentimes we were not faithful to use the things we have because of our weakness, selfishness and sinfulness. Renew us that our lives will always be in accordance to your plan. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

(Pause for personal adoration and thanksgiving)

**PRAYER FOR
CONSECRATED AND
PRIESTLY VOCATIONS**

Lord, you have willed to save men and have founded the Church as a communion of brothers and sisters united in your Love. Continue to walk in our midst and call those whom you have chosen to be the voice of your Holy Spirit

That is why Jesus commanded, “*Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature*” (Mk. 16:15). This is his command, this is his wish. By virtue of our Baptism, all of us Christians are called to be missionaries, to be “proclaim-ers” of the Good News of salvation, bearers of the Love of God.

Let us therefore, during this moment of Eucharist Adoration, to continue to implore the Lord of the harvest to send many but holy laborers who will willingly dedicate their lives for the service of the Church.

ENTRANCE SONG

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Celebrant: Praise, thanksgiving and adoration to Jesus who gave His life so that we may have eternal life.

All: We thank you for the gift of life, O most holy and divine Sacrament.

Celebrant: Praise, thanksgiving and adoration to Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

All: We thank you for guiding us along the journey of life leading us to consecrate our life to the service of the Church.

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: We adore you O Blessed Trinity present in the holy and divine Sacrament.

Celebrant: Send O Lord,

All: Holy priests, consecrated persons and committed lay people who would lead other to the highest standard of Christian living.

Guide: *As we participate in this Eucharistic Adoration, let us raise our voices to God, the thanksgiving of our hearts, for having called each and every one of us to a particular calling, to a special vocation to consecrate our lives for the service of the Church.*

In great wonderment before the work of God’s providence, the Psalmist exclaims: “When I see the heavens, the work of your hands, the moon and the stars which you arranged, what is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you care for him?” (Ps 8:3-4). The profound truth of our existence is thus contained in this surprising mystery: every creature, and in particular every human person, is the fruit of God’s thought and an act of his love, a love that is boundless, faithful and everlasting (cf. Jer 31:3). The discovery of this reality is what truly and profoundly changes our lives. In a famous page of the *Confessions*, Saint Augustine expresses with great force his discovery of God, supreme beauty and supreme love, a God who was always close to him, and to whom he at last opened his mind and heart to be transformed: “Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.” (X, 27.38). With these images, the Saint of Hippo seeks to describe the ineffable mystery of his encounter with God, with God’s love that transforms all of life.

It is a love that is limitless and that precedes us, sustains us and calls us along the path of life, a love rooted in an absolutely free gift of God. Speaking particularly of the ministerial priesthood, my predecessor, Blessed John Paul II, stated that “every ministerial action - while it leads to loving and serving the Church - provides an incentive to grow in ever greater love

and service of Jesus Christ the head, shepherd and spouse of the Church, a love which is always a response to the free and unsolicited love of God in Christ” (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 25). Every specific vocation is in fact born of the initiative of God; *it is a gift of the Love of God!* He is the One who takes the “first step”, and not because he has found something good in us, but because of the presence of his own love “poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (*Rom 5:5*).

In every age, the source of the divine call is to be found in the initiative of the infinite love of God, who reveals himself fully in Jesus Christ. As I wrote in my first Encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, “God is indeed visible in a number of ways. In the love-story recounted by the Bible, he comes towards us, he seeks to win our hearts, all the way to the Last Supper, to the piercing of his heart on the Cross, to his appearances after the Resurrection and to the great deeds by which, through the activity of the Apostles, he guided the nascent Church along its path. Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent Church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist” (No. 17).

The love of God is everlasting; he is faithful to himself, to the “word that he commanded for a thousand generations” (*Ps 105:8*). Yet the appealing beauty of this divine love, which precedes and accompanies us, needs to be proclaimed ever anew, especially to younger generations. This divine love is the hidden impulse, the motivation which never fails, even in the most difficult circumstances.

Dear brothers and sisters, we need to open our lives to this love. It is to the perfection of the Father’s love (cf. *Mt 5:48*) that Jesus Christ calls us every day! The high standard of the Christian life consists in loving “as” God loves; with a love that is shown in the total, faithful and fruitful gift of self. Saint

DAY 3

Consecrated and Priestly Life: Vocation as Proclamation of the Love of God



INTRODUCTION:

We are already on the third day of Triduum in preparation for the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The Church throughout the world is begging the Lord of the Harvest to continue to bless, guide and support the many works for Vocation in particular to the Consecrated and Priestly Vocations.

The world is still in need of good and holy vocations into the Church who will become witnesses, participants and partakers in the redemptive mission of Jesus – the transformation of life of all those who believe in Him. The world needs people who will faithfully consecrate their lives for the service of the Church and her missions. Many still have not heard the Good News of their salvation in Christ. Many are still longing for sacraments. Many still are thirsting for love, for care, for understanding.

to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Divine Praises for Vocations
Blessed be God, the Author of all Vocations.

Blessed be the Name of Lord of the Harvest.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, the Compassionate Lord.

Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart, the Merciful.

Blessed be his most precious blood, who washed away our sins.

Blessed be Jesus, in the Eucharist, our spiritual food.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, Light of all those who are called.

Blessed be the Great Mother of God Mary, Mother of Vocations.

Blessed be her Immaculate Conception, the model of priests.

Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother of all missionaries.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption, intercessor of all the candidates to the consecrated life.

Blessed be St. Joseph, protector of the Universal Church.

Blessed be God, in His Holy Apostles and Saints of the Church.

FINAL SONG

CLOSING PRAYER:

Guide: Lord of the Harvest,

All: Be merciful to us and send us holy vocations.

Guide: Mary, Mother of Vocations,

All: Pray for us and obtain for us holy men and women.

Guide: St. Hannibal Mary, Patron of Vocations,

All: Intercede for us and assist those who are consecrated to the Lord.

Guide: Send, O Lord,

All: Holy Apostles into your Church.

John of the Cross, writing to the Prioress of the Monastery of Segovia who was pained by the terrible circumstances surrounding his suspension, responded by urging her to act as God does: “Think nothing else but that God ordains all, and where there is no love, put love, and there you will draw out love” (*Letters*, 26).

It is in this soil of self-offering and openness to the love of God, and as the fruit of that love, that all vocations are born and grow. By drawing from this wellspring through prayer, constant recourse to God’s word and to the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, it becomes possible to live a life of love for our neighbours, in whom we come to perceive the face of Christ the Lord (cf. *Mt* 25:31-46). To express the inseparable bond that links these “two loves” – love of God and love of neighbour – both of which flow from the same divine source and return to it, Pope Saint Gregory the Great uses the metaphor of the seedling: “In the soil of our heart God first planted the root of love for him; from this, like the leaf, sprouts love for one another.” (*Moralium Libri, sive expositio in Librum B. Job*, Lib. VII, Ch. 24, 28; PL 75, 780D).

These two expressions of the one divine love must be lived with a particular intensity and purity of heart by those who have decided to set out on the path of vocation discernment towards the ministerial priesthood and the consecrated life; they are its distinguishing mark. Love of God, which priests and consecrated persons are called to mirror, however imperfectly, is the motivation for answering the Lord’s call to special consecration through priestly ordination or the profession of the evangelical counsels. Saint Peter’s vehement reply to the Divine Master: “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you” (*Jn* 21:15) contains the secret of a life fully given and lived out, and thus one which is deeply joyful.

The other practical expression of love, that towards our

neighbour, and especially those who suffer and are in greatest need, is the decisive impulse that leads the priest and the consecrated person to be a builder of communion between people and a sower of hope. The relationship of consecrated persons, and especially of the priest, to the Christian community is vital and becomes a fundamental dimension of their affectivity. The Curé of Ars was fond of saying: “Priests are not priests for themselves, but for you” (*Le cure d’Ars. Sa pensée – Son cœur*, Foi Vivante, 1966, p. 100).

Dear brother bishops, dear priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, catechists, pastoral workers and all of you who are engaged in the field of educating young people: I fervently exhort you to pay close attention to those members of parish communities, associations and ecclesial movements who sense a call to the priesthood or to a special consecration. It is important for the Church to create the conditions that will permit many young people to say “yes” in generous response to God’s loving call.

The task of fostering vocations will be to provide helpful guidance and direction along the way. Central to this should be love of God’s word nourished by a growing familiarity with sacred Scripture, and attentive and unceasing prayer, both personal and in community; this will make it possible to hear God’s call amid all the voices of daily life. But above all, the Eucharist should be the heart of every vocational journey: it is here that the love of God touches us in Christ’s sacrifice, the perfect expression of love, and it is here that we learn ever anew how to live according to the “high standard” of God’s love. Scripture, prayer and the Eucharist are the precious treasure enabling us to grasp the beauty of a life spent fully in service of the Kingdom.

It is my hope that the local Churches and all the various groups within them, will become places where vocations

intercession
our families and our ecclesial
communities,
so that they may help
adolescents and young people
to answer generously the call of
the Lord.
Amen.

Benediction (*Tantum Ergo*)

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
compar sit laudation. Amen.

Celebrant: Panem da caelo
praestitisti eis. Alleluia.

All: Omne delectamentum in
se habentem. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Oremus. Deus, qui
nobis sub sacramento mirabilis
passionis tuae memoriam
reliquisti: tribue, quaesumus,
ita nos nos corporis et sanguinis
tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut

redemptionis tuae fructum
in nobis jugiter sentiamus.
Qui vivis et regnas in saecula
saeculorum. Amen.

Or

English Version

Down in adoration falling,
this great Sacrament we hail;
over ancient forms of worship
newer rites of grace prevail;
faith will tell us Christ is
present,
when our human senses fail.
To the everlasting Father,
and the Son who made us free,
and the Spirit, God proceeding
from them each, eternally,
be salvation, honor, blessing,
might and endless majesty.
Amen.

Celebrant: You gave us bread
from heaven. Alleluia.

All: Having all sweetness within
it. Alleluia.

Celebrant: 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

GOSPEL READING

**From the Gospel according to
Mathew (28, 16-20)**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily or Shared Reflection

**SONG (Huwag Kang
Mangamba)**

**COMMUNITY PRAYER
FOR VOCATIONS**

Jesus, Son of God,
in whom the fullness of the

Divinity dwells,
You call all the baptized to "put out into the deep",
taking the path that leads to holiness.
Waken in the hearts of young people the desire to be witnesses in the world of today
to the power of your love.
Fill them with your Spirit of fortitude and prudence,
so that they may be able to discover the full truth about themselves and their own vocation.

Our Saviour,
sent by the Father to reveal His merciful love,
give to your Church the gift of young people who are ready to put out into the deep,
to be the sign among their brothers
of Your presence which renews and saves.

Holy Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer,
sure guide on the way towards God and towards neighbor,
You who pondered his word in the depth of your heart,
sustain with your motherly

are carefully discerned and their authenticity tested, places where young men and women are offered wise and strong spiritual direction. In this way, the Christian community itself becomes a manifestation of the Love of God in which every calling is contained. As a response to the demands of the new commandment of Jesus, this can find eloquent and particular realization in Christian families, whose love is an expression of the love of Christ who gave himself for his Church (cf. *Eph* 5:32). Within the family, "a community of life and love" (*Gaudium et Spes*, 48), young people can have a wonderful experience of this self-giving love. Indeed, families are not only the privileged place for human and Christian formation; they can also be "the primary and most excellent seed-bed of vocations to a life of consecration to the Kingdom of God" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 53), by helping their members to see, precisely within the family, the beauty and the importance of the priesthood and the consecrated life. May pastors and all the lay faithful always cooperate so that in the Church these "homes and schools of communion" may multiply, modelled on the Holy Family of Nazareth, the harmonious reflection on earth of the life of the Most Holy Trinity.

With this prayerful hope, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing to all of you: my brother bishops, priests, deacons, religious men and women and all lay faithful, and especially those young men and women who strive to listen with a docile heart to God's voice and are ready to respond generously and faithfully.

From the Vatican, 18 October 2011

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

DAY I

**Christian Family, called to
be a School and House of
the Love of God**



INTRODUCTION:

By virtue of baptism, all Christians ought to participate in the life and mission of the Church entrusted by our Lord Jesus Christ. As seedbed of Vocations, Christian family has a vital role in carrying out Church's mission of proclaiming Christ's redemptive love to all the nations. It is the first school of faith through which children and adults are educated and deepened in their Christian life. It is a house where each family member is conceived, nurtured and sustained in the Love of God. In this Eucharistic Adoration, let us pray for all families throughout the world that as they live their baptismal consecration, they may be instruments in carrying out Church's mission by transforming their homes into seedbeds of vocations. We also pray for each member of our own families that they may learn to offer their lives for the service of the Church.

beings are made in the image of God, we do this in a unique and special way. We reach out for love, joy and peace. So we can see how absurd it is to think that we can truly live by removing God from the picture! God is the source of life. To set God aside is to separate ourselves from that source and, inevitably, to deprive ourselves of fulfillment and joy: "without the Creator, the creature fades into nothingness" (Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, 36). In some parts of the world, particularly in the West, today's culture tends to exclude God, and to consider faith a purely private issue with no relevance for the life of society. Even though the set of values underpinning society comes from the Gospel – values like the sense of the dignity of the person, of solidarity, of work and of the family –, we see a certain "eclipse of God" taking place, a kind of amnesia which, albeit not an outright rejection of Christianity, is nonetheless a denial of the treasure of our faith, a denial that could lead to the loss of our deepest identity.

friends, I encourage you to strengthen your faith in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are the future of society and of the Church! As the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians of Colossae, it is vital to have roots, a solid foundation! This is particularly true today. Many people have no stable points of reference on which to build their lives, and so they end up deeply insecure. There is a growing mentality of relativism, which holds that everything is equally valid, that truth and absolute points of reference do not exist. But this way of thinking does not lead to true freedom, but rather to instability, confusion and blind conformity to the fads of the moment. As young people, you are entitled to receive from previous generations solid points of reference to help you to make choices and on which to build your lives: like a young plant which needs solid support until it can sink deep roots and become a sturdy tree capable of bearing fruit.

(Pause for reflection)

For this reason, dear **SONG (You are Mine)**

(Moments of silence)

SONG (Here I am Lord)

(Pause for reflection)

SECOND READING:

An excerpt from the Message for the 26th World Youth Day by Pope Benedict XVI

In every period of history, including our own, many young people experience a deep desire for personal relationships marked by truth and solidarity. Many of them yearn to build authentic friendships, to know true love, to start a family that will remain united, to achieve personal fulfillment and real security, all of which are the guarantee of a serene and happy future. In thinking of my own youth, I realize that stability and security are not the questions that most occupy the minds of young people. True enough, it is important to have a job and thus to have firm ground beneath our feet, yet the years of our youth are also a time when we are seeking to get the most out of life. When I think back on that time, I remember above all that we were not willing to settle for a conventional middle-class life.

We wanted something great, something new. We wanted to discover life itself, in all its grandeur and beauty. Naturally, part of that was due to the times we lived in. During the Nazi dictatorship and the war, we were, so to speak, “hemmed in” by the dominant power structure. So we wanted to break out into the open, to experience the whole range of human possibilities. I think that, to some extent, this urge to break out of the ordinary is present in every generation. Part of being young, is desiring something beyond everyday life and a secure job, a yearning for something really truly greater. Is this simply an empty dream that fades away as we become older? No! Men and women were created for something great, for infinity. Nothing else will ever be enough. Saint Augustine was right when he said “our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you”. The desire for a more meaningful life is a sign that God created us and that we bear his “imprint”. God is life, and that is why every creature reaches out towards life. Because human

ENTRANCE SONG

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Celebrant: Praise and thanks every moment,

All: to the most holy and most divine sacrament, who calls us to be God’s adopted children and sharer of his Kingdom.

Celebrant: Glory 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.

Celebrant: Praise and thanks every moment,

All: to the most holy and most divine sacrament, who nurtures and sustains us to live our life according to the Gospel of love.

Celebrant: Glory 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.

Celebrant: Praise and thanks every moment,

All: to the most holy and most divine sacrament, who sends us to spread Christ’s redemptive love everywhere through our words and deeds.

Celebrant: Glory 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.

(Pause for personal adoration and thanksgiving)

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

Celebrant: O my Jesus,

All: I believe you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come to me spiritually. I welcome you and unite myself entirely with you. Do not permit me ever to be separated from you. Jesus, I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you.

O Beloved who is not loved.

O Beloved who is unknown. My good Jesus, my sweet love, pierce and inflame my heart so that I can also inflame others' heart to love you, that it may burn with love only for you. May your love be always our life and our all.

O Jesus, our Servant-Leader, strengthen every Christian that they may be fervent in faith and in the service of the Church, and may thus favor the appearance and development of new consecrated vocations.

(Pause for personal adoration and thanksgiving)

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

All: Lord God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father, you are Love and Life. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of a woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of

life and love. Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families of the world. Grant that the young may find in the family, solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love. Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family. We ask this of you, who are Life, Truth, and Love with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Prayer of John Paul II for 1980 Synod of Bishops)

Youth 5: Father of mercy, make us holy and good laborers in your vineyard. We know that we are not worthy of such a call but with your loving embrace, may we be able to overcome our weaknesses and worldly allurements. Grant us peace and security of mind and heart. We pray. (R)

Youth 6: Almighty Father, we are still in the beginning of our journey towards perfection and love. Make our daily endeavor fruitful as we offer everything for the greater glory of your kingdom. Grant us your grace as we continue to travel in this journey of life of holiness. We pray. (R)

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayer of your young people. Give them the chance and opportunity to discern your will for them. Make them available and docile to your call. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Taize Song:

Laudate Dominum

Laudate Dominum

Omnnes Gentes

Alleluia!

*Sing praise and bless the Lord
Sing praise and bless the Lord
People, nations, Alleluia! (5x)*

FIRST READING:

**From the Book of the Prophet
Jeremiah (1, 4-10)**

The word of the LORD came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD answered me; Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD. Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, to root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Christian that they may be fervent in faith and in the service of the Church, and may thus favor the appearance and development of new consecrated vocations.

(Pause for personal adoration and thanksgiving)

PRAYER FOR THE YOUTH

(Every after petition an interval of short moment of silence)

Celebrant: Lord God, we prostrate in front of you, begging you to hear our petitions, listen to the young people, who are crying out for your guidance and direction as they desire to follow your call like your first Apostles. We invoke your name...

Response: Lord of the harvest, listen to our prayer.

Youth 1: O Lord, you willed to call men and women to collaborate in your plan of salvation. Grant that we may live our life as a vocation and mission. Make us, therefore, ready for your call, whatever it

may be. We pray. (R).

Youth 2: Lord God, show us the way and lead us to life of service and love. We want to offer our lives for our brothers and sisters who are in need of help. Grant us the vision to see the goodness of priestly and religious life. We pray. (R)

Youth 3: Lord God, in our journey, do not abandon us but rather guide us into the freshness of your love and protection. We want to follow your footsteps, the way your first disciples follow you till the end. Grant us courage and perseverance to respond to your call. We pray. (R)

Youth 4: Lord our God, be our light and refuge as we respond to your call. Many times we falter and fail in our commitment to be good and loving. Forgive our failings. Let us feel your forgiveness in moments of darkness and trials. Grant us the strength to face life challenges as we follow the narrow door of your kingdom. We pray. (R)

READING:

An excerpt from the Message for the 49th World Day of Prayer for Vocations by Pope Benedict XVI

It is my hope that the local Churches and all the various groups within them, will become places where vocations are carefully discerned and their authenticity tested, places where young men and women are offered wise and strong spiritual direction. In this way, the Christian community itself becomes a manifestation of the Love of God in which every calling is contained. As a response to the demands of the new commandment of Jesus, this can find eloquent and particular realization in Christian families, whose love is an expression of the love of Christ who gave himself for his Church (cf. *Eph* 5:32). Within the family, “a community of life and love” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 48), young people can have a wonderful experience of this self-giving love. Indeed,

families are not only the privileged place for human and Christian formation; they can also be “the primary and most excellent seed-bed of vocations to a life of consecration to the Kingdom of God” (*Familiaris Consortio*, 53), by helping their members to see, precisely within the family, the beauty and the importance of the priesthood and the consecrated life. May pastors and all the lay faithful always cooperate so that in the Church these “homes and schools of communion” may multiply, modeled on the Holy Family of Nazareth, the harmonious reflection on earth of the life of the Most Holy Trinity.

(Pause for personal reflection)

SONG

GOSPEL READING

From the Gospel according to Mathew (5, 13-16)

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is

no longer good for any thing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY OR SHARED REFLECTION

REFLECTION SONG

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, the family is the first and vital cell of society and the domestic sanctuary of the Church, raised to new status

and continually enriched by grace through the sacrament of marriage. We seek the blessings of the Lord for all families of the world, so that all the members cooperate to make their homes have of love, peace and forgiveness so that vocation to priestly and religious life be encouraged and respected. Let us pray so that all spouses be true to their vocation and mission by living their vows as couples thus become Christ's witnesses in the world.

A father or a mother: O God, origin and foundation of the domestic community, help us in our families to imitate the same virtues and love as that of the Holy Family of Nazareth, so that we may rejoice forever on that day when we are gathered into your home. We pray to you loving Father, free all spouses from selfishness, and help them to be concerned for the welfare of the Church by educating their children to discover their

throughout the world that they may not be afraid in opening wide the door of their hearts to Christ so as to find true life. We also pray for those young people who have committed their lives to the Lord that they may become the first apostles to the young and always work for the service of the Church's mission.

ENTRANCE SONG:

(Pause for personal adoration and thanksgiving)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Celebrant: Praise, thanksgiving and adoration to Jesus who gave His life so that we may have eternal life.

All: We thank you for the gift of life, O most holy and divine Sacrament.

Celebrant: Praise, thanksgiving and adoration to Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

All: We thank you for guiding us to the path of righteousness.

Celebrant: Glory 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.

Celebrant: Send O Lord,

All: Holy priests, consecrated persons, and committed lay people who would lead others to the highest standard of Christian living.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

Celebrant: O my Jesus,

All: I believe you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come to me spiritually. I welcome you and unite myself entirely with you. Do not permit me ever to be separated from you. Jesus, I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you.

O Beloved who is not loved. O Beloved who is unknown. My good Jesus, my sweet love, pierce and inflame my heart so that I can also inflame others' heart to love you, that it may burn with love only for you. May your love be always our life and our all.

O Jesus, our Servant-Leader, strengthen every

DAY 2

**Young People, called to live
in the Love of God**



INTRODUCTION:

The Holy Mother Church recognizes the vital role of the young people, not only in shaping the modern society but also in helping her to carry out the mission entrusted by our Lord Jesus Christ. The circumstances of the life of the young, their habits of thought, their relations with their families have been completely transformed. While their social and even political importance is on the increase day by day, they seem unequal to the weight of these new responsibilities.

With this, the Church is hopeful to have numerous witnesses to the faith who can inspire many young people to follow Christ and to expend their lives for other. In this Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations, let us pray for the youth

vocation and making them generous to offer their lives to you. We pray.

All: Loving Father, make us instruments of your love.

A son or a daughter: O God, you have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessings on every family. Help them value the beauty of consecrated life, the necessity of being missionaries to others, and help them create an atmosphere for interior dialogue with you, which is indispensable condition to vocation discernment. We pray.

All: Loving Father, make us courageous witness of your mercy.

Celebrant: As one family of God, we call upon the Father

with the words Jesus taught us.

Our Father (*may be sung*)

Celebrant: Lord of the Harvest, accept our prayers for all family members throughout the world. Strengthen them in their faith. Make them united with one another especially in moments of trials. Help them overcome every difficulty they may encounter in their daily living. Sustain them in your grace so that their homes will become seedbed of vocations, where priestly, religious and missionary life are cultivated and nourished. We ask you through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Benediction (*Tantum Ergo*)

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
compar sit laudation. Amen.

Celebrant: Panem da caelo
praestitisti eis. Alleluia.

All: Omne delectamentum in
se habentem. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Oremus. Deus,
qui nobis sub sacramento
mirabilis passionis tuae
memoriam reliquisti: tribue,
quaesumus, ita nos nos
corporis et sanguinis tui
sacra mysteria venerari, ut
redemptionis tuae fructum
in nobis jugiter sentiamus.
Qui vivis et regnas in saecula
saeculorum. Amen.

Or

English Version

Down in adoration falling,
this great Sacrament we hail;
over ancient forms of worship
newer rites of grace prevail;

faith will tell us Christ is
present,
when our human senses fail.
To the everlasting Father,
and the Son who made us free,
and the Spirit, God proceeding
from them each, eternally,
be salvation, honor, blessing,
might and endless majesty.
Amen.

Celebrant: You gave us bread
from heaven. Alleluia.

All: Having all sweetness
within it. Alleluia.

Celebrant: 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 and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
forever and ever. Amen.

Divine Praises for Vocations
Blessed be God, the Author of
all Vocations.

Blessed be the Name of Lord
of the Harvest.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, the
Compassionate Lord.

Blessed be his Most Sacred
Heart, the Merciful.

Blessed be his most precious
blood, who washed away our
sins.

Blessed be Jesus, in the
Eucharist, our spiritual food.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit,
Light of al those who are
called.

Blessed be the Great Mother
of God Mary, Mother of
Vocations.

Blessed be her Immaculate
Conception, the model of
priests.

Blessed be the Name of Mary,
Virgin and Mother of all
missionaries.

Blessed be her glorious
Assumption, intercessor
of all the candidates to the
consecrated life.

Blessed be St. Joseph,
protector of the Universal
Church.

Blessed be God, in His Holy
Apostles and Saints of the
Church.

FINAL SONG

CLOSING PRAYER:

Guide: Lord of the Harvest,
All: Be merciful to us and
send us holy vocations.

Guide: Mary, Mother of
Vocations,

All: Pray for us and obtain for
us holy men and women.

Guide: St. Hannibal Mary,
Patron of Vocations,

All: Intercede for us and assist
those who are consecrated to
the Lord.

Guide: Send, O Lord,
All: Holy Apostles into your
Church.

