

KAYA



IDALANGIN

PRAYER LEAFLET FOR VOCATIONS

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O COME, O COME

Emmanuel



PASTORAL LETTER FOR 2021 YEAR OF MISSIO AD GENTES

Dearly Beloved People of God,

The Philippine Church rejoices as it enters a national celebration of the 500 Years of Christianity in our treasured homeland. Five centuries ago we received the marvelous gift of the Christian faith; our hearts overflow with joy and gratitude. Why of all the nations and peoples in Asia was the Philippines chosen by God to be among the first to receive this precious gift? The clear answer is simply this: God's magnanimous, overflowing love.

We recall what God told his people Israel regarding his choice: "It was not because you are the largest of all nations that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you are really the smallest of all nations. It was because the Lord loved you and because of his fidelity..." (Dt 7:7-8). Only God's freely given love can illuminate the choice of the Filipino people to receive this valuable gift of faith!

The Christian faith arrived and prospered in our land through the dedication and heroic sacrifices of thousands of men and women missionaries from various parts of the world. They treasured the gift of faith they had received and desired to share this gift with others. As the theme chosen by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) for this fifth centennial notes: all Christians are "gifted to give." This "giftedness" motivated generous missionaries over the centuries; it must also enflame the hearts of all of us today to engage in mission here at home and in other countries (missio ad gentes). Indeed, this is part of Jesus' mission mandate to his disciples: "What you have received as a gift, give as a gift" (Mt 10:8). We pray for a missionary renewal of our Church—both at home (ad intra) and beyond our borders (ad extra) during our celebration of the 500 years—and into the future!

Missionary Transformation. Our beloved Pope Francis, who visited us in 2015, is committed to the missionary renewal of the entire Church; we can take inspiration from his document *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel). He asserts that we need an "evangelizing Church that comes out of herself," not a Church that is "self-referential" and "lives within herself, of herself, for herself" (cf. EG 20-24). Francis says: "I dream of a 'missionary option,' that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation.... All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of ecclesial introversion" (EG 27). We seek to renew our mission enthusiasm here at home as well as missio ad gentes, mission to other nations and peoples.

Pope Francis continues: "Missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church's activity.... We need to move 'from a pastoral ministry of mere conservation to a decidedly missionary pastoral ministry'" (EG 15). "I want to emphasize that what I am trying to express here has programmatic significance and important consequences.... Throughout the world, let us be 'permanently in a state of mission'" (EG 25). We must seek to "put all things in a missionary key" (EG 34). We recall the challenge of Pope John Paul II during his 1981 visit to our Church: "I wish to tell you of my special desire: that the Filipinos will become the foremost missionaries of the Church in Asia." This is a clear invitation to engage in missio ad gentes!

Pope Francis' insights about Church missionary renewal come from his deep personal relationship with Christ. He writes: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.... I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day" (EG 3). A pivotal insight of Pope Francis is that "we are all missionary disciples" (EG 119); through baptism, "all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples" (EG 120). All Christians are "agents of evangelization." Missionary evangelization "calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.... Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered



the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries,’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples’” (EG 120).

Joy: A Convincing Sign. For Pope Francis, salvation history is a “great stream of joy” (EG 5) which we must also enter. Let the joy of faith be revived, because God’s mercies never end (cf. EG 6). Unfortunately, “there are Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter” (EG 6). “An evangelizer must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral” (EG 10). We must not become “querulous and disillusioned pessimists, ‘sourpusses’” (EG 85). “May the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ (EG 10; cf. EN 75). We all must not “end up stifling the joy of mission” (EG 79), both here at home and in other lands!

Mercy: Today’s Pathway in Mission. Pope Francis continually insists that mercy is the very essence of God. In his *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy) Francis expresses it this way: mercy is God’s identity card. He says: “We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.... Mercy [is] the bridge that connects God and man” (MV 2). Francis quotes Saint Thomas Aquinas, who asserts that “mercy is the greatest of all virtues; ... all the others revolve around it ... it is proper to God to have mercy” (EG 37). “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be

lacking in mercy. The Church’s very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love” (MV 10).

“The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person.... As the Church is charged with the task of the new evangelization, the theme of mercy needs to be proposed again and again with new enthusiasm and renewed pastoral action.... In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy” (MV 12).

Conclusion. Pope Francis’ profound thoughts on missionary renewal, joy, and mercy provide a solid compass to guide us as individuals and communities during our 500-years celebration and in the year 2021 which is dedicated to *missio ad gentes* (mission to all peoples). With Pope Francis we ask two graces of the Lord: “Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary vigor” (EG 109). “Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm” (EG 80). We remain constant in prayer, asking our two canonized “foreign” missionary saints, Lorenzo Ruiz and Pedro Calungsod, to intercede for us so that our loving God will always abundantly bless our Church in the Philippines and all her many missionary endeavors!

For the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines,

+ ROMULO G. VALLES, D.D.

Archbishop of Davao

President,

Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines

29 November 2020, First Sunday of Advent



2021 YEAR OF MISSIO AD GENTES MISSION PRAYER

WITH AN INVOCATION TO ST. HANNIBAL MARY DI FRANCIA

God, our loving Father,
You sent your Son into the world
To proclaim the Good News of Salvation to all:
To sinners, the poor, oppressed, the sick,
The abandoned and neglected.
He gave his life on the Cross for us
And rose again to new life
To redeem us and reconcile us with you.
You sent your Holy Spirit to the Apostles
To continue the work of your Son
And to lead all to salvation.

We thank you, Father,
For bringing us from darkness into light.
Through your loving plan, 500 years ago
Missionaries came to our land to proclaim
The Gospel of Jesus your Son to our ancestors.
That made us your people and the Church.
The gift of faith has accompanied us
Through both darkness and lights,
Defeats and victories
of our history as your people.
Our faith has become for us true light
That shines in the darkness.

Renew in us the grace of your Spirit
That impels us to be witnesses of Jesus your Son,
To a world broken by greed, violence,
injustice, sickness and suffering.
May our faith bring us to unity as your children
To care for and love one another.

May the Holy Spirit empower us
To be proclaimers of the Good News
To our brothers and sisters in Asia
and to all nations.
Give us the sincere desire to help others
To come to faith in the Lord Jesus
To share in your joy and life.

May the Blessed Mother,
the Star of Evangelization,
Accompany us and pray for us
As we live and share our faith with others.
May our strong love and devotion to her
As our Mahal na Ina
Form us to be true disciples
And witnesses of Jesus to all,
Always ready to be sent,
And to be obedient to whatever Jesus asks of us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

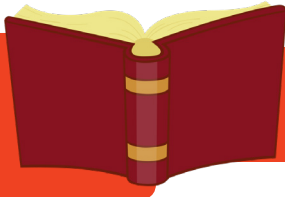
St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia,
Apostle of Prayer for Vocations
and Father of the Orphans and of the Poor,
pray for us.

Send, O Lord,
Holy Apostles into Your Church!

LEARNING THE WISDOM OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Reflections and Prayer on the 2nd Sunday of Advent (DECEMBER 3, 2020)

WORD OF GOD



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ [the Son of God]. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” John [the] Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of

Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.”

BREAKING THE BREAD



One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit.

A. POINT FOR REFLECTION:

The divine word is always a sublime synthesis which holds innumerable mysteries, spreading manifold teachings to us. The divine Rogate ergo must be considered not only in relation to the priests who are raised by the supreme vocations obtained by the obedience to the divine command, but also in relation to the persons that God raises for the good of his Church and for the souls (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, “The Father’s Soul,” p. 117)

B. PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O most gentle Heart of Jesus, by saying: “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his harvest”, you made us trust that you will hear us when we ask you this great grace. In obedience to the command of your divine

zeal, we beseech you, deign to send good workers to the holy Church. For this purpose we address to you the most effective of all prayers you have taught us. Our Father. (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia)

C. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read and reflect: “Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heaven wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.” A question worth pondering may also be asked: “How do you wish to spend your time as you prepare for Christmas and during the Christmas Season?”

JOY IN FAITHFUL AWAITING OF CHRIST'S COMING

Reflections and Prayer on 3rd Sunday of Advent (DECEMBER 13, 2020)

WORD OF GOD



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites [to him] to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are

you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

BREAKING THE BREAD



I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

A. POINT FOR REFLECTION:

To tell the truth, the good works of the elects, the worship of God, the Church and the faithful's universal prayers earned the kingdom of God and its justice through Jesus Christ's and the most holy Virgin's merits and prayers; hence, the mystical harvest has seen evangelical workers that were like angels of heaven, almost divine beings, wonder of heroism and holiness. Who could deny that? How many are the ministers of God shining in the clergy? How many are the luminaries of science and holiness? It would be a big mistake saying that our Lord Jesus Christ said needlessly: "Pray, therefore, etc.," and that obeying perfectly this divine command does not attain more and holier workers to the mystical harvest. (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, "The Father's Soul," p. 119)

B. PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O Jesus' gentle heart, in your entire mortal life you sought always the glory of your Father. Deign to send to your holy Church good evangelical workers, who will incessantly glorify your Father who is in heaven with the holiness of their life and apostolic work. *Our Father.* (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia)

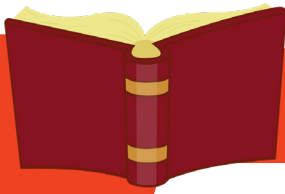
C. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read and reflect on the Church's prayer for this Sunday: "O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

HOLDING FAST TO GOD'S WILL, IN HUMILITY

Reflections and Prayer on the 4th Sunday of Advent (DECEMBER 20, 2020)

WORD OF GOD



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David

his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

BREAKING THE BREAD



A. POINT FOR REFLECTION:

Praying for holy vocations is the work of the works... Well understood, this expression means: "a work dedicated to this aim is the mother of many good works, generator of great, holy activities for the greatest glory of God, the greater salvation of souls, and the amplest fulfillment of the Church's divine mission in the world. As a matter of fact, this is the work that wins the elect of God, bringing about the saints in the Church?" (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, "The Father's Soul," p. 161)

B. PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O Mother, see to it that the ecclesiastical hierarchy may be blazed with the spirit of this prayer! You yourself enflame the hearts of

*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.*

the sacred virgins, the pious nuns, the lovers of Jesus, and men of good will, whose names are inscribed in the book of life! O Mother of the Church,... obtain the universal triumph of the divine Rogate from the beloved Heart of Jesus. (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia)

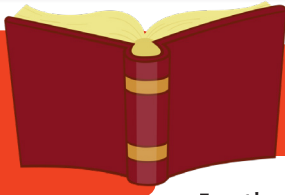
C. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read and reflect: "O God, eternal majesty, whose ineffable Word the immaculate Virgin received through the message of an Angel and so became the dwelling-place of divinity, filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, grant, we pray, that by her example we may in humility hold fast to your will. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

WELCOMING THE SON OF GOD, OUR REDEEMER

Reflections and Prayer on the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord (DECEMBER 25, 2020)

WORD OF GOD



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his

own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

BREAKING THE BREAD



What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'

A. POINT FOR REFLECTION:

What institution of faith and charity can be conceived without the Catholic priesthood? Aren't the priests the new Christs sent to the world as Jesus himself was sent by the Father? Toiling for any good work is good, but entreating the Lord to send out numerous ministers is very good, because the Lord wants it. As a matter of fact, he sends them by raising here and there his elects to the holy ministry through a gentle, but strong vocation, which attracts and transfers people from the world to the holy tabernacles. Who is able to resist his powerful call? Vocations such as these we ask by obeying the divine command: Rogate ergo... That makes a great deal of difference between the priests called by an omnipotent vocation and the ones who are brought about by human industries and labor (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, "The Father's Soul," p. 122)

B. PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O most gentle Heart of Christ, You were and are so thirsty for souls, that it was not enough to give yourself entirely for us, but you left your eternal priesthood on earth for the salvation of all. Draw holy ministers filled with true zeal to gain innumerable souls for you. *Our Father.* (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia)

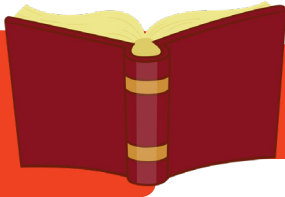
C. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read and reflect on the Church's prayer this Sunday: "O God, who gladden us year by year as we wait in hope for our redemption grant that, just as we joyfully welcome your Only Begotten Son as our Redeemer, we may also merit to face him confidently when he comes again as our Judge. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

VIRTUES OF FAMILY LIFE AND BONDS OF CHARITY

Reflections and Prayer on the Feast of the Holy Family (DECEMBER 27, 2020)

WORD OF GOD



FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,” and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the

peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

BREAKING THE BREAD



Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

A. POINT FOR REFLECTION:

I agree that we cannot provide the Church with priests by only praying, because action is necessary. The institutes of formation for the ministers are as many as the religious orders, many are the marvelous seminaries, and the nascent religious institutes. But, what does it mean? What use is it without the prayer? “Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Ps. 127:1). “Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father of the heavenly luminaries” (James 1:17). If we want good ministers, holy vocations to the mystical harvest, prayer is necessary; we must obey that divine word (St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, “The Father’s Soul,” p. 123)

B. PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O God, you want all men to be saved and to arrive at the knowledge of truth. Look how great is your harvest: send your laborers that the Gospel may be proclaimed to all creatures and that your people, gathered together by the Word of Life and strengthened by the power of the Sacraments, walk in the path of salvation and love. Amen.

C. SUGGESTED ACTIVITY:

Read and reflect: “O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”



NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS

PRAYER LEADER: We will fly back in time on the wings of our faith. We'll land nine days before the incarnate word takes flesh, but having the knowledge of Jesus that we have today. We will visit the Bethlehem's grotto where Jesus is to be born, will consider the poverty and the pain that the Son of God will undertake for our sake, and will prepare the necessities for his birth. We will console him, console him with our humble care and love, entreating him to be born not only in Bethlehem's grotto, but also in our hearts. These must be purified during the novena, and adorned with practices of piety, such as fervent acts of love and daily Communion. Living faith and devotion will improve these preparations for the God child. To achieve our goal, we'll ask the most holy Virgin and the Patriarch Saint Joseph to help us.

1ST DAY: THE PROMISE

GOSPEL READING -- Luke 4:16-21

Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been reared, and entering the synagogue on the Sabbath as he was in the habit of doing, he stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he

unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord." Rolling up the scroll he gave it back to the assistant and sat down. All in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. Then he began saying to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

PRAYER: You descended from the stars, O King of Heaven; and come to the manger, in the cold, in the intense cold; O my divine Child, here I see you trembling: O Blessed God! How much it costs you to have loved me. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Incarnate Word in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts, which welcome, clothe, warm, and comfort him. In the manger of Bethlehem we plan to prepare a cradle, made of wood of an olive trees of Gethsemane, and of the tree that will later be used in making the altar of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation. Amen.

2ND DAY: FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

READING -- 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

I continually thank my God for you because of the favor he has bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, in whom you have been richly endowed with every gift of speech and knowledge. Likewise, the witness I bore to Christ has been so confirmed among you that you lack no spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and it was he who called you to fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

-The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: You, the creator of the world, lacking in clothes and fire, O my Lord. Dear chosen One, little Child. How much this poverty makes me love you more, since love made you also poor. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts, which welcome, clothe, warm and comfort him. In the manger of Bethlehem we plan to prepare a little mattress, made of the purest wool of lambs without blemish. Amen.

**3RD DAY:
FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT**

READING -- Isaiah 9:2-3,6-7

You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed as on the day of the Midian. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this! The Lord has sent word against Jacob, it falls upon Israel.

- The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: You leave the divine bosom of your Father to come and suffer on this day. Sweet love of my heart, where has love carried you? O my Jesus, why do you suffer so much for the love of me? O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts which welcome, clothe, warm, and comfort him. In the manger of Bethlehem we plan to prepare a small pillow made of the purest wool of lambs without blemish. Amen.

**4TH DAY:
JESUS OUR SAVIOR BRINGS PEACE**

READING -- Isaiah 11:1-5

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.' Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

- The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: But if your suffering was your will, why do you want them to weep, why do you cry? My spouse, beloved God, my Jesus; yes I hear you. Ah, my Lord! You weep not for grief but for love. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts which welcome, clothe, warm and comfort Him. In the manger of Bethlehem we plan to prepare a small blanket adequately warm, made of the feathers of doves. Amen.

**5TH DAY:
JESUS THE SAVIOR BRINGS FREEDOM**

READING -- Jeremiah 23:5-8

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The Lord our justice." Therefore, the days will come, says the Lord, when they shall no longer say, "As the Lord lives, who brought

the Israelites out of the Land of Egypt"; but rather, "As the Lord lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel up from the land of the north" and from all the lands to which I banished them; they shall again live on their own land.

- The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: You weep upon seeing my ungratefulness. After such a great love, you were loved so little! O beloved of my heart! If at one time it was thus. Now you only do I crave, my dear one, cry no longer for I love you, I love you. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable St. Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. We plan to prepare the swaddling clothes made of purest linen, finely prepared and woven, to tighten gently the loving God, born as a child. Amen.

**6TH DAY:
JESUS THE SAVIOR, LIGHT OF THE WORLD**

GOSPEL READING -- Luke 1:67-79

Then Zechariah [John's] father, fills with the Holy Spirit, uttered this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel because he has visited and ransomed his people. He has raised a horn of saving strength for us in the house of David his servant, as he promised through the mouths of his holy ones, the prophets of ancient times: Salvation from our enemies and from the hands of all our foes. He has dealt mercifully with our fathers and remembered the holy covenant he made, The oath he swore to Abraham our father he would grant us: that, rid of fear and delivered from the enemy, We should serve him devoutly and through all our days be holy in his sight. And you, O child, shall be called prophet of the Most High; For you shall go before the Lord to prepare straight paths for him, Giving his people a knowledge of salvation in freedom from their sins, All this is the work of the kindness of our God; he the Dayspring, shall visit us in his mercy To

shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death to guide our feet into the way of peace,"

- The Gospel of the Lord,
All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: You sleep, O my Jesus, but your heart sleeps not; but watches at all hours. Oh my beautiful and pure lamb, about what are you thinking? O immense Love; and you would answer: I am thinking of that day when I would die for you. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts which welcome, clothe, warm and comfort Him. We plan to prepare the fire and the light for the manger of Bethlehem. The coal for the light will be made of the same wood of the cradle; the light will be fed with oil from the olive trees of Gethsemane. Both will be lit with live, well stroked flint. Amen.

**7TH DAY:
JESUS, SAVIOR OF ALL**

READING -- Isaiah 2:2-3

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many people shall come and say. "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

- The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: You descended from the stars, King of heaven and come to the manger, in the cold, in the intense cold; O my divine Child, here I see you trembling; O Blessed God! Ah, how much it cost you to have loved me. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable St. Joseph, we beg your help in preparing

all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts which welcome, clothe, warm, and comfort him. We plan to prepare in the manger of Bethlehem a music that will be simple and loving to please the God of simplicity and of love. It will be played therefore with whistles and flutes of cane that will be taken from that reed thicket from where a scepter of love will be produced for Jesus on the day of His eternal nuptials, the day of joy of his heart. Amen.

8TH DAY:

JESUS IS THE EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

READING -- Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: Ask for a sign from the Lord your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then he said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary men, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall be living on curds and honey by the time he learns to reject the bad and choose the good.

- The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER: You, the Creator of the world, are lacking in clothes and fire, O my Lord. Dear Chosen One, little Child, how much this poverty makes me love you more, since love also made you poor. O Immaculate Virgin Mary, O venerable Saint Joseph, we beg your help in preparing all the items needed for the coming birth of the Word Incarnate in the manger of Bethlehem. He desires to find hearts which welcome, clothe, warm and comfort Him. We plan to prepare the songs in the manger of Bethlehem. They should be as harmonious as a "new song", and imitate the voice of the little turtle dove when spring begins, the moaning of the dove in the breaches of the rock and the singing of the angels chanting their "Gloria" over the manger.

9TH DAY:

LET US MEET THE LORD WITH JOY

GOSPEL READING -- Luke 2:8-19

There were shepherds in that region, living in the fields and keeping nightwatch by turns over their flocks. The angel of the Lord appeared to them as the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very much afraid. The angel said to them: "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and the Lord. Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds. Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.

- The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Make us worthy, O Virgin of Nazareth, O most humble spouse Virgin Joseph, may we be worthy to prepare some food for you, unknown travelers, going to Bethlehem for the census ordered by the Emperor Caesar Augustus. The food we are planning to prepare will be the true bread of angels, of which the Manna was but a prefiguration; the living Bread come from heaven: the Eucharistic Communion. Amen.

CATECHESIS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE

Immaculate Conception

To become the mother of the Saviour, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace". In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 490.

*O Mary,
conceived
without sin,
pray for us who
have recourse
to you.*

Dear friends, we shall be celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, one of the greatest liturgical feasts in the Church. Let us learn from this catechesis about its significance in our faith and in our life as a Church.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

"The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 491.



"Being obedient she became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race."

ST. IRENAEUS OF LYONS



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS, THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, AND ITS MEANING TO US

OUR FAITH

The Father's only Son, conceived as man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is "Christ", that is to say, anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the beginning of his human existence, though the manifestation of this fact takes place only progressively: to the shepherds, to the magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. Thus the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power." (From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #486)

OUR VOCATION

To become a child in relation to God is the condition for entering the kingdom. For this, we must humble ourselves and become little. Even more: to become "children of God" we must be "born from above" or "born of God". Only when Christ is formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled in us. Christmas is the mystery of this "marvellous exchange": O marvellous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity. (From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #526)

THE LITURGY DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

32-33. After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time. Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January.

34. The Vigil Mass of the Nativity is used on the evening of 24 December, either before or after First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) on the day of the Nativity of the Lord, following ancient Roman tradition, Mass may be celebrated three times, that is, in the night, at dawn and during the day.

35. The Nativity of the Lord has its own octave, arranged thus: (a) Sunday within the Octave or, if there is no Sunday, 30 December, is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; (b) 26 December is the Feast of Saint Stephen, the first Martyr; (c) 27 December is the Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist; (d) 28 December is the Feast of the Holy Innocents; (e) 29, 30, and 31 December are days within the Octave; (f) 1 January, the Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord, is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, and also the commemoration of the conferral of the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

36. The Sunday falling between 2 January and 5 January is the second Sunday after the Nativity.

37. The Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated on 6 January, unless, where it is not observed as a holyday of obligation, it has been assigned to the Sunday occurring between 2 and 8 January.

38. The Sunday falling after 6 January is the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

FOR A LIFE OF PRAYER

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



Prayer of Vocations: A Way to Form Saints

We, however, remark that praying directly and explicitly for new, strong, holy, and powerful vocations is more beneficial and more related to the divine exhortation or command, because we ask the most holy Heart of Jesus to form his saints. While explaining this saying of our Lord Jesus Christ, Alapide notes that when God hears this prayer, all the workers he sends to the holy Church are saints.

- St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia, *The Father's Soul*, page 125

Dear friends, this is a suggested prayer guide for an holy hour of prayer for vocations. In your most convenient time in a week, find time to ask the Lord for good and holy laborers in the Church and society. Share this to your friends, too!



holy hour FOR VOCATIONS

KAYA  IDALANGIN
PRAYER LEAFLET FOR VOCATIONS

Introduction:

Our Lord pointed to a great, universal remedy by saying: “Pray, THEREFORE, to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest.” This supreme, infallible remedy is tied to prayer. We called this remedy infallible because our Lord cannot be mistaken; if he pointed to prayer as to a remedy, it means that the prayer will be heard, otherwise he would have not recommended it. It is as though he had said: if you ask me for workers for the souls’ harvest, I will give them. But, it also means: if you do not ask me for them, you will not have as many good workers as you need...

The faithful must understand that the greatest mercy God may have on the people or a city is his sending out elect priests, as he did with his only Son. Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father sent me, so I send you” (Jn. 20, 21). Vice versa, the greatest punishment God may give is depriving the people of his ministers, or better yet, of the priests according to his heart. The faithful must understand this duty, accustoming themselves to pray that the Lord send out the priests to catechize, to administer the sacraments, and to guide the people to eternal life.

- St. Hannibal Mary Di Francia

Opening Hymn

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Greetings:

Leader: Lord Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament, you lead your Church in many ways, and rule us with love. We ask that candidates to priesthood, by following your footsteps, may discover the greatness of serving your Father and of giving their life for the salvation of all. *Praise and thanks every moment...*

All: to the most holy, most divine Sacrament...

Leader: Glory to the Father... Send, O Lord...

All: Holy Apostles into Your Church!

Leader: Lord Jesus, gentle and humble servant of the Father, your eyes fascinated the hearts of your Apostles, your words opened their eyes and at your school they learned the true way that leads to life. Awaken, we pray you, in the hearts of young men the desire for your school of truth; open their hearts to the understanding and appreciation of the priestly ministry through the joyous witness of your priests. *Praise and thanks every moment...*

All: to the most holy, most divine Sacrament...

Leader: Glory to the Father... Send, O Lord...

All: Holy Apostles into Your Church!

Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd, you give your life for your sheep: turn your loving eyes

on humankind: they are like sheep tired and exhausted because your ministers are few. Send, we pray, priests according to your heart. Let them be guides of prayer to your people; sanctify them by the power of the sacraments, and let them be a living and pure offering to the Father for the salvation of the people entrusted to them. *Praise and thanks every moment...*

All: to the most holy, most divine Sacrament...

Leader: Glory to the Father... Send, O Lord...

All: Holy Apostles into Your Church!

Spiritual Communion:

All: O my Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now 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, and I love you.

Moments of Personal Adoration

Gospel Reading: LUKE 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy[-two] others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment.

Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even



that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

Homily or Reflective Silence

Reflection Hymn

Leader: St. Hannibal Mary said: "When God sends out the priests according to his heart to the Church and the peoples, who can value the great good coming out of that? Well, if Jesus Christ said: 'Pray to the owner of the harvest,' it means that he absolutely wants us to pray, and he will hear this prayer infallibly; therefore, the more this prayer is spread, the more the Church will be endowed with elect and holy ministers. Being the priests the light of the world and the salt of the earth, they will be the salvation for all." Let us ask Jesus to send us holy priests today. The response is: **SEND HOLY PRIESTS.**

- Jesus, to the people of the countryside and in the remote villages... (R./)
- Jesus, in the populous metropolis...
- Jesus, in the regions of the unbelievers...
- Jesus, for the salvation of sinners...
- Jesus, for the safety of the endangered innocence...
- Jesus, for the reformation of the delinquent youth...
- Jesus, for the safety of the endangered virginity...
- Jesus, to be the powerful protectors against all errors...
- Jesus, to the comfort of the afflicted and help to the sick...

- Jesus, for the sanctification of every soul...
- Jesus, without much delay...

Leader: Let us pray to the Father, the Master of the harvest, that He may have mercy on His people by sending us holy vocations today:

All: Our Father in heaven, You promised us you would not leave us orphans, for our salvation and sanctification, send your holy ministers who can give us the life of the spirit through the nourishment of faith and charity. Holy be your name, through the apostolic work of your chosen ones, who, filled with your Holy Spirit make you known and loved by all the people on earth. Your Kingdom come, and may it be build by your faithful ministers, through the sanctity of their life and devoured by the zeal of your glory and the salvation of souls, bring all to Christian perfection. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Eternal Father, do not cease to provide your Church with holy ministers, that all peoples may follow your holy law.

Give us today our daily bread, the bread of your grace, that nourishes the soul in the gift of the Sacraments. We beseech you to enrich your Church with chosen ministers, to communicate to all souls your sanctifying grace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lord send among the people chosen and faithful Priests who will handle the Sacrament of Reconciliation with love and holiness and may bring you countless souls. Do not lead us to the test but deliver us from evil. If our sins have deprived us of your mercy, we beseech you: send ministers who are according to your Heart and through the zeal and self-sacrifice may be concerned in keeping the souls from sinning, and guide them to perfect holiness and salvation. Amen.

Tantum Ergo (English):

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

To the Everlasting Father,
And the Son Who reigns on high
With the Holy Spirit proceeding
Forth from Each eternally,
Be salvation, honour, blessing,
Might, and endless majesty. Amen.

Celebrant: You have given them bread from heaven.

All: With all its sweetness and delight.

Let us pray: O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament left us a memorial of Thy Passion: grant, we implore Thee, that we may so venerate the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, as always to be conscious of the fruit of Thy Redemption. Thou who livest and reignest forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Divine Praises for Vocations:

Blessed be God, Author of Vocations.
Blessed be the Name of the 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 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 all Priests.
Blessed be the Name of Mary,
Virgin and Mother of all Missionaries.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption,
intercessor upon 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.

Rest of the Blessed Sacrament

Concluding Hymn



Christian, REMEMBER YOUR DIGNITY

A Meditation on the Nativity of Our Lord
from the Homily of Pope St. Leo the Great.

Deary beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at

this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.



The **KAYA IDALANGIN** is produced by the Provincial Rogate Vocational Center to spread awareness to pray and work for holy vocations.

For copies of **KAYA IDALANGIN** issues, send us an email request at smp-rogatecenter@rcj.org, call us at (02) 826-0002, or write to us at:

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