
Editorial : Prayers for Vocations

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house, O Lord, they shall praise Thee for ever and ever. (Ps. 83, 5).

“Alas, alas, for those who died without fulfilling their mission! Who were called to be holy, and lived in sin; who were called to worship Christ, and who plunged into this giddy and unbelieving world; who were called to fight, and remained idle. Alas for those who have had gifts and talents, and have not used, or misused, or abused them! The world goes on from age to age, but the holy Angels and blessed Saints are always crying, ‘alas, alas, and woe, woe, over the LOSS OF VOCATIONS, and the disappointment of hopes, and the scorn of God’s love, and the ruin of souls.’” (Newman)

“GOOD MASTER, what good shall I do that I may have life everlasting?” It was the eager question of one whom fortune had blessed with the wealth of this world, but who realised that life eternal was a far more precious treasure. He had come to the Divine Teacher, seeking what he must yet do to make secure the great prize for which he was striving. He was young and wealthy, a ruler in the land, one whose life had been without stain or blemish.

“The Commandments? – All these I have kept from my youth,” he had said; “Good Master, what is yet wanting to me?” Jesus looked on him with love, for such a soul was dear to His Sacred Heart. “If thou wilt be perfect,” comes the answer, “go sell what thou hast and give to the poor, and come, follow Me.”

There was a painful pause: nature and grace were struggling for the mastery; the invitation had been given, the road to perfection pointed out. There was only one sacrifice needed to make him a true disciple, but it was a big one, too great for him who lately seemed so generous. He hesitates, wavers, and then sadly turns away, with the words “Come, follow

Me,” ringing in his ears, for love of his “great possessions” had wrapped itself round his heart – a Vocation had been offered and refused. “What a cloud of misgivings,” says Father Faber, “must hang over the memory of him whom Jesus invited to follow Him. Is he looking now in heaven upon that Face from whose mild beauty he so sadly turned away on earth?”

Nearly two thousand years have passed since then, but unceasingly that same Voice has been whispering in the ears of many a lad and maiden, “One thing is yet wanting to you – come, follow Me.” Some have heard that voice with joy and gladness of heart, and have risen up at the Master’s call; others have stop their ears, or turned away in fear from the side of Him Who beckoned to them, while not a few have stood and listened, wondering what it meant, asking themselves could such an invitation be for them, till Jesus of Nazareth passed by and they were left behind for ever. (From Fr. William Doyle’s booklet on Vocation available at: http://www.sspaxasia.com/Documents/Society_of_Saint_Pius_X/Vocations/Vocations.htm#2)

On 1st May, we launched a Crusade for Vocations that will last until 1st November in our Asian District, the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of St. Pius X. We really need to storm Heaven for these much needed helpers in the Lord’s immense harvest, especially in Asia! The only means Our Blessed Lord gave to recruit vocations is prayer: “And He said to them: The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he send labourers into his harvest.” (Luke 10,2)

In practice, what can be done to obtain vocations?

* Our priests in the District are adding to the prayers of the day, thrice a week

(M-W-F) according to the rubrics, the prayers from the votive mass of the Propagation of the Faith

* We have printed a little leaflet with special prayers for priestly and religious vocations (available on request) which has been distributed in all our mass centres.

* In our various public rosaries and devotions, in our all-night adorations, a special mention is made for vocations. This should be done in the family prayers as well.

* A number of pilgrimages have already taken place (as can be seen in the next pages) to beg heaven that many of the youth may hear the divine call and answer it with their whole heart.

* Fasting and sacrifices: Some fasting can be done for this intention, for instance on the vigil of the Assumption and of All Saints, on the Ember days of September. Add this intention in your sacrifices too.

* Holy Communion: let us not forget to ask Our Eucharistic Lord for vocations whenever we have the privilege to receive Him. “Ask and you shall receive!”

Already since we have started this Crusade, five young men have shown up in the Brothers’ noviciate, in Iloilo, Philippines. Deo gratias!

The Society will have 20 ordinations to the priesthood this month of June in our various seminaries. This certainly is wonderful, all being considered. Nevertheless it is a drop in the ocean of this world so much in need of God’s healing and elevating grace! Let us make a special effort in the coming 4 months.

Oremus!

With my blessing,

Fr. Daniel Couture
District Superior