

A Vocation Story

THE MOTHERS OF LU MONFERRATO

near Turin, 1881

The little village of Lu, northern Italy, with only a few thousand inhabitants, is in a rural area 90 kilometres east of Turin. It would still be unknown to this day if, in the year 1881, the family mothers of Lu had not made a decision that had “serious consequences”. The deepest desire of many of these mothers was for one of their sons to become a priest or for a daughter to place her life completely in God’s service. Under the direction of their parish priest, Msgr. Alessandro Canora, they gathered every Tuesday for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for vocations. They received Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month with the same intention. After Mass, all the mothers prayed a particular prayer together imploring for vocations to the priesthood. Through the trusting prayer of these mothers and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognise their vocations. Did the Lord not say, “Many are called, but few are chosen” (Mt 22,14)? In other words, many are called, but only a few respond to that call. No one expected that God would hear the prayers of these mothers in such an astounding way. From the tiny village of Lu came 323 vocations!: 152 priests (diocesan and religious), and 171 nuns belonging to 41 different congregations. Every ten years, the priests and sisters born in Lu come together from all around the world. Fr. Mario Meda, the long-serving parish priest of Lu, explained that this reunion is a true celebration, a feast of thanksgiving to God who has done such

great things for Lu.

The prayer that the mothers of Lu prayed was short, simple, and deep: “O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen



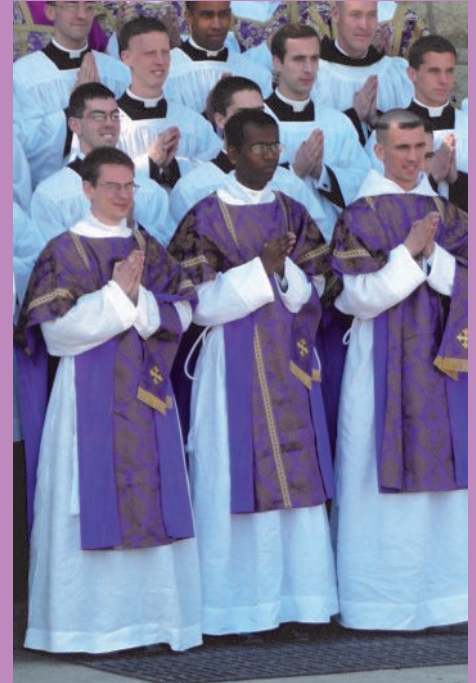
From 1st to 4th September 1946, the majority of the 323 priests and religious met in their village of Lu for a reunion which attracted world-wide attention.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who wishes all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth, send forth, we beseech Thee, labourers into the harvest; inspire many young with the generous desire of devoting their lives to Thy service ; grant that there may be a great increase in the number and sanctity of vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life, so that Thy Holy Name may be glorified and many souls may be brought to know and serve Thee, the One True God and Him Whom Thou has sent, Jesus Christ Thy Son, Our Lord.

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, may all the love of Thy Sacred Heart be with Thy Priests and Religious in their life and work. Amen.

NEW VOCATIONS



On the Saturday of Simites, 11th March, three seminarians received the first of the Major Orders, the Subdiaconate, at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, Winona, U.S.A. This is a cause of particular rejoicing for the District of Asia and for the Priory of the Most Holy Trinity, Palayamkottai as Mr. Theresian Babu Xavier (centre) is one of our beloved sons.



At the moment the three seminarians made their step forward—as a sign of their assent to embrace the service of the altar—their vocations were made certain.