



Remembering Vocations In your Lenten Devotions—2021

Meditation in the words of His Holiness, Pope Francis:

“The first word of vocation, then, is gratitude. Taking the right course is not something we do on our own, nor does it depend solely on the road we choose to travel. How we find fulfillment in life is more than a decision we make as isolated individuals; above all else, it is a response to a call from on high. The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters.”

Weekly Meditations

February 17, Ash Wednesday

“Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. ... Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again.” Pope Francis

February 21, First Sunday in Lent

“We are continually immersed in God's merciful grace like the air that permeates us. ... Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger people. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks.” Blessed Solanus Casey O.F.M. Cap.

February 28, Second Sunday in Lent

“O my God, teach me to be generous to serve you as you deserve to be served to give without counting the cost to fight without fear of being wounded to work without seeking rest and to spend myself without expecting any reward but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will. Amen.” St. Ignatius of Loyola

March 7, Third Sunday in Lent

“I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him.” Pope Francis

Recite the Vocations Prayer following each week's meditations:

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families.

Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience.

Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice.

Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

For information on vocations, Call Father Michael Isenberg (703) 841-2514, write:
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March 14, Fourth Sunday in Lent

“The Church's mission is enlivened by a spirituality of constant exodus. We are challenged to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel. The Church's mission impels us to undertake a constant pilgrimage across the various deserts of life, through the different experiences of hunger and thirst for truth and justice.” Pope Francis

March 21, Fifth Sunday in Lent

We pray for men of vision and courage to lead the Lord's flock. In the words of Blessed Rev. Stanley Rother, Martyr, “The shepherd cannot run.”

March 28, Palm Sunday

“The saints are like the stars. In his providence Christ conceals them in a hidden place that they may not shine before others when they might wish to do so. Yet they are always ready to exchange the quiet of contemplation for the works of mercy as soon as they perceive in their heart the invitation of Christ.” St. Anthony of Padua

April 2, Good Friday

“Our goal must be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinity is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven. Do not be afraid; because with the Incarnation of Jesus, death becomes life, and there's no need to escape: in eternal life, something extraordinary awaits us.” Bl. Carlo Acutis

