



# UP TO THE SOURCE

*Adoratio* with St. John Paul II

## FOR VOLUNTEERS

*The Greatest Will Be Your Servant*

**From the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope John Paul II on “The Vocation and the Mission of the Lay Faithful in the Church and in the World” (*Christifideles Laici*), December 30, 1988.**

58. The fundamental objective of the formation of the lay faithful is an ever-clearer discovery of one’s vocation and the ever-greater willingness to live it so as to fulfil one’s mission.

*God calls me and sends me forth* as a laborer in his vineyard. He calls me and sends me forth to work for the coming of his Kingdom in history. This personal vocation and mission defines the dignity and the responsibility of each member of the lay faithful and makes up the focal point of the whole work of formation, whose purpose is the joyous and grateful recognition of this dignity and the faithful and generous living-out of this responsibility.

In fact, from eternity God has thought of us and has loved us as unique individuals. Every one of us he called by name, as the Good Shepherd “calls his sheep by name” (Jn. 10:3). However, only in the unfolding of the history of our lives and its events is the eternal plan of God revealed to each of us. Therefore, it is a gradual process; in a certain sense, one that happens day by day.

To be able to discover the actual will of the Lord in our lives always involves the following: a receptive listening to the Word of God and the Church, fervent and constant prayer, recourse to a wise and loving

spiritual guide, and a faithful discernment of the gifts and talents given by God, as well as the diverse social and historic situations in which one lives. [...]

It is not a question of simply *knowing* what God wants from each of us in the various situations of life. The individual must *do* what God wants, as we are reminded in the words that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, addressed to the servants at Cana: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn. 2:5). However, to act in fidelity to God's will requires a *capability* for acting and *the developing of that capability*. We can rest assured that this is possible through the free and responsible collaboration of each of us with the grace of the Lord which is never lacking. Saint Leo the Great says: "The one who confers the dignity will give the strength" (St. Leo the Great).

This, then, is the marvelous yet demanding task awaiting all the lay faithful and all Christians at every moment: to grow always in the knowledge of the richness of Baptism and faith as well as to live it more fully. In referring to birth and growth as two stages in the Christian life the apostle Peter makes the following exhortation: "Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation" (1 Pt. 2:2).

64. A real sense of Church communion, the gift of the Spirit that urges our free and generous response, will bring forth as its precious fruit, in the "one and catholic" Church the continuing value of the rich variety of vocations and conditions of life, charisms, ministries, works, and responsibilities, as well as a more demonstrable and decisive collaboration of groups, associations and movements of the lay faithful in keeping with the accomplishment of the commonly shared salvific mission of the Church herself. This communion is already in itself the first great sign in the world of the presence of Christ, the Savior. At the same time, it promotes and stimulates the proper apostolic and missionary action of the Church.



# Litany of Patron Saints

St. Mary, Mother of God,	<i>Pray for us.</i>
Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, patron saint of doctors, mothers, and unborn children	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Tarcisius, patron saint of Eucharistic ministers	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Guy of Anderlecht, patron saint of sacristans	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Fiacre, patron saint of gardeners	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Peter Julian Eymard, patron saint of Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Cecilia, Saint Gregory the Great, and St. Hildegard, patron saints of musicians	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Julian the Hospetaller, patron saint of greeters and ushers	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Bernardine of Siena, patron saint of advertising	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Martha of Bethany, patron saint of cooks, homemakers, and servants	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Bede, patron saint of lectors	<i>Pray for us.</i>
Venerable Servant of God, Michael McGivney, founder of Knights of Columbus	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Catherine Laboure, patron saint of the elderly	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Homobonus, patron saint of quilters	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Thomas More, patron saint of statesmen and politicians	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. John Berchmans, patron saint of altar servers	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Ives, patron saint of lawyers and abandoned children	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Matthew, patron saint of accountants	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of teachers	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Charles Borromeo, patron saint of catechists	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron saint of youth	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Gabriel the Archangel, patron saint of communications	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of writers and journalists	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Joseph the Worker, patron saint of workers	<i>Pray for us.</i>
St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Vincent de Paul, patron saints of volunteers and charitable societies	<i>Pray for us.</i>

## A Prayer for the Lay Faithful by St. John Paul II

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of the Church, with joy and wonder we seek to make our own your Magnificat, joining you in your hymn of thankfulness and love.

With you we give thanks to God, “whose mercy is from generation to generation,” for the exalted vocation and the many forms of mission entrusted to the lay faithful. God has called each of them by name to live his own communion of love and holiness, and to be one in the great family of God’s children. He has sent them forth to shine with the light of Christ, and to communicate the fire of the Spirit in every part of society through their life, inspired by the gospel.

O Virgin of the Magnificat, fill their hearts with a gratitude and enthusiasm for this vocation and mission. With humility and magnanimity, you were the “handmaid of the Lord;” give us your unreserved willingness for service to God and the salvation of the world. Open our hearts to the great anticipation of the Kingdom of God and of the proclamation of the Gospel to the whole of creation.

O Virgin full of courage, may your spiritual strength and trust in God inspire us, so that we might know how to overcome all the obstacles that we encounter in accomplishing our mission. Teach us to treat the affairs of the world with a real sense of Christian responsibility and a joyful hope of the coming of God’s Kingdom, and of a “new heaven and a new earth.”

O Virgin Mother, guide and sustain us so that we might always live as true sons and daughters of the Church of your Son. Enable us to do our part in helping to establish on earth the civilization of truth and love, as God wills it, for his glory. Amen.

