

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This Sunday, April 29th the Church observes World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of the [World Day of Prayer for Vocations](#) is publically to fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the *ordained ministries*, (priesthood and diaconate), to the *Religious life* in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to *societies of apostolic life*, to *secular institutes* in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of *mission "ad gentes"*.

In his 2012 Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, [Vocations, the Gift of the Love of God](#) or [Las vocaciones don de la caridad de Dios](#), Pope Benedict XVI meditates on the theme of God's love as the source of every perfect gift. Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are a gift from God. Please join the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations in promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life by sharing the following links with others:

- USCCB Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/usccb#!/usccb?sk=wall>): Beginning Monday, April 30 and each day of the week through Friday, May 4, under the "**Virtual Vocations Retreat**" tab on the USCCB Facebook page, the Conference will post a retreat prayer that is ideal for people discerning a vocation. These spiritual exercises follow the *lectio divina* format, including a Scripture reading, a portion of Pope Benedict XVI's Message of "Vocation, the Gift of the Love of God," and a closing prayer. **Be sure to share it with those you know who think they may be called to the priesthood or consecrated life!**
- USCCB Web site (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/world-day-of-prayer-for-vocations.cfm>): new downloadable Prayer for Vocations Card, Prayers of the Faithful, Holy Hour formats, and bulletin announcements.
- USCCB Web site, in Spanish (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/jornada-mundial-de-oracion-por-las-vocaciones.cfm>): Prayers for Vocations, Prayers of the Faithful, and Holy Hour for Vocations format.

We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that the vocation resources available on the USCCB vocation website:

<http://www.foryourvocation.org/> have been migrated over to the new USCCB Vocations webpages:

<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/>. We will continue to host the For Your Vocation Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/foryourvocation>.

Beginning May 1, the URL of www.ForYourVocation.org will redirect to the USCCB Vocations webpages.

The Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations continues to be ever-grateful for your support in promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. May the Holy Spirit guide your apostolic outreach to the world, and may the Holy Spirit inspire hearts to respond to God's call to a priestly or consecrated vocation!

In Christ,

Sr. Mary Joanna Ruhland, RSM

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<http://www.foryourvocation.org/>

<http://www.usccb.org/about/clergy-consecrated-life-and-vocations/>