Ukrainian
Greek Catholic
Church



GUIDEBOOK FOR THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Week of Prayer for Vocations
to Priestly Ministry and
Consecrated Life

November 21–27, 2026 A.D.

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OPENING REMARKS

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Dear Parents with Children!

In accordance with the decision of the Synod of Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, held in Zarvanytsia from July 1 to 10, 2026, we invite you to participate in a WEEK OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS to priestly ministry and consecrated life, beginning with the Feast of the Entrance of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (November 21). During this week, every parish is encouraged to hold prayer events and meetings with young people, inviting boys and girls to reflect on this special ministry within the Church of Christ.

In addition, we appeal to each of you to take part in this prayer initiative where you reside—in your own home and with your family. To this end, we have prepared this Guidebook, where you will find prayers, Scripture readings, reflections, and daily activities—from the 21st to the 27th of November.

This is a wonderful opportunity to pray together for the gift of vocations. We hope that you will use this occasion within your «Domestic Church» to listen together to the voice of God, who speaks to each of us, and to open your hearts to God's call to various forms of service to Him in His Church, in accordance with the gifts we have received from Him.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you!

+ Bohdan (Danylo)
Head of the Patriarchal Commission for the Clergy

+ Mykhail (Bubniy), CSsR
Head of the Patriarchal Commission for Monastic Life

DAY 1 November 21



THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

A Model of Openness to God

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church.

We dedicate this time of prayer to Your Most Holy Mother, who is for us the best example of openness to God's grace and a model of readiness to be an instrument in God's hands.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and direct our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You invite us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, «Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with you!» But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, «Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.» And Mary

said to the angel, «How will this be, since I am a virgin?» And the angel answered her, «The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy--the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.» And Mary said, «Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.» And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26–38)

REFLECTION

God enters the ordinary life of Mary, a young girl from Nazareth, with an unexpected invitation. She does not know where this path will lead her or how it will all come to pass. And so, upon hearing the angel's words, Mary is troubled and begins to ponder their meaning. Discerning one's calling does not always begin with certainty. It can give rise to questions, doubts, and sometimes even fear. It is important not to run away from them but, like the Blessed Mother, to remain attentive and open to what God wishes to say.

Mary asks, «How will this be?» She seeks to understand God's invitation but does not demand to know everything in advance. Likewise, as we discern our own vocation, we may ask questions, seek guidance, consult others, pray, and need time. Having a vocation does not mean we will be without questions; what matters is a readiness to seek answers together with God.

The Angel Gabriel tells Mary, «Do not be afraid...» and later assures her, «For nothing is impossible with God.» Responding to a vocation does not rely solely on our own strength and abilities. God not only calls us but also helps us come to understand our vocation. He grants grace, accompanies us, and gradually shapes us for the life and mission He entrusts to us.

Mary replies, «Here am I, the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word!» Her «yes» is an act of faith and trust. Similarly, every vocation from God unfolds gradually—through a readiness to listen to God and an openness to taking the next step with faith and trust.

Lord, help me listen attentively to Your voice, as did Mary, and not be afraid to ask what You are calling me to do. Grant me the freedom not to cling solely to my own plans, but to trust in You and have the courage, together with the Most Holy Mother of God, to answer: «Let it be done to me according to Your word.»

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- How does the Lord speak to me today, and do I recognize His voice in prayer and Holy Scripture, through other people or the circumstances of my life, through inner spiritual promptings and the voice of my conscience?
- What questions, doubts, or fears arise within me when I think about my vocation?
- What helps me to trust God, even when I do not yet know all the answers or see the entire path?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Have each family member name one specific area where they want to trust God more.

For children aged 6–11: «Listening for the Quiet Voice»

For 2–3 minutes, have everyone sit in silence with their eyes closed and try to hear the

quietest sound around them (a bird, the wind, a clock). Then, explain to the children that God often speaks just as quietly—through one's conscience, a good thought, or a prompt from another person.

Ask the children: «When did you hear such a quiet prompt in your heart this week?»

For teenagers aged 12–17: «Map of Possible Paths»

Have the teenager draw a simple tree-diagram with different «branches» representing vocations (family, service in the church community/parish, career, volunteering, priesthood/religious life). Next to each branch, have them write one word or feeling that arises when thinking about that path (peace, fear, curiosity, joy, sadness, doubt).

Discuss this together—parents and children—without pressure; simply view it as an honest look at oneself today.

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(3 times)*

DAY 2 November 22



THE HOLY FAMILY

An example for the Christian family— the Domestic Church

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*3 times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church. We dedicate this time of prayer to Your Most Holy Family, which for our family is an example of growth in faith, holiness, love, and wisdom.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and guide our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You invite us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time, the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his

answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, «Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.» And he said to them, «Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must deal with the things of my Father?» And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:40–52)

REFLECTION

Mary and Joseph search for Jesus and find Him in the Temple. Their search is filled with anxiety, for they do not yet understand what is happening. Yet, it is precisely in this search that they discover something new about Jesus. Similarly, in our own lives, God can surpass our expectations and familiar notions.

The words of the twelve-year-old Jesus ("Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?") reveal an awareness of His special mission. He is not yet beginning His public ministry, but He already

knows to Whom His life belongs. Likewise, a young person may gradually discover that God is calling them to a particular way of life and service.

Mary and Joseph do not immediately understand Jesus's answer. Likewise, it can be difficult for parents to accept that God has His own plan for their child's life—one that is sometimes different from what they had imagined. Mary does not reject what she does not understand; instead, she «treasures all these words in her heart.» Similarly, every family today is called to accompany, listen, and pray, leaving room for God to guide the young person along their own path.

Jesus returned to Nazareth with His parents and «increased in wisdom and in years, and in favor with God and man.» Even when a vocation begins to become clear, time is needed to test it and allow it to mature. This is the essence of formation: not merely preparing to do something for God, but above all allowing Him to shape our hearts and our way of thinking, to deepen our living relationship with Him, and to learn to recognize His presence in prayer, study, community, service, and ordinary daily life.

Lord, teach me to seek You and find You throughout my life. Help me not to be afraid when Your plan surpasses my own plans and expectations. Grant me the patience to listen to You and to grow into the calling You have for me. And grant every family the

wisdom and trust to support their children's vocations and to leave room for You to lead them along the path You have prepared for them.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, and allow a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- Where do I look for Jesus today, and where do I actually find Him in my daily life?
- What helps our family draw closer to God?
- Which spiritual practice in our family most needs strengthening?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Each family member names one spiritual practice they would like to start or strengthen:

- daily family prayer;
- reading the Holy Scriptures;
- regular participation in the Divine Liturgy;
- praying the Rosary;

- acts of mercy;
- personal prayer in silence.

Afterward, the family chooses one practice to try to carry out regularly.

For children aged 6–11: «Domestic Church on Paper»

Draw a floor plan of your home together (a simplified version), and in each room, write down a «spiritual activity» that could take place there: evening prayer in the bedroom, grace before meals in the kitchen, reading the Word of God in the living room. This evening, perform at least one of these activities in the specific room you drew.

For teenagers aged 12–17: «10-Minute Family Podcast»

The family records a short «podcast-style conversation» lasting 5–10 minutes (using a phone, without editing): each family member answers the question, «When do I feel God's presence?» You can simply listen to it together without publishing it—the main goal is to speak about faith aloud as a natural part of family life.

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

DAY 3 November 23



APOSTLES AND SAINTS

Called by Christ—they followed Him

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church.

We dedicate this time of prayer to those whom You called to discipleship and service—the Apostles and Saints who had the courage to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow You.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and direct our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You invite us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time, passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, «Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.» And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him. (Mark 1:16–20)

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, «Follow me.» And he rose and followed him. (Mark 2:13–14)

REFLECTION

Jesus walks along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and sees Simon and Andrew; a little further on, James and John; and later, Levi at the tax booth. He encounters them in the midst of ordinary life: in their work, their daily duties, and the specific circumstances of their personal histories. It is precisely there that the journey of their vocation begins.

Consider that the Lord sees you in the same way—personally, as the human being He has called into existence. He sees you as you are today: your history, your talents, your aspirations, your questions, and your search for meaning.

At the heart of each of these encounters we hear Jesus' personal invitation: «Follow me.» The disciples do not yet know where this path will lead them or what it will demand of them. Jesus does not offer a detailed plan for the future. Instead, He invites them to be with Him and to follow Him. A vocation is not merely an event of the past; Jesus speaks the words «Follow me» to us again at various stages of our life.

The disciples' response is concrete: Simon and Andrew leave their nets; James and John leave their

boat and their father; Levi rises from the tax booth. Think about your own «nets,» «boat,» or «collection booth.» Often, these are good and important things that provide a sense of security, yet sometimes they can hinder us from freely responding to the Lord's invitation.

However, Jesus calls us to more than just leaving things behind. He reveals a new mission to the disciples: «I will make you fishers of men.» The Lord takes our experience, our abilities, and our entire history, and gives them new meaning. The words «I will make you» are particularly significant. Mission is not the result of our efforts alone; it is the Lord who shapes us and gradually enables us to fulfill the calling He places before us.

Lord, You see me and know my life. Help me hear to what You are calling me today. Show me what I need to leave behind in order to follow You more freely, and what kind of person You desire to make me for the mission You entrust to me. Teach me to recognize the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and to respond to them with trust and freedom.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- How do I experience today the reality that the Lord sees me exactly as I am? To what aspect of my life is He drawing my attention?
- To what is Jesus inviting me today with the words «Follow me»? How do I discern His call amidst the current circumstances of my life?
- What are my «nets,» «boat,» or «collection booths «—what do I find difficult to leave behind or let go of in order to follow Jesus more freely?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Let each family member choose one specific sacrifice or act of service to offer freely to God this week for the intention of those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

This could be:

- giving up something enjoyable;
- spending extra time in prayer;
- helping parents or another family member;
- reconciling with someone;
- volunteering in the parish;
- helping someone in need.

For children aged 6–11: «The Path of Trust»

Create a simple «maze» in the room using chairs or pillows. Blindfold the child (if he or she is willing) and have a family member guide them through the obstacles using their voice: «step forward,» «turn left,» «there's a chair here—go around it.» After the game, explain: the apostles didn't see the path ahead either, but they followed Jesus's voice. Ask: «Who do you trust enough to follow without even seeing where you're going? Can you trust Jesus that way?»

For teenagers aged 12–17: «Letter to My Heavenly Patron»

The teenager should think about their patron saint, read a bit about that saint's life, and write a letter in which they: 1. express gratitude for a

specific example set by the saint, and 2. describe how they will try to imitate the saint in their own life. You can conclude the letter with a prayer: «Saint..., be an example to me and pray to God for me.»

(If a teenager does not have such a patron, they can choose a saint whom our Church commemorates during the month in which they were born or baptized.)

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and

love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

DAY 4 November 24



OUR PARISH

The community where we share God's Word and the Body of Christ

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church.

We dedicate this time of prayer to our parish community and thank You for this holy place where,

each week and on feast days, we gather with other families as brothers and sisters to hear Your Word and receive spiritual nourishment—Your Most Holy Body and Most Precious Blood.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and direct our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You call us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles

In those days, Peter spoke to those gathered in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost: «Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.» And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, «Save yourselves from this crooked generation.» So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching

and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:38–47)

REFLECTION

After the Apostle Peter's sermon, about three thousand people accepted his message and joined the community of disciples. Their faith did not remain merely a private matter. Together, they listened to the apostles' teaching, prayed, broke bread, shared what they had, and supported one another. Thus, the first Christian community was born.

Think about your own parish or the community to which you belong. It is there that we listen to God's Word, encounter Christ in the Eucharist, and learn

to live together, support one another, and serve. Our faith grows not only through personal prayer but also through our relationships with the specific people God places alongside us. In the early Christian community, everyone contributed what they had, and no one remained merely a spectator. It is the same today: some serve at the altar, while others sing, teach, provide catechesis, help the needy, pray, or support others. Everyone possesses gifts with which they can serve God and their fellow human beings.

Our parish communities should be places where individuals discover their vocation. By witnessing the faith and service of priests, consecrated persons, married couples, and other Christians, young people discover various ways to dedicate themselves to God and others. Sometimes, it is through a specific person—their example or their ministry—that the Lord helps us hear His voice. Perhaps He is speaking to you today through someone in your community.

Lord, I thank You for the people through whom I encounter You in the Church. Help me not to remain merely a spectator, but to discover the gifts You have given me and use them to serve others. May our parish community be a place where every person can grow in faith and in the fulfillment of their vocation.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- Who in my parish or community has helped me draw closer to God through their life?
- Is the parish merely a place of prayer for me, or is it a community to which I truly belong?
- Are there people in our parish whom I could get to know better or support?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Have each family member name one specific act they are willing to perform for members of the parish community. For example: greeting someone who is alone, helping another family, inviting someone to church, serving during the liturgy, or offering to help with a parish ministry.

Alternatively, have them name a specific parish activity they would like to participate in: prayer groups, the youth community, catechesis, the choir, caring for the beauty of the church or the church grounds, etc.

For children aged 6–11: «Communion-Thanksgiving»

Recall the last time the child received Holy Communion (perhaps last Sunday) and suggest they draw a heart. Inside the heart, have them write or draw what they wish to thank Jesus for regarding that moment.

In the evening, place the drawing near a home icon or cross as a small reminder of their encounter with Christ.

For teenagers aged 12–17: «Text Message of Gratitude»

Write and send a short, sincere text message (by phone or social media) to a specific person thanking them for their example of service.

A template for inspiration: «Hi! I'm from our youth community. I just wanted to thank you for your service (singing in the choir / organizing meetings / cleaning / your warm smile at the entrance). Thanks to you, our parish feels more welcoming. God bless you!»

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(3 times)*

DAY 5 November 25



DEACONS AND PRIESTS

Our shepherds—teachers, men of prayer, serving their neighbors in love

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, today we have gathered before You to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church. We dedicate this time of prayer to our shepherds—deacons, priests, and bishops—those who, in Your name, offer the service of praise

and sacrifice to our Heavenly Father, teaching us, praying with and for us, and serving our neighbors together with the entire community of God's children. O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and direct our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You invite us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the First Universal Epistle of Peter

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for «God opposes the

proud but gives grace to the humble.» Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1 Peter 5:1–9)

REFLECTION

The Apostle Peter addresses those to whom God entrusts a special responsibility for others: «Shepherd the flock of God entrusted to you.» These words reveal one of the deepest meanings of the priestly vocation—to be a shepherd of God's people, to care for the individuals whom the Lord entrusts to the priest.

Consider the many different human stories a priest encounters in his ministry. Children need to be baptized and helped to grow in the faith; newlyweds need to be united in marriage; the Eucharist—the Bread of Life—needs to be offered to the people, who need to be instructed in the Word of God; young

people need to be guided to Christian maturity and responsibility; parents need to be accompanied; the needy to be helped; the sick to be visited; the wounded to be healed and the weak strengthened; and those who have sinned to be ministered to by offering God's forgiveness, to comfort the sorrowful and to bury the deceased in the hope of the resurrection.

Peter also speaks of how a shepherd ought to serve: «not under compulsion, but willingly,» «not as lording it over» others, but «being an example to the flock.» Being a shepherd of souls is not a matter of status or authority, but a voluntary response to God's call and a readiness to lay down one's life in service. A shepherd is called not only to speak about Christ but, through his own life, to help others encounter Him. At the same time, he remains a human being in need of God's grace and the prayers of the faithful. He is constantly growing and learning to overcome his own weaknesses.

Yet, this calling can also give rise to questions and anxiety: Will I have enough strength, ability, and faith? The Apostle Peter reminds us: «Cast all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.» The Lord Himself accompanies, forms, and strengthens the one He calls.

Lord, if You are calling me or someone in my family or among my friends to the priesthood, help us hear You and not be afraid to answer. Grant everyone who is called the heart of a shepherd—capable of loving people, serving them, and leading them to You. Teach us to trust You amidst doubts and difficulties and grant us the freedom to dedicate our lives in service to Your people.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- What speaks to me most deeply about the image of the priest as a shepherd to whom God entrusts the care of His people?
- Do I feel a desire to dedicate my life to serving others—to accompany them in faith, joy, hardships, and the significant moments of their lives?
- When I consider the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood—whether for myself or for someone close to me—what feelings arise? Joy, desire, peace, curiosity, doubt, fear, or resistance? Where do these positive or

negative feelings come from? What might they be telling me?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Name a specific deacon, priest, or bishop and share what this minister has taught you about God. Which aspect of their ministry inspires you the most? Then, pray for them together.

For children aged 6–11: «Our Family Story of Faith»

Parents tell their child a brief story: how they came to faith, who taught them to pray, and whether there was a priest or another person who influenced them. The child can draw a picture of one of the people from the story.

Conclude by having the child answer the question: «Is there anyone who has influenced you in that way?»

For teenagers aged 12–17: «Brief Interview»

The teenager prepares three brief questions to ask their priest or deacon about his vocation (for example: «When did you realize this was your path?» or «What is the hardest part of your ministry?»). If possible, the teenager can

message these questions to the priest or ask them during Sunday catechism class or after the Liturgy.

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(3 times)*

DAY 6 November 26



CONSECRATED PERSONS

Monks and nuns, religious brothers and sisters, consecrated laypersons

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church.

We dedicate this evening to consecrated persons—monks and nuns, brothers and sisters—who

have dedicated their lives in a special way to the evangelical virtues of poverty, chastity, and obedience, as a sign of the angelic life already here on earth.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and direct our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You invite us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, «Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?» And Jesus said to him, «Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'» And he said to him, «Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.» And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, «You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and

give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.» Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, «How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!» And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, «Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.» And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, «Then who can be saved?» Jesus looked at them and said, «With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.» Peter began to say to him, «See, we have left everything and followed you.» Jesus said, «Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.» (Mark 10:17–31)

REFLECTION

A man runs up to Jesus and asks, «Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?» He knows the commandments and lives by them, yet he feels that this is not enough; there is a longing in his heart for something more.

The Evangelist draws attention to a special moment: «Looking at him with love, Jesus said...» Before calling this man and inviting him to leave something behind, Jesus looks at him with love. He looks at you in the same way today. Every vocation begins not with what must be left behind or renounced, but with the experience of encountering God—a God who sees you, loves you, and calls you specifically.

Jesus says, «You lack one thing... come, follow Me.» This man possessed great wealth. Not everyone has material riches, but your youth—your time, energy, talents, dreams, and future—can also be a form of wealth. All of this is a gift. The Lord does not seek to take it away from you; rather, He invites you to entrust what you have to Him.

The Apostle Peter says, «We have left everything and followed You.» Jesus replies that whoever leaves something behind for His sake and for the sake of

the Gospel will receive a hundredfold in return. Consecrated men and women bear witness to this with their lives, having left much behind to give themselves entirely to Christ and His mission. Their lives remind us that following Christ is not merely about leaving things behind. It is also about gaining new brothers and sisters, new relationships, and a new mission, and discovering the fullness of life that the Lord gives.

Lord, You look upon me with love and call me to follow You. Help me to entrust to You all the riches of my life—everything I have and own—for You, Lord, have given it all to me. Grant me the freedom to respond to Your call and to believe that by following You, I do not lose my life but discover its true fullness.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- Do I allow Jesus to look upon me with love?
- What is my greatest treasure today—my strengths, abilities, youth, dreams, relationships or plans for the future?

- To what is Jesus inviting me today with the words «Follow Me,» and am I ready to believe that by following Him, I can receive so much more?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Learn the founding story of a religious community or monastery that serves our Church. Pray for its members and for new vocations.

For children aged 6–11: «Listening the First Time»

Play a quick game during the day: parents give the child 3–4 simple, kind requests (put away toys, fetch some water, say «thank you» to Grandma), and the child tries to carry out each one the first time, without being reminded. Afterward, have a conversation: listening out of love is a small act of «obedience,» just like the monks practice.

For teenagers aged 12–17: «What Am I Not Ready to Give Up?»

The teenager honestly writes down (for themselves) 2–3 things they would find hardest to give up for the sake of God (a phone,

relationships, plans, comfort...). There is no need to literally «sacrifice» anything today—the important thing is to honestly identify the attachments everyone has and to reflect on how life might change if one were to give something up for God.

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(3 times)*

DAY 7 November 27



YOUNG ADULTS AND SEMINARIANS

«Here I am, send me!»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3 *times*)

Lord Jesus Christ, we have gathered before You today to listen to Your Word and to pray together for the gift of vocations to the priestly and consecrated life in Your Church.

We dedicate this time of prayer to young adults and seminarians—to those who are currently reflecting on their life's path and on the development of their natural and spiritual gifts for Your glory and for the good of the human race, created by You.

O Good God, be with us during this time of prayer and guide our hearts and minds to know Your holy will. O Holy Spirit—Spirit of love, joy, and peace—grant us the grace, strength, and courage to fulfill all that You call us to do. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans

Brothers and sisters, do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the

members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:2–18)

REFLECTION

The Apostle Paul exhorts: «Be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God.» Discerning one's calling begins with the desire to seek not merely what is popular or what others expect of us, but rather what God invites us to do. Especially in youth, many opportunities open up before a person, and numerous voices around them suggest what their life should look like. Amidst these, it is important to learn to recognize the voice of the Lord and ask: «God, what is Your will for my life?»

Paul also reminds us that God endows the Church with various gifts: some are called to serve, others to teach, prophesy, or exhort. Therefore, discerning one's vocation also means coming to know oneself—one's abilities, aspirations, strengths, and limitations—and discovering how God invites us to use them in service.

However, the priesthood requires more than just aptitude or knowledge. Paul draws attention to a person's inner qualities: «let love be sincere,» «love one another with brotherly affection,» «be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.» Thus, the time of discernment and seminary formation is not merely

about preparing a future minister for his duties. It is, above all, a time when the Lord shapes a person capable of sincere love, service to others, and perseverance in prayer.

Paul adds: «Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.» In these words, one can see the heart of a shepherd. The Lord gradually prepares a person for such a heart—through daily relationships, prayer, study, service, and concrete opportunities to love people right now.

Lord, help me to seek Your will for my life, to recognize the gifts You have bestowed upon me, and to discover how to use them to serve Your Church and others. Shape my heart so that I may truly love, serve, and stand by those You place on my path.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

(Read aloud, allowing a minute or two for reflection after each question)

- With what gifts, abilities, and talents has God endowed me? How can they become a means of serving God and others?

- What brings me true joy while also helping others?
- Do I feel a desire to be close to people—to «rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep»—and could this desire be a sign of a calling to the priesthood or religious life?

SUGGESTED FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Choose a seminarian, a religious (monk or nun), or a young person discerning their life path, and pray for the grace of discernment regarding their vocation.

For children aged 6–11: «Spiritual Sponsorship»

Encourage your child to create a prayer card featuring their own prayer for someone discerning a spiritual vocation. Have them draw an icon on one side and write the prayer on the other. Then, have them pray for that person for a specific period (e.g., a week or a month).

For teenagers aged 12–17

Create two columns:

«God has given me» — list five natural or spiritual gifts.

«I can serve with them» — next to each gift, write a specific way to serve God, the Church, your family, or your neighbor.

For parents: identify one gift you see in each child and say:

«We believe God gave you this gift for the good of others.»

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Suggest that younger children choose one gift and consciously use it to serve another person during the coming week.

In Closing

FAMILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being invisibly present in our family and for blessing us with Your love. Open our hearts so that we may discern Your Father's will for our life and its vocations. Send down upon us Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully shine with the light of good deeds. And if You call any of us to a special ministry in the Church—to be a deacon, a priest, a sister-nun, or a brother-monk—help us

not to be afraid, but to have the courage to follow You and live for You. We thank You for the good examples of service in our lives. Bless our home, that it may be a place of growth in faith, holiness, and love for You and our neighbor. For You, our God, are holy, and to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then we pray together: «Our Father» *and* «Hail Mary.»

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *(3 times)*

ADDENDUM

PETITION AT THE DIVINE LITURGY

We also pray for numerous vocations among our youth to the priestly and religious life, that those consecrated to God may contribute to the proclamation of salvation, the people's growth in holiness, and the spreading of God's Kingdom; Lord, hear us and have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, Heavenly Teacher and Master of our life, You invite each of us to discipleship with the words «Follow Me!» and «Come and see!» In every generation, among Your disciples, You call some to a special ministry in Your vineyard—to the consecrated life and the priestly order. Our needs are great, and Your people yearn for Your presence. We beseech You: open our hearts so that we may discern Your will for our lives and hear Your

invitation to serve within the Church community and in this world. Choose from among us faithful men and women, boys and girls, who will become willing instruments in Your hands and examples of faith and evangelical life—zealous sisters, brothers, deacons, and priests, devoted to prayer and service for Your glory and the good of Your people. Bless with holiness, joy, and perseverance those whom You have called—those who have answered Your appeal and serve among us. For You, our God, are holy, and we send up glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen.

Patriarchal Commission for the Clergy
Patriarchal Commission for Monastic Life

2026

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