



## United in Prayer for Vocations | March 2022

Prepared by the [Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul, Province of St. Louise](#) at the request of the Federation Vocation Core Team

*A monthly prayer service is being prepared by each branch in our Federation. The purpose is to pray for vocations, to help us learn a bit more about the charisms of each of our congregations, keep us engaged collaboratively in vocation ministry and bring us closer to seeing ourselves sharing a common Mission of Charity for the present and the future.*

### Introduction to the beginnings of the Daughters of Charity

The “Company” (the Daughters of Charity), founded in France in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, is known in the Church by the name of Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Servants of the Poor.



As early as 1630, Vincent de Paul entrusted to Louise de Marillac the first Sisters, who were devoting themselves to the work of the various confraternities. On November 20, 1633, they gathered around her to live their ideal under her guidance in community. At first, they nursed the sick poor in their homes, in the towns and villages; as need became known, they cared for the sick in hospitals, little girls in need of instruction, foundlings, galley convicts, wounded soldiers, refugees, the aged, persons with mental illness and others.

*“And that, Sisters, was the beginning of your Company. As it was not then what it is now, there is reason to believe that it is still not what it will be when God has perfected it as He wants it.” (St. Louise de Marillac)*

The call heard by the first Sisters is ever the same. Throughout the world, it continues to raise up and assemble Daughters of Charity, who strive to rediscover at the source the inspiration and intuitions of their Founders, so that they may respond with ever-renewed identity and availability to the needs of their time.

**Call to Prayer:** “The main purpose for which God has called the Daughters of Charity and brought them together is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ as the source and model of all charity, serving Him corporally and spiritually in the person of the poor...” (St. Vincent)

**Song:** “The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor” ([YouTube](#) or Song book)

**Reading:** “To be true Daughters of Charity, you must do what the Son of God did when He was on earth. And what did He do mainly? He worked constantly for His neighbor, visiting and healing the sick and instructing the ignorant for their salvation. How fortunate you are, Sisters, to be called to a state of life so pleasing to God...” (St. Vincent de Paul)

**Reflection and Sharing:** Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, along with our Founders, Vincent and Louise, have called us to be true servants of those who are poor.

Recall a time when you reached out to serve someone in need. How did it make you feel?



**Intercessions:** Compassionate God, your love is everlasting. In trust, we pray: **God of our Founders, help us to serve with charity.**

- Embolden our Sisters in our Federation to advocate justice for the poor and stand in solidarity with the oppressed, we pray:
- Rid our cities and our world of violence and warfare, we pray:
- Help us to embrace life, practice deep prayer and pursue peace, we pray:
- Guide us to seek, find and remember your presence in our daily encounters with others, especially the poor, we pray:
- Inspire us to work together to foster vocations to the Church and especially in our Federation, we pray:

### **Closing Prayer: Federation Vocation Prayer**

From age to age, O God,  
you have ignited hearts  
impelled by the love of Christ  
to respond with the gift of their lives.  
In the name of the family of St. Vincent de Paul,  
we commend to you all women  
in serious discernment and initial formation  
with our Federation of Charity.

Through the intercession of Vincent, Louise, Elizabeth,  
and all our Founders in the Company of Charity,  
may they experience clarity of call,  
generosity of heart,  
and the courage to respond in faith.  
Give us the grace to be joyful companions  
on the journey of discernment.  
From generation to generation  
may the love of Christ impel us!



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