



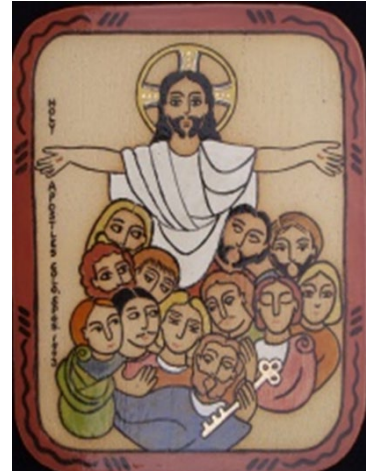
United in Prayer for Vocations | April 2022

Prepared by the [Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati](#) 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.

Building a Beloved Community

Introduction: In 1829, four Sisters of Charity from Emmitsburg, Maryland opened St. Peter's School and Orphan Asylum in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1852. With the support of Archbishop John Purcell, the Sisters in Cincinnati became a diocesan congregation. Under the leadership of Mother Margaret George, the Cincinnati community established schools, hospitals and social service agencies in Ohio, Michigan, New Mexico and Colorado. Today we continue to live out our mission by serving the people of God in education, health, pastoral and social services. We strive to live Gospel values by acting justly, building loving relationships, sharing our resources with those in need and caring for all creation.



Call to Prayer: As Sisters of Charity we spend our lives building a beloved Community. It takes faith and commitment. As new generations follow the call of Charity, our beloved Community grows. May our discerners and women in formation know true welcome, support, and freedom of heart in our Charity family, as we seek to serve the global beloved community together.

“We are Sisters of Charity because we have been called by God to share in a common vision and sense of mission. To respond to this call and to strengthen our dedication, we freely choose to live in community.” (*SC Constitutions*, p. 23)

“At Baptism each of us was incorporated into the Christian community. We see the vowed life as an extension of our Baptismal commitment and an image of the life of the Trinity. We seek to respond to the Triune God's call by offering our lives for the sake of the Kingdom.” (*SC Constitutions*, p. 11)

In our scripture we hear Jesus calling us to the hard work of faith in building community.

Scripture: Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12

Song: “Come Follow Me and Live” (Gael Berberick and Barney Walker – ASCAP)

REFRAIN: Come, follow me and live; do not be afraid. Believe and trust in me; your faith will give you strength.

Leave all your fears behind you; let your heart be free, for I will be your guide. Oh, come and follow me.

1. Come follow in these footsteps; I'll lead you gently home.
No shelter, food nor money will you need upon this road. REFRAIN

2. Come walk across the water; place all your faith in me.
Cast all your doubts behind you to the wind and raging sea. REFRAIN
3. If you remain within me, my words remain in you.
Whatever you may ask of me, that is what I will do. REFRAIN

INTERCESSIONS:

When Margaret George left for her first mission outside of Emmitsburg, Elizabeth Seton sent her off with a farewell note that contained these words: “You have so much to do for our Lord. May He bless you as my heart and soul bless you!” Let us pray now for the grace to do what is ours to do for God, as a Charity community, and to bless and trust the new generations to carry on the mission.

How blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of god is theirs:

We pray for the humility to identify with the poor in spirit, with our hearts and with our deeds – to consider all the riches that are ours to be gifts to share in blessed community.

Blest are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

We remember the many in our world grieving the loss of loved ones due to natural disasters, climate changes, violent crime or migration.

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

We ask that we may know that we are not God – that all we have or hope to be we owe to our generous Creator.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

We pray with those who have set their hearts on a Beloved community in which all belong and live to know, love and serve our Creator God.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs

We pray for ourselves and all others who have sinned. (Wouldn't that be all of us?) – that we will treat others as we would wish to be treated.

Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see god.

We pray for the awareness that God is all that matters, the heart of all our loves.

Blest are the peacemakers; they shall be called sons and daughters of god.

We pray for sowers of the seeds of peace in our families, communities, places of work, nations – our world – peace to replace weapons of war.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of god is theirs.

Let us pray for those who know that what God asks can lead to suffering and perhaps even to death – for their courage and ours, to do what is right and just.

REFLECTION/SHARING

Henri Nouwen describes community as “a basic need and hunger of the human heart. We are created for community, but often we do not experience it in the individualistic and competitive cultures that shape our lives. Community is a place marked by acceptance, intimacy and vulnerability, where we

can bear fruit in solidarity with others and be the Body of Christ for the sake of the world. It is a place of care and celebration, the place where our wounds and weaknesses are exposed, a sheltered place for the confession of sin and brokenness, and a house of love where we can receive forgiveness and offer it in return.” Take some quiet time to reflect on what has been shared. What is our call and challenge to build and nourish community as Sisters of Charity and citizens of the world? Take time to share your reflections with the community gathered to pray today.

Art: Santo of the Apostles and Jesus created by Roberta Westrick, SC, Cincinnati.

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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