



United in Prayer for Vocations | May 2022

Prepared by the Religieuses Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur, Dieppe, New Brunswick, Canada 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: The Congregation of the [Religieuses de Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Cœur](#) (NDSC) (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart) was founded in 1924 when Mère Marie-Anne and 52 Acadian religious women belonging to the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception (SCIC) of Saint John, New Brunswick, obtained permission from Rome to found a new congregation whose mission would be to help the Acadian people survive in their language (French), their culture and their Catholic faith. Their main field of apostolic work at the time was education. Today, the sisters minister in social justice, health care, youth and adult ministry, catechetics, music and other forms of pastoral work in New Brunswick, Canada. The Notre-Dame du Sacré-Coeur Congregation has an added virtue in their charism: Charity, Simplicity, Humility and Risk in Faith.



Call to Prayer: A Prayer of Risk (By [Tamara Lebak](#))

Holy One who has given us the breath of life,
Today we remember to breathe deeply, to rest, to take in, to pause before we act...
And then to take in another deep breath poised on the edge
And risk jumping in, risk taking action, risk speaking up, risk using the gifts we have been given
So that at the end of our life we can say with absolute clarity
That no part of our existence was wasted in fear of failure or fear of success.
Hold us; prepare us the way to begin to offer the gift of our awakened presence,
Full of love and light today.
These and the prayers of our hearts we lift up now in the silence... Amen.

Song: Companions on the Journey (Carey Landry) (available on YouTube)

We are companions on the journey,
Breaking Bread and sharing life;
And in the love we bear is the hope we share,
For we believe in the love of our God,
We believe in the love of our God.

Reading: John's Disciples Follow Jesus - John 1, 35-42

³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. ³⁸ Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi", "where are you staying?" ³⁹ "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. ⁴¹ The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas".

The Gospel of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

Reflection & Sharing (optional):

What made me want to follow Jesus in Religious life? Why do I want to follow Jesus today? What am I being called to as I follow Jesus today?

Intercession prayer:

Let us pray for women who are discerning their vocation...

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!



Federation Vocation Core Team: Helene Allain, NDSC; Melissa Camardo, SCL; Regina Hlavac, DC (St. Louise); Tracy Kemme, SC (Cincinnati); Chris Kunze, SCN. Contact Sisters to the Federation Core Team: Rejane Cytacki, SCL; Maryanne Tracey, SC (St. Elizabeth); Shannon Hoffman, SC (St. Elizabeth); Rachel Blais, SC (Seton Hill); Mary Ann Connolly, SC (Halifax); Lisa Laguna, DC (St. Elizabeth); Pat Poole, SCIC; Joanne O'Regan, CSM