



United in Prayer for Vocations | August 2022

Prepared by the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, St. John, 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.



“Where your treasure is...there is your heart...”

After leaving her native Ireland, Honoria Conway lived in Saint John, New Brunswick, and Metaghan, Nova Scotia, before joining the Sisters of Charity of New York. When a cholera epidemic claimed the lives of hundreds of Irish immigrants in Saint John, Honoria and three companions responded to the request for help made to the Sisters of Charity of New York by the Saint John Bishop, Thomas Louis Connolly, OFM. They established the [Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception](#) (originally known as the Sisters of Charity of St. John) in 1854. The community became the first English-speaking religious congregation founded in Canada. Our living heritage is expressed through the spirituality of Saints Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and Elizabeth Ann Seton.

As women of Charity, **“we respond with justice and mercy to the cries of Mother Earth and the cries of those made poor, advocating for peace and integrity of all creation.”**

Gathering Prayer ~

Creator God, our foundresses, founders and ancestors were attentive to the “signs of their times” ...responding with daring and courage to be among and beside the marginalized and those made poor. You invite us to be a prophetic voice in our world today, speaking with truth, compassion and integrity to “our signs” with that same courage and daring that guided them on their paths.

Song ~ “If Not Now” (Carrie Newcomer) ([Watch on YouTube](#))

If not now, tell me when. If not now, tell me when.
We may never see this moment or place in time again
If not now, if not now, tell me when.

Prophetic Words ~

“If God is the centre of your life, no words will be needed.
Your mere presence will touch their hearts.” (Vincent de Paul)

“And what are we called to do?...to spread fire upon the earth
So that it might be inflamed with God’s love.” (Louise de Marillac)

“Hazard yet Forward...” (Elizabeth Ann Seton)

“Where your treasure is, there is your heart (Luke 12:34)

“To communicate the sacred flame of God’s love”

(Original Rule ~ Sisters of Charity of Immaculate Conception ~ October 21, 1854)

Reflection ~ Which words of wisdom speak to your heart today?

Intercessions for Our Times

~ We pray for our world, our common home. May we hear its cry and be a prophetic voice to protect God’s creation for future generations.

~ We pray for our Church. May we be the prophetic voice to embrace inclusivity and interconnectedness.

~ We pray for our world leaders. May we be the prophetic voice that encourages them to take bold action to care for the gifts of creation we have been given.

~ We pray for those being invited to discern a call to Religious Life. May they be aware of their prophetic voice in these times to joyfully live the radical Gospel values.

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!



Artwork ~ Muriel Buckley, SCIC



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