



Current Issues in Prayer

February 2025

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.**



Getting started:

I find a quiet moment to stay briefly in God's presence. I thank the Lord for the people who have dedicated all their life to follow Christ and to serve in his mission.



Short story:



In his early twenties, Joachim was torn between marriage and Jesuit religious life. For a while he decided to take more seriously his relationship with his girlfriend, as he convinced himself that God must be calling him to marriage. And yet he was unable to find peace. But then, unexpectedly, he started feeling deep consoling movements during prayer in a way he had never experienced before in his life. He recalls going up to church, sitting in front of the Sacred Heart altar, and being absolutely overwhelmed. After some time, he

became aware that this consolation was present whenever he reflected seriously on the possibility of becoming a Jesuit. Even those times when he was unsure of this desire, but still found the time to stay in front of the same Sacred Heart altar, he noticed that sensible consolation would be given to him again. Throughout this period, he knew instinctively that this was the right decision for him because of this consolation.

When he applied to join the Jesuits, he was given some months to better discern his call with a spiritual Father. During those months he experienced many doubts about his decision, but whenever he sat in silence before the Sacred Heart altar, interior peace was restored. And with it the conviction that God was calling him to give himself totally to this way of love.



Time to reflect:

Do I see my life as a call to love? Would I encourage and support young persons in their quest to love as a consecrated way of life? Do I pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life?



Let us pray:

Lord, thank you for the gift of consecrated people. They radiate so much hope of a world more human and for life in eternity. Grant that there will be many young people eager to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and in Religious Life.



Inspiration:

When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.

Christus Vivit, 289.



Hands on:

I look back at my life to recall some consecrated persons who had a notable influence on me. I thank God for them. And I pray for the gift of new good vocations today.