

Dear Friend in Christ,

"I wish to spend my heaven doing good on earth... I will help priests, missionaries, the whole Church." These joyous words give form to the power of the Holy Spirit moving in the life of little Therese. As a cloistered nun in the Carmelite monastery of Lisieux, France, St. Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face knew profoundly the call of God within her. Her response to her "vocation of Love" was one full of confidence, giving herself without reserve to Jesus as His bride. Therese understood clearly the sacrifice her gift would entail and depended solely on God's grace and mercy to bring her to sanctity through her vocation. This Father of Mercies provided for her in abundance, giving her not only the desire to be a faithful religious, but expanding her heart's desire to include all vocations.

At a loss to reconcile these desires within her she sought counsel in Sacred Scripture. It was St. Paul who gave her the light she needed. He helped her understand that it is Love that makes all the members of the Body of Christ act in their various roles. Love is at the heart of all vocations and of all the desires of her own heart. It is this revelation of her vocation as Love in the heart of the Church which is the foundation of her title as patroness of vocations.

Love is at the heart of the St. Therese Vocation Society as well. Members of the Society join together in prayer and sacrifice for the men and women of our diocese being formed as priests and religious. It is a true participation in the grace of the prayer our Savior made the night before he died, the prayer in which He begged the Father that we might be completely one as They are one...in Love. The interdependence of all the Christian vocations is manifest in the Vocation Society as married and single lay persons

pray with and for priests and religious for an increase in vocations. They keep particular focus on prayers for the perseverance of those in formation at our seminaries and religious communities and for the holiness of those already professed and ordained.

Ours is an age of great hope, and with the prayers of St. Therese, one of great confidence in the boundless mercy of God to provide richly for the vineyard He is bringing to the Harvest of salvation. By signing the detachable portion of this card and returning it to us, you are officially enrolled as a member of the St. Therese Vocation Society. There are no dues or meetings, only the promise of your prayers.

As a member of the Society, you will benefit by a daily remembrance in the Masses and prayers of our priests, seminarians and religious who are members of the Society. A prayer calendar will be sent to you several times a year listing the names of our seminarians and those religious from our diocese who have yet to make their final profession of vows. Each will be listed adjacent to a particular date to be remembered in prayer. Keep the remaining portion of the card in your prayer book or other convenient place, to remind yourself of your commitment of prayers. With your prayerful support, we look forward to an increase in numbers and devotion of those who are willing to dedicate their lives completely to the service of the Lord and His Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father Robert Avella
Director of Vocations



Father Brian Bashista
Promoter of Vocations

THE ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY

As a member of the St. Therese Vocation Society, I pledge to:

- 1) Offer a daily prayer for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life.
- 2) Offer a daily prayer for an outpouring of grace upon the priests and religious serving our Diocese.
- 3) Make a Holy Hour each week (in Church or at home) for an increase in vocations in our Diocese, for the perseverance of the seminarians now studying for the priesthood and the men and women in formation at religious communities.
- 4) Attend Mass once a month (illness excusing) for these same intentions.
- 5) Offer a share in any sufferings I may experience for an increase in vocations in our Diocese and an increase in zeal, fervor and grace for our priests, deacons and the religious men and women serving our diocese.

Name: _____

Tear off and mail

Dear Father Bashista,

I wish to become a member of the St. Therese Vocation Society. As a member of the Society, I commit myself to offering the following for an increase in vocations in our Diocese, for the perseverance of the seminarians now studying for the priesthood, and for an outpouring of grace upon the priests, deacons and religious serving our Diocese:

- 1) a daily prayer for vocations
- 2) a daily prayer for priests, brothers and sisters.
- 3) a weekly Holy Hour (at home or in Church)
- 4) a monthly Mass
- 5) a share in any sufferings I might endure.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Parish: _____

St. Therese Vocation Society



Diocese of Arlington

DAILY PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father, Your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard. We earnestly beg You to bless our Diocese and our world with many priests and religious men and women who will love You fervently, and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to Your Son's Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord; that they be always faithful to the Holy Father; and that they may be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our Mother, in making You known and loved; and that all may attain Heaven. Bless our families and our children and choose from our homes those whom You desire for this holy work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

A MORNING OFFERING BY ST. THERESE

O my God! I offer Thee all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest works, by uniting them to Its infinite merits; and I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of Its Merciful Love. O my God! I ask of Thee for myself and for those whom I hold dear, the grace to fulfill perfectly Thy Holy Will, to accept for love of Thee the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in Heaven for all Eternity. Amen.

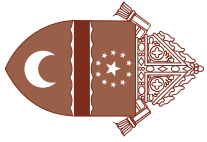
DAILY PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O JESUS, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tepid priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your tempted priests; for Your lonely and desolate priests; for Your young priests; for Your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in Purgatory.

But above all, I recommend to You the priests dearest to me; the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way (especially...). O Jesus, keep them all close to Your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

God our Father, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I ask You to bless and strengthen the spiritual renewal and vitality of all priests and religious so that Your Church may shine more resplendently and bear witness to Your presence in our world today. In particular, inspire many men and women to respond to Your Son's call to "Come, follow Me" as members of those communities which are living the religious life according to the mind of the Church. I ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.



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ST. THERESE VOCATION SOCIETY
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Attn: Father Brian Bashista