



# Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**February 2025**

## **-For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life-**

We pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people called to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

**Pope's Prayer USA Video, [popesprayerusa.net](http://popesprayerusa.net)**

**Pope Video, [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)**

**Reflection by Sr. M Karolyn**

*Sr. M. Karolyn serves as the vocation director for the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL. [www.altonfranciscans.org](http://www.altonfranciscans.org)*

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At play in the human heart is the tottering interplay of the desire for greatness and the fear that one might not have the capacity to achieve such lofty aspirations. In a culture where success is often measured by relational status, financial security, and academic or career accomplishments, the possibility of leaving those behind in response to God's call seems increasingly absurd. But as a Church, we are called to receive, encourage, and cultivate the invitation of Jesus to say 'yes' to loving in a radical way, even if it makes no sense to the world.

A life of chaste celibacy for the sake of the kingdom, poverty, and obedience in imitation of Jesus can indeed be a fitting correspondence to the desire for greatness because it is a radical way of love. Perhaps the fear and doubt that creep in are less from the world and more from within the Church. Even parents and grandparents who attend Mass and raise their children in the faith can be unknowing obstacles to young people who feel drawn to respond to a call to religious life and priesthood. Rather than nurturing the stirring desires and experience of a call, they sometimes magnify the fears and doubts with their own expectations for their children's success, leaving the young person to wonder if happiness is possible by living and loving in a countercultural way. The truth is, a life of radical love is always a way to happiness and fulfillment, even if it looks different than the way that mom and grandma have found it.

Our crucified Lord is the ultimate sign of contradiction who simultaneously stirs desire to love in a radical way and silently declares the truth of love that cuts through fear and doubt.

This month we pray that the Church can be a seedbed where the desire for greatness can be cultivated by the prayerful support of the faithful who will lift high the paradox of the Cross as a source of salvation while echoing the words of Jesus in the face of the doubts that arise and are the enemy of love: Do not be afraid.



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**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

***February 2025: We pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people called to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.***

**Grace:** We pray for the grace to be able to love and support the young people who are discerning their call to Love, may we be able to support them as they pray through where God is calling them to lay down their lives.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:**

*"Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*

**[Reader 2] Quote:** *"To discern your personal vocation, you have to realize that it is a calling from a friend who is Jesus. When we realize that Jesus is calling us to something bigger than ourselves, then we open ourselves to His grace and guidance. The vocation to follow Christ is exciting; it is worth leaving everything behind and making a leap of faith... Don't be afraid to set out on the journey, for He is waiting for you there."*

— Pope Francis, 2018 [Synod Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment](#)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:**

1. What desires or doubts do I experience when considering God's unique call for my life? How can I bring these to prayer and discernment?
2. How does our community create a space where young people feel safe to express their desires and doubts about their vocation?
3. In what ways can we still grow in affirming and nurturing the gifts and potential of young people, especially those discerning priesthood or religious life?