



World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 25 2021

Saint Joseph : The Dream of Vocation

samedi 24 avril 2021, par [Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny](#)

"God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal : to beget and renew lives every day." (Pope Francis)

Extracts from the Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 2021 World Day of Vocations

25 April 2021 - Saint Joseph : the Dream of Vocation

*... God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. **Vocations have this same goal : to beget and renew lives every day.** The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers : **hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes.** The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of "the saints next door". At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.*

*Saint Joseph suggests to us **three key words** for each individual's vocation. **The first is dream.** Everyone dreams of finding fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty aspirations that ephemeral goals – like success, money and entertainment – cannot satisfy. If we were to ask people to express in one word their life's dream, it would not be difficult to imagine the answer : "to be loved". It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life's mystery. Indeed, we only have life if we give it ; we truly possess it only if we generously give it away. Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard, because, through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift.*

...

*A **second word** marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation : **service.** The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself. The holy people of God invoke him as the*

most chaste spouse, based on his ability to love unreservedly. By freeing love from all possessiveness, he became open to an even more fruitful service. His loving care has spanned generations ; his attentive guardianship has made him patron of the Church. As one who knew how to embody the meaning of self-giving in life, Joseph is also the patron of a happy death. His service and sacrifices were only possible, however, because they were sustained by a greater love : “Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice ; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration” (ibid., 7).

...

Together with God’s call, which makes our greatest dreams come true, and our response, which is made up of generous service and attentive care, there is **a third characteristic** of Saint Joseph’s daily life and our Christian vocation, namely **fidelity**. Joseph is the “righteous man” (Mt 1:19) who daily perseveres in quietly serving God and his plans. At a particularly difficult moment in his life, he thoughtfully considered what to do (cf. v. 20). He did not let himself be hastily pressured. He did not yield to the temptation to act rashly, simply following his instincts or living for the moment. Instead, he pondered things patiently. He knew that success in life is built on constant fidelity to important decisions. This was reflected in his perseverance in plying the trade of a humble carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), a quiet perseverance that made no news in his own time, yet has inspired the daily lives of countless fathers, labourers and Christians ever since. For a vocation – like life itself – matures only through daily fidelity.

...

A hymn in the liturgy speaks of the “**transparent joy**” present in the home of Nazareth. **It the joy of simplicity, the joy experienced daily by those who care for what truly matters : faithful closeness to God and to our neighbour.** ... I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the **dream** of your lives, **serving** him in your brothers and sisters through a **fidelity** that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May Saint Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart !

Full text :



Vocations Pope Francis 2021

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Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny

The call to religious life : a particular vocation

God is still calling, women and men to follow Christ Jesus through various forms of consecrated life. **Blessed Anne-Marie Javouhey**, foundress of the **Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny**, founded an 'apostolic religious' congregation. As a member of the congregation, a sister commits herself to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. This call is responded to in freedom and often is encouraged by those God places on the road of the one called.

See :

- [The Call](#)
- [A Response](#)