

## IN SEARCH OF ONE'S VOCATION

Everything begins when a young woman feels within herself the desire to love unconditionally as she sees herself through the eyes of God. She discovers the possibility of living the mission, community life and consecration with her whole being as an expression of who she is. There are various initiatives available to help one take this step. This allows her to come to know herself better as she considers the possibility of a personal response to the Canossian Charism as lived by the community - the very first stage.

- A.** Commit yourself to meet the Lord. Use your eyes to contemplate God's presence in everything and see that in reality, God is the One who always comes to meet you. Participate in the Eucharistic celebration, read the Word of God, pray! God will speak to your heart, nourish you, and inspire you. This meeting will happen.
  
- B.** Abandon yourself to God, do not resist. Abandon your fears and tell God of your willingness to follow. Nothing can be taken away from you, since from God you can only receive for God is abundant Life!
  
- C.** Create space for God by establishing a time for prayer and spiritual reading. Do not walk this path alone but look for a spiritual guide, someone experienced in the spiritual life, someone who loves you as God loves you, and exercise an obedient and trustful openness. Searching together for God's will is more reassuring. If you cannot find a spiritual guide, you may write to us for assistance.

- D.** Find some ways to serve the poor. There are ample opportunities, such as annual working camps, experiences in voluntary missionary service, parish activities that need assistants, neighbours who may be in need of your help.... In other words, become involved because Jesus is present in the little ones and charity, which is gratuitous love, will guide to truth and justice.
- E.** Participate in an experience of “Come and See” in one of our communities. You will be able to see how we live, what we do ... and then you may be able to feel, within yourself, that our way of life can be yours, too.

## **VARIOUS PRAYERS and PAGES OF LIFE**

### **PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT**

Father, I abandon myself into your hands;  
do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you.

I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me,  
and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul;

I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,  
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,

to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve,  
and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

*Charles de Foucauld*

### HELP ME TO SEARCH FOR YOU

Lord, in your word, help me to search for you,  
to desire, to love, to find you.

I do not dare, Lord, to scrutinise your depths:  
my intellect is a poor instrument.

I only desire to understand a little of your truth  
by meditating your word,  
because my heart loves it and believes in you.

Come, o Holy Spirit, within me and help me  
to penetrate the word of the Gospel so that  
I may be able to understand it,  
Savour it and practice it every day of my life.

*St Anselm of Aosta*

### I ASK FOR YOUR LIGHT

I ask for your light, Spirit of absolute clarity,  
who illumines everything and disperses the shadows.

I ask for your light; come and enlighten all my problems,  
show me the solution to all my problems.

I ask for your light to be able to discover  
where the beauty of my life is and the value of my actions.

I ask for your light: it will help me always choose  
that which is for the good of others and for myself,  
it will give me courage to follow Jesus, the Lord.

### LEAD ME

Lead me, Lord, do with me what you will!  
I do not try to know in advance your plan for me,  
I desire what You want for me!  
I do not say, "Wherever you will go, I will follow you!",  
because I am weak.  
But I give myself to you so that you may lead me.  
I want to follow you in darkness,  
I only ask you for the necessary strength.  
O Lord, may I bring everything before you,  
and seek that which pleases you in every decision  
and your blessing on all my actions.  
As a meridian cannot mark the hour if there is no sun,  
so I wish to be directed by you.  
You want to guide me and use me.  
Thus may it be, Lord Jesus!

*Henry Newman*

### MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE

O Father, may your will be done, as in heaven and on the earth:  
because I love you with all my heart, thinking always of you;  
I love you with all myself, desiring you always;  
I love you with all my mind, directing my thoughts to you  
and searching for your honour in all things;  
I love you with all my strength dedicating my whole self  
in homage to your love shown through the Cross of your Son  
Jesus. So that I may love my neighbour as myself and guide him to  
experience your love, enjoy your benefits and have compassion  
for the evils of others.

*St Francis of Assisi*

## CALL US TO WORK

Lord Jesus, you have called those whom you wished,  
call many of us to work for you.  
You, who have illumined with your word  
those you have called and have sustained them in difficulties,  
illumine us with the gift of faith in you.  
And if you call one of us, to be consecrated to you,  
may your love enliven this vocation from its very beginning  
and make it grow and persevere until the end. Amen.

*Pope John Paul II*

## PAGES OF LIFE:

### Vocation stories in the Scriptures:

Moses in *Exodus 3*

Elijah in *1 Kings 19*

Ruth in the *Book of Ruth 1:15-18*

Jeremiah in *Jeremiah 1:1-10*

Isaiah in *Isaiah 6:1-8*

Mary in *Luke 1:26-38*

Disciples of Jesus in *John 1:35-38*

Paul in *Acts of the Apostles 1:1-19*