

May 1: The Vocation of the Religious Brother

Call to Prayer

The bonds of communion of the Religious Brother extend beyond the boundaries of the Church, because he is driven by the same “universal character that distinguishes the People of God”.

The vocation of the Brother is part of the answer that God gives to the absence of brotherhood which is wounding the world today. At the root of a Brother’s vocation lies a profound experience of solidarity that essentially matches that of Moses before the burning bush: he discovers himself as the eyes, ears and heart of God, the God who sees the oppression of his people, who hears their cry, feels their anguish and comes down to liberate them.

In this intimate experience, the Brother hears the call: “Come, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people out of Egypt.” (cf. Ex 3:7-10).

Therefore, the dimension of communion is closely linked in the Brother to a fine sensitivity for everything that affects the least privileged of people; those oppressed by various forms of injustice, abandoned on the margins of history and progress, those who, ultimately, are less likely to experience the good news of God’s love in their lives.

Article 6, Identity and Mission of The Religious Brother In The Church.

Song Suggestion: The Kingdom of God (Taizé)

Suggested Readings: Matthew 5:13-20; Mark 3:31-35; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Peter 4: 8-11

Reading: Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity (A Song of Ascents).

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred [brothers] live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there, the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Pause

Prayer:

Creator God, touch the hearts and minds of young people today
to desire a life of great intimacy with you.
Bless your church with vocations of real commitment in religious life,
as each person grows in fullness of life grounded in your love.
May you continue to inspire and guide all people
to be witnesses of solidarity and faithfulness in all that we do and say.
Gift each of us with zeal and generosity on our lives as Marists,
and as disciples of Jesus Christ.
We make this prayer with the confidence of Mary, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Mary, Our Good Mother... pray for us.
St Marcellin Champagnat... pray for us.
St Mary of the Cross... pray for us.
And may we always remember to... pray for one another.

Song Suggestion: Remembrance (Matt Maher)