In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated Good Shepherd Sunday as *World Day of Prayer for Vocations.* Jesus, the Good Shepherd, protects us as his flock and promises us the gift of eternal life. As followers of Jesus we are called to remain faithful to the grace of God.

As we celebrate this feast we pray for fidelity to our vocation. The Church invites us to honor the vocation of all Christians given at baptism. May we who have dedicated our lives to God through the vocation of marriage, priesthood, diaconate, consecrated life, and the single life remain faithful to our commitments. May those who are discerning their life vocation listen to the grace of God to guide them.

SerraUSA has produced this resource for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. There are many other vocation resources that are available to enhance vocation awareness in your parish, religious community, or other church groups. Please feel free to contact us for more information of how we can help you or visit us at www.serraus.org.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

YEAR C

Fourth Sunday of Easter

- Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43–52
- Psalm 100
- Revelations 7:9, 14b–17
- John 10:27–30

CONTENTS

Prayer Resources
- Liturgy Planning Guide
- Homily Notes
- General Intercessions
- Prayer Service
- Prayer Card Master – *English & Spanish* **NEW!**

Promotional Resources
- Bulletin Announcements
- Clip Art
- Event Poster

Family Take –Home Page

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2012 USA Council of Serra International

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE
Year C

Introductory Rites

Processional Hymn
___ *The King of Love, ST. COLUMBA, WLP*
___ *Jesus, Shepherd of Our Souls,* Fred Kane, GOOD SHEPHERD, Hope Publishing, GIA
___ *All People Who on Earth Do Dwell,* OLD HUNDRETH, GIA
___ *Come, Worship the Lord,* John Michael Talbot, OCP
___ _____

Penitential Rite — A sprinkling rite is suggested.

Sprinkling Rite
___ *Send Us Flowing Water, Lord,* Joe Mattingly, WLP
___ *Springs of Water,* Marty Haugen, GIA
___ *Agua De Vida/Water of Life,* Jamie Cortez, OCP
___ _____

Gloria
___ _____

Opening Prayer
___ _____

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading — Acts 13:14, 43-52

Psalm Response — Psalm 100
___ *Let All the Earth Cry Out,* Stephen Sommerville, WLP
___ *We Are God's People,* David Haas, GIA
___ *We Are God's People,* Timothy R. Smith, OCP
___ _____

Second Reading — Revelations 7:9, 14b-17

Gospel Acclamation
___ _____

Gospel — John 10:27-30

Homily — See *Homily Notes*

General Intercessions — See *General Intercessions*

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts
___ *The Greatest Gift,* James Marchionda, WLP
___ *The Summons,* John Bell, OCP
___ *My Shepherd, Lord,* Gary Hardin, BROTHER JAMES' AIR, OCP
___ Instrumental _____
___ _____

Preface ___ _____

Holy, Holy, Holy ___ _____

Memorial Acclamation ___ _____

Great Amen ___ _____

The Lord's Prayer ___ _____

Lamb of God ___ _____

Communion Processional
___ *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless,* ST. AGNES, WLP
___ *With a Shepherd's Care,* James Chepponis, GIA
___ *Gentle Shepherd/Jesús, Pastor Tan Dulce,* Tobias Colgan, OSB, OCP
___ *Pescador De Hombres, Cesáreo Gabaráin, OCP*
___ _____

Concluding Rites

Prayer after Communion ___ _____

Blessing and Dismissal ___ _____

Recessional Hymn
___ *We Are Your People,* Herman Stuempfle, Jr., SINE NOMINE, WLP
___ *Hymn of Joy,* HYMN TO JOY, WLP
___ *Go Make of All Disciples,* ELLACOMBE, Text: Matthew 28:19-20, Leon Atkins Abingdon Press, WLP, GIA, OCP
___ *The God Who Sends Us Forth,* John Foley, SJ, GIA
___ _____



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

HOMILY NOTES

During Mass some years ago, a priest was using the penitential rite for the blessing of people with holy water. As he began the rite, the priest realized that the sacramentary (the book used for prayers in the liturgy, today the New Roman Missal) had been left in the sacristy. Without a word, the priest immediately left to retrieve the book in the sacristy. In the meantime, the little server, not knowing what had happened to Father, picked up the holy water container and went up and down the aisle blessing all the people! The people were smiling and making the sign of the cross. When the priest returned, he laughed and said: "I couldn't have done a better job myself," and continued with the Mass. In this true story, we readily understand how the little server saw a need and then felt called to do something about it. The boy had seen this holy action celebrated before—one that reminds us of our baptism—and he was ready to get involved.

On this *World Day of Prayer for Vocations,* we are reminded, as baptized Catholics and all Christians, that our central vocation is both a call to holiness and to service. "Holiness . . . is the vocation of our times, of all of us," said Pope Paul VI in Vatican Council II. Pope John Paul II constantly called upon young people and all of us to give our lives in service as followers of Jesus Christ.

We know that all vocations flow from baptism. But what do we mean by the word "vocation?" A good understanding of the word "vocation" might well be considered within the following sequence of statements: 1) Through the sacrament of baptism each person receives a "call" or vocation. 2) God calls all who are baptized to holiness and service. 3) This call is lived as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person.

In this last statement, we understand that "vocation" is to be lived as a life commitment. Those who are single have responded to the vocation of joyfully acknowledging that God has called them to be a prophetic witness of what it means to be a single, loving, committed Christian in today's world. Those who are married have responded to the vocation of joyfully relying upon a God who has called them to a shared witness of what it means to have a covenantal commitment of love in today's world. Those who are consecrated and ordained have responded to the vocation of joyfully journeying with God's people as priests, sisters, brothers and others who have promised and vowed to grow in faith and holiness while helping God's people to do the same. In each vocational commitment we are called to be loving and supportive of one another.

As we celebrate this *World Day of Prayer for Vocations,* the Gospel passage could not have been better chosen. In the story of the Good Shepherd, as recounted in John 10, we listen to the words of Christ: "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me." This passage confirms the contemporary story of a man who went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The man tells of how in the city of Bethlehem he watched two shepherds caring for their flocks of sheep.

Homily notes provided through the kindness of Rev. David Hulshof, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

To his amazement, at the end of the day, he watched the shepherds put their respective flocks in the same cave—the sheep intermingling with each other. Wondering how the shepherds would ever be able to separate the sheep, he arose early the next morning to observe. The pilgrim watched while one of the shepherds walked some distance from the cave. At a certain point, the shepherd gave a particular call and immediately his flock ran out to him. The sheep knew the shepherd's voice. Together, shepherd and sheep went on their way.

The question is posed to you and me. Do we have a familiarity with the voice of the Good Shepherd in our lives? When God calls us to a commitment of single, married, consecrated or ordained life have we prepared ourselves to respond? And are we prepared to continue that response every day of our lives?

Ultimately, a vocation is not defined by "doing" but rather by "being." We are called to live our lives in a generous response to the One who gave us life. Being in the presence of the Father, sharing in the mission of Christ, and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit is what being a follower of the Good Shepherd is all about.

How do we prepare ourselves? Personal and communal prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments, the reading of scripture, educating ourselves in the faith, and being of service to one another are ways in which we can more readily discern the Good Shepherd's beckoning voice in our daily lives.

In 2002, Pope John Paul II called for a joint U.S. and Canadian pastoral plan to create a culture of vocations in North America. In the plan we were all reminded that: "The vocational reality of the Church calls for a deep respect for the complementarity and interdependence of all Church vocations. Because the Church is at once community and communion of vocations, all its members need to be concerned about and committed to the flowering of all vocations in the Church, and not merely their own."

So let us pray for vocations in our Church. We need committed men and women who believe that their call to single, married, ordained or consecrated life is from God. We need to support each response of vocation and make sure each kind of vocation is an encouraged and viable option for our children.

On a personal note, I thank God for the gift of your vocations as I thank God for the gift of my own vocation in serving you as priest (deacon). Thank you for the many ways you witness God's love to me in this parish (campus or community).

My friends, the Good Shepherd calls each of us by name. May we respond to that call with the familiarity of truly knowing, loving and serving the One who calls us?

Other notes that may be helpful in homily preparation:

Harvard's Dr. Barry Brazelton once demonstrated to a television audience that even very young infants quickly become aware of the identity of their parents. He took an infant in his arms and asked the audience to watch the infant's eyes. He spoke to the baby. Then he asked the other people to speak. There was little recognition from the baby. Then the mother of the baby spoke and the baby's eyes visibly brightened. The infant turned toward the sound of the mother's voice. It was obvious that the child knew his mother's voice in distinction from the others.

A good vocation is simply a firm and constant will in which the called person has to serve God in the way and in the places to which Almighty God has called him. (St. Francis de Sales)

There are two powerful words that Jesus often used in relation with his disciples. Those words are "come" and "go." Living one's vocation is knowing how to do both.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Presider: Let us seek the loving care of our Good Shepherd as we present the needs of our Church and world.

Reader: After each prayer, please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

- That all Church leaders will be filled with the Holy Spirit as they guide us, we pray:
- That leaders of nations may work together to bring about greater justice and lasting peace, we pray:
- That we, the People of God, may listen intently to the call of the Good Shepherd and have the courage to be witnesses of the Gospel as we live out our baptismal commitment, we pray:
- That those who are suffering may find comfort and encouragement so they may know joy, we pray:
- That our youth may find direction in their lives as they discern God's call to priesthood, consecrated life, married life, single life, or the diaconate, we pray:
- For those who have died (especially . . .) may they be filled with the joy of everlasting life, we pray:

Presider: Loving God, we know of your gentle care for us.
We trust that you will give us what we need.
Shepherd us to follow in your ways now and forever. Amen.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International

Music Selections

- *Open Wide the Doors to Christ,* Joseph Diermeier, WLP
- *The King of Love,* ST COLUMBA, WLP
- *A Blessing,* James Marchionda, WLP
- *Shepherd Me, O God,* Marty Haugen, GIA
- *The Summons,* John L. Bell, OCP
- *Lead Me, Guide Me,* Doris Akers, Unichappell Music, Inc. WLP, GIA, OCP

Psalmody
Suggestion: Psalm 100

Reading Acts 13:14, 43-52

Reflection
Invite a married couple, a single person, a priest, brother, sister, consecrated virgin, deacon to share how his/her vocation blesses and challenges him/her.

General Intercessions
See *General Intercessions*

Offering/Blessing

Ask married couples to stand and pray the offering.
Invite single adults to stand and pray the offering.
Invite priests, deacons, religious, consecrated virgins to stand and pray the offering. All are invited to stand and are blessed.

A sung blessing may be used during the sprinkling.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

Fourth Sunday of Easter
+ Year C

Prayer Service



Call to Prayer

Leader: O Lord, open our lips
All: and our mouth will declare your praise.

Song

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Loving God,
You call us your Beloved
and welcome us into your flock.
On this day of prayer for vocations,
give joy to your servants and help us
to listen and respond to your call.
May the grace of the resurrection
empower us to live a life of loving service.
We ask this through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Psalmody

Reading

Reflection

General Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Offering with Blessing

We offer to you, O God, our hearts filled with love.
By our vocation of (*marriage, single life, priest, brother, sister, deacon, consecrated virgin)* we dedicate our lives to you and ask for a blessing.

Blessing with Sprinkling

- May Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
  fill your hearts with joy. **Amen.**
- May Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
  guide your steps all the days of your life. **Amen.**
- May Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
  lead you to eternal life. **Amen.**

Blessing over Assembly

May God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
Bless you with abiding peace. **Amen.**

Sign of Peace

Concluding Song



Prayer for Vocations

Generous God,
You show us the way that leads to everlasting life.
Through baptism you have called us
to proclaim the Good News.

Bless and strengthen those
who have made a commitment
of service in the Church.
Guide and give wisdom
to those discerning their vocation.
Enrich our Church with dedicated
married and single people,
with deacons, priests,
and with people in consecrated life.

Filled with your Holy Spirit we ask this blessing that
we, your people, may follow Jesus,
our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

www.serraus.org

Prayer for Vocations

Generous God,
You show us the way that leads to everlasting life.
Through baptism you have called us
to proclaim the Good News.

Bless and strengthen those
who have made a commitment
of service in the Church.
Guide and give wisdom
to those discerning their vocation.
Enrich our Church with dedicated
married and single people,
with deacons, priests,
and with people in consecrated life.

Filled with your Holy Spirit we ask this blessing that
we, your people, may follow Jesus,
our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

www.serraus.org

Prayer for Vocations

Generous God,
You show us the way that leads to everlasting life.
Through baptism you have called us
to proclaim the Good News.

Bless and strengthen those
who have made a commitment
of service in the Church.
Guide and give wisdom
to those discerning their vocation.
Enrich our Church with dedicated
married and single people,
with deacons, priests,
and with people in consecrated life.

Filled with your Holy Spirit we ask this blessing that
we, your people, may follow Jesus,
our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

www.serraus.org

Prayer for Vocations

Generous God,
You show us the way that leads to everlasting life.
Through baptism you have called us
to proclaim the Good News.

Bless and strengthen those
who have made a commitment
of service in the Church.
Guide and give wisdom
to those discerning their vocation.
Enrich our Church with dedicated
married and single people,
with deacons, priests,
and with people in consecrated life.

Filled with your Holy Spirit we ask this blessing that
we, your people, may follow Jesus,
our Good Shepherd, now and always. Amen.

www.serraus.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

FAMILY TAKE-HOME PAGE

Call to Prayer

Leader: We gather
All: "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Leader: God calls each of us by name. As a sign of our willingness to listen to God's call let us each respond "Here I am, Lord!" when you hear your name called. (Leader says each person's name aloud and the person responds.)

Prayer Jesus, we want to follow you. Help us to listen to your Word and to hear your voice in our hearts and in each other. We want to be near you forever. Amen.

Reading *A Reading from the Gospel of John* (John 10:27–30)
Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
I give them eternal life, and no one can ever take them from me or the Father.
The Father and I are one." *The Gospel of the Lord.*
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Sharing *Take time to share about the ways Jesus talks to us and how we listen. What helps us follow Jesus more closely?*

Prayers *(Offer personal intentions)*

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace *(Share a sign of peace with each person.)*

Closing Prayer Dear God, You made everyone special in their own way.
Please help us to find our vocation in life.
Guide us to choose the right path in serving you. Amen.
—Taken from *Dear God, Open My Heart*
(A collection of children's vocation prayers), p. 29
Available from NCCV

Closing Song *(Optional)*
"Somebody's Knockin' at My Door,"
"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
"Hush, Hush Somebody's Callin' My Name"
"The Summons" (Or a song of your choosing)

Vocation Poster

Materials needed: Piece of plain paper, (large enough to draw your hand), crayons or markers.

1. Discuss how Jesus depends on our hands to carry on his work
2. Share about how each of you depends on Jesus to show you the way and helps you to be his follower.
3. Trace your hand on a piece of paper.
4. Around the hand write the saying (or something similar): Jesus, take my hand and I will follow you.
5. Display the poster as a reminder to share your gifts.

Vocation Chain

Materials needed: strips of construction paper, glue or tape, crayons or markers.

1. Talk about the gifts/qualities of each person.
2. Write these gifts/qualities on strips of paper.
3. Join the strips to form a chain.
4. Place the chain somewhere as a sign of your willingness to join your gifts to serve God.

Thank You Card

Materials needed: paper for a homemade card or a purchased "Thank You" card, markers.

1. Create or buy a "Thank You" card for your pastor who is a representative of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.
2. Write a note about what you appreciate about him.
3. Invite him for dinner and/or give him the card.

Vocation Conversation Starters

As a family, take time to talk about the various vocation choices: married people, single people, diocesan priest, deacon, religious priest, brother, or sister. With each vocation choice share what attracts you about that life style, what would be hard about that life style, and then share what gifts you may have to live out that vocation choice.



The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2012 USA Council of Serra International

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

April 21, 2013

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For use Sunday, April 14, 2013

Do you believe that God calls all people to spread the Good News? How are you responding to the call? Do you want some help? Next week is *World Day of Prayer for Vocations.* Come, join with the parish in prayer for special blessings that each person will be strengthened in their vocation. *(Add details about your parish observance.)*

For use Sunday, April 21, 2013

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter or Good Shepherd Sunday is a special day for everyone in our parish. We celebrate *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. We ask that we may be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as we carry on the mission of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Let us pray for one another that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocations as married and single people, priests, deacons, and religious. May our youth listen to God's call and be encouraged to respond generously. *(Add details about your parish observance.)*



The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2012 USA Council of Serra International


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS


WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

World Day of Prayer for Vocations



Come join us!

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2011 USA Council of Serra International

Mark your Calendars!

World & National Annual Events	2012 Year B	2013 Year C	2014 Year A
National Vocation Awareness Week	January 9-14	January 13-19	November 2-8
World Day for Consecrated Life*	February 5	February 3	February 2
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**	April 29	April 21	May 11

*The US Bishops observe WDCL on February 2 when that date falls on a Sunday; if not it is observed on the Sunday after February 2.

**The Holy Father issues a pastoral letter each year for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This was unavailable at press time. It may be available at the Vatican Website closer to the date of the event *(http://www.vatican.va).*



USA Council of Serra International
Our mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life.

Pray! Invite! Encourage! Affirm! Vocations

USA Council of Serra International
65 E Wacker Place Suite 802 · Chicago IL 60601
Telephone (312) 201-6549 · Fax (312) 201-6548
Toll-free voice: 1-888-777-6681 · Toll-free fax: 1-888-777-6803
Email: serraus@serraus.org ~ www.serraus.org

The USA Council of Serra International would like to also thank Mr. Frank J. Zolvinski M.A., Coordinator of Religious Education and Dr. Kristopher W. Seaman, Director: Office of Worship/Diocesan Music for Diocese of Gary, IN for their time and thoughtful assistance in preparing these materials for our celebration National Vocation Awareness Week.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2012 USA Council of Serra International