



# We Pray for Our Vocations

Set up an altar with an open Bible, a crucifix, candles, a globe to represent the missions, and a World Mission Rosary, which can be obtained from the Missionary Childhood Office.

**Leader:** When you look up the word vocation in the dictionary, you'll find this definition:

1. A strong impulse or inclination to follow a particular activity or career; calling
2. A function or station in life to which one is called by God: the religious vocation, the vocation of marriage

As Catholics, we are called by God to live our faith in both the secular and religious meanings. What career path will we follow? How will our faith vocation—clergy, married, or single—shape that journey? We look to the Blessed Mother, especially during May, which is dedicated to her, to help us listen to God's call as she did.

**Reader 1:** *As we listen to God's word today, let us be mindful of His message, asking ourselves, "How can I be open to God's call in my life?"*

**Reader 2:** *A Reading from the Book of Luke*

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also

conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. **All: Thanks Be to God.**

**Pause for silent reflection**

**Reader 1:** *In our world, there are many places where children do not enjoy the blessings we take for granted. They do not have decent food, access to clean water, or people to care for them. They may not achieve their God given vocation. We pray for them today, asking Mary, Queen of the Missions, to inspire us to help children in the missions have a chance to find their own vocations.*

**Reader 2:** *Our response is:*

**All: May it be done unto me according to Your word.**

**Reader 1:** *We pray for the grace to remember to spend quiet time with God each day, talking to Him and listening as well!*

**All: May it be done unto me according to Your word.**

**Reader 2:** *We pray for the grace of gratitude, remembering that we have the luxury to choose our future career paths while many do not.*

**All: May it be done unto me according to Your word.**

**Reader 1:** *We pray that our faith may always influence our actions in public and in private.*

**All: May it be done unto me according to Your word.**

**Reader 2:** *We pray to be more like Mary every day—open to God's path for us!*

**All: May it be done unto me according to Your word.**

**Leader:** *Lord Jesus, you have given us many gifts. We pray for the grace to always do our best to listen to You, remembering that there are many children in the world who may never be who You want them to be simply because they don't have the opportunities we have.*