

## Welcome and thank you for Participating in the Vocations Crucifix Program!

The following instructions are to assist you this week as you pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

**Contents of the case: vocation crucifix, corporal (white cloth), battery operated votive candle, and this Brochure. If you would like an your own brochure let us know and we will provide you with one.**

Place the cross in a prominent place, so you are reminded of its presence throughout the week. Lay the corporal underneath the crucifix and candle.

There are numerous prayers from which to choose. Pray the same one each day or a different one each day according to your preference.

### Additional suggestions:

- ◆ Kneel in front of the crucifix when you pray
- ◆ Say an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be after the prayer
- ◆ Add a personal intention for vocations after the prayer
- ◆ Say a rosary for vocations or even just one decade of the rosary during the week
- ◆ Pray for all priests and religious, especially our pastor, Fr. Marc Drouin.

## Prayers for Vocations

1. Dear God, You gift us with life. Through baptism You have called us to new life. May we be a sign of your love in the world. We pray that you will continue to fill women and men with an abundance of courage to follow the path You set before them today. May those who feel compelled to serve as lay ministers, brothers, sisters, deacons and priests be blessed with passion and vision to make the world a better place. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen

2. Generous God, You call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the love and service of our church. Give us the energy and spirit to shape its future. Grant us faith filled leaders who will embrace Christ's mission of love and justice. Bless the church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our family and friends who will serve as sisters, priests, brothers, deacons, and lay ministers. Inspire us to open our hearts to hear Your call. Amen.

3. In the Spirit, we pray for vocations, remembering the words of St. John Paul II: "A vocation is a grace and a gift of God in Jesus Christ. The awareness of the divine gift gives our vocation deep meaning, in the perspective of our whole life." Open our life to this gift. Amen.

4. Dear God, You created us in Your own image and have given us many gifts. We ask You to bless us all, so that we may know best how to love You and each other with those gifts.

(Prayers for Vocations Cont.)

We pray especially for those young men and women who are searching for ways to serve You in love. May they be open to all that You may ask. We pray for those who study for the priesthood and religious life, that their preparations may bring to the church happy and holy priests and religious men and women. We ask this through Christ the Good Shepherd. Amen.

5. Loving Father, You call each of us by name and ask us to follow You. Bless Your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our family and friends who will serve Your people as priests, deacons, sisters, and brother. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

6. Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may have You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. Loving God, help us to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary in willingly giving ourselves in service to Your Church. Stir up the grace of priestly and religious vocations in the hearts of many within our community and send Your Spirit to guide and strengthen them in answering Your call. Amen.



## Excerpt from "The Little Village of Lu"

By Anne van Tilburg

The little village of Lu, in northern Italy, is located in a rural area, 90 kilometers east of Turin. It would still be unknown to this day if some of the mothers of Lu had not made a decision that had important consequences in 1881. The deepest desire of many of these mothers was for one of their sons to become a priest or for a daughter to place her life completely in God's service. Under the direction of their parish priest, Msgr Alessandro Canora, they gathered every Tuesday for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, asking the Lord for vocations. They received Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month with the same intention. After Mass, all the mothers prayed a particular prayer together imploring for vocations to the priesthood.

Through the trusting prayer of these mothers and the openness of the other parents, an atmosphere of deep joy and Christian piety developed in the families, making it much easier for the children to recognize their vocations. When the Lord said, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Mt. 22:14), we can understand that many are called, but only a few respond to that call. No one expected that God would hear the prayers of these mothers in such a dramatic way. *From the tiny village of Lu came 323 vocations: 152 priests (diocesan and religious), and 171 nuns belonging to 41 different congregations. As many as three or four vocations came from some of the families.*

The prayer that the mothers of Lu prayed was short, simple, and deep: "O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give You a holy

## Prayer for Priests

*O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep Your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with Your Precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of Your priesthood. Let Your holy love surround them from the world's contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here and their ever lasting crown hereafter. Mary, Queen of the Clergy. Pray for us; obtain for us numerous and holy priests. Amen*

# St. André Bessette

## Vocations Crucifix Program

