

February 2025

PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for
Middle School and High School Students



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

in collaboration with [St. Joseph Ministries](#)

IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI PAULI VI

February 2025

For vocations to the
priesthood and religious
life.



Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering

Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

Introduce Intention

The Holy Father's February 2025 Intention

- Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

Sacred Scripture

- Read Jeremiah 1:5 or Matthew 9:37-38.

Note: Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

Reflection

by Sr. M. Karolyn serves as the vocation director for the Franciscan Sisters of the Martyr St. George in Alton, IL.

At play in the human heart is the tottering interplay of the desire for greatness and the fear that one might not have the capacity to achieve such lofty aspirations. In a culture where success is often measured by relational status, financial security, and academic or career accomplishments, the possibility of leaving those behind in response to God's call seems increasingly absurd. But as a Church, we are called to receive, encourage, and cultivate the invitation of Jesus to say 'yes' to loving in a radical way, even if it makes no sense to the world.

A life of chaste celibacy for the sake of the kingdom, poverty, and obedience in imitation of Jesus can indeed be a fitting correspondence to the desire for greatness because it is a radical way of love. Perhaps the fear and doubt that creep in are less from the world and more from within the Church. Even parents and grandparents who attend Mass and raise their children in the faith can be unknowing obstacles to young people who feel drawn to respond to a call to religious life and priesthood. Rather than nurturing the stirring desires and experience of a call, they sometimes magnify the fears and doubts with their own expectations for their children's success, leaving the young person to wonder if happiness is possible by living and loving in a countercultural way. The truth is, a life of radical love is always a way to happiness and fulfillment, even if it looks different than the way that mom and grandma have found it.

Our crucified Lord is the ultimate sign of contradiction who simultaneously stirs desire to love in a radical way and silently declares the truth of love that cuts through fear and doubt.

This month we pray that the Church can be a seedbed where the desire for greatness can be cultivated by the prayerful support of the faithful who will lift high the paradox of the Cross as a source of salvation while echoing the words of Jesus in the face of the doubts that arise and are the enemy of love: Do not be afraid.

Saint Connection

- St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, devoted his life to the pastoral care of souls, transforming the small parish of Ars, France, through his tireless dedication to prayer, confession, and preaching.
- He became known as the Curé of Ars, drawing thousands of pilgrims who sought his spiritual counsel and experienced his profound wisdom and compassion.
- His life exemplifies humility, perseverance, and a deep love for the Eucharist, inspiring countless priests and laypeople to embrace a life of holiness.
- Reflect on his dedication to prayer, penance, and the spiritual care of his parishioners.

Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the monthly intention. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- What are the challenges and joys of responding to a vocation?
- How can we support those discerning a call to priesthood or religious life?

Extension Activities:

- Write letters of encouragement to seminarians or those in religious formation.
- Invite a priest or religious to share their vocation story with the class.

Closing Prayer

- Prayer:
 - Lord, guide those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. Strengthen their faith and courage as they seek Your will. Help us to create communities that welcome and nurture their call. May our prayers and encouragement inspire them to follow You wholeheartedly. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross