

JESUS CARRIES HIS HEAVY CROSS

And carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. John 19:17

Each one so chosen can and should feel that God might have selected others far more deserving, more virtuous, more gifted; and confronted with the mystery of God's choice and his own insufficiency, he should be unable to do otherwise than prostrate himself in gratitude and humility.

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF JESUS

When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there along with the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. He cried out, "Into your hands I commend my spirit." And with these words he breathed his last. Luke 23:33, 46

Together with Mary, the most privileged of all creatures, every consecrated soul can sing its *Magnificat*: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior, because He hath regarded the humility of His handmaid" (Luke 1:46-48).

The Glorious Mysteries

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6

The story of every vocation can be summarized by saying that God's glance has rested with special love on one of His creatures. That this creature is poor, weak, and wretched does not matter. God knows what it is made of.

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS INTO HEAVEN

Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he departed from them and was taken up to heaven. Luke 24:50-51

He sees its poverty and draws it to Himself: "I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore, have I drawn thee, taking pity on thee" (Jeremiah 31:3).

THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:2-4

God's choice is absolutely free and cannot be determined either by the merits or by the characteristics of His creatures.

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant; henceforth all generations will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Luke 1:48-49

On the other hand, because He is infinite Wisdom and Omnipotence, He has no need of the gifts of His creatures, nor does He seek them; rather, His choice often falls on the weakest, on those whom the world despises.

THE CORONATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

"Since she has been appointed by God to be the Queen of heaven and earth, and is exalted above all the choirs of angels and saints, and even stands at the right hand of her only begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, she presents our petitions in a most efficacious manner. What she asks, she obtains. Her pleas can never be unheard." Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus

God only seeks hearts capable of corresponding to His love of predilection, hearts capable of giving themselves to Him without reserve and with complete generosity.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Moved by Your infinite bounty alone, O my God, You choose men and women to be consecrated wholly to You, choosing them in so many, many ways, by Your interior inspirations and by other means. You choose them especially to enable them to raise themselves up to You, so that You can make them know Your Being and permit them to share Your Life.

Oh, the grandeur of a creature who has been chosen by You! To what a sublime state it has been raised, and how abject it becomes when it falls into sin, instead of corresponding with Your choice!

O my dear Jesus, I ask this grace of You always: grant that all chosen souls may receive perfect light and knowledge of their state, so that they may gladly renounce themselves and devote themselves to Your service.

O Lord, how necessary this prayer is! How necessary it is for You to grant them this grace, that Your chosen ones may serve You perfectly! (St. Mary Magdalen dei Pazzi).

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**Behold, I am standing
at the door knocking.
*Come, follow Me!***

**Pray the Rosary
for Priestly
and Religious
Vocations**

The Joyful Mysteries

THE ANNUNCIATION

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." Luke 1:30-31

How exalted is the Christian vocation, a vocation for which we can never adequately thank God, and to which we can never fully correspond.

THE VISITATION

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Luke 1:41-42

A person is said to *have a vocation* when he is called by God to that higher state of life indicated by the counsels and implying a special relationship with God which sets him apart as one "consecrated," that is, reserved for God alone.

THE BIRTH OF THE CHILD JESUS

And while Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

This is precisely why God asks these souls to renounce that life in which individuals contract bonds which establish a close union between them, and a mutual belonging to one another.

THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought the child up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is prescribed in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer a sacrifice in accordance with what is stated in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Luke 2:22-24

Instead of binding itself to another creature, a consecrated soul binds itself to God by a pure bond of perfect chastity.

THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

When the feast of the Passover ended, the child Jesus remained in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. They went a day's journey before looking for him among relatives and friends. Not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem seeking him. After three days they

found him in the temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:43-46

It therefore belongs neither to itself nor to creatures, but only to God.

The Luminous Mysteries

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS IN THE JORDAN

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13, 16-17

This total belonging to God is the characteristic mark of a consecrated soul, whether it is sealed by sacramental charismatic consecration to the priesthood or by religious profession.

THE WEDDING FEAST AT CANA

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:3-5

It is not only its characteristic mark, but also its glory and the profound reason for its dignity, for just as God is superior to His creatures, so the honor of belonging to Him alone far surpasses that of belonging to a creature.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-15

Vocation, or the call to consecrate oneself to God, is a privilege: a privilege which does not depend on personal merit, but on God's good pleasure alone.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. Matthew 17:1-2

God chooses whom He wills, when He wills, and as He wills.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:26-28

"All men take not this word," said Jesus, speaking of perfect chastity, "but only they to whom it is given" (Matthew 19:11). This prerogative has been given only because it pleased God and He so willed.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

THE AGONY OF JESUS IN THE GARDEN

And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. Luke 22:41-44

"You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you" (John 15:16).

THE SCOURGING OF JESUS AT THE PILLAR

Then, having said this, Pilate went out again to the Jews and said, "I find no evidence of a crime in this man. But according to your custom, I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" They shouted, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a thief. Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be scourged. John 18:38-40, 19:1

God's choice is the basis of every vocation; it is wholly gratuitous, inspired solely by His love.

THE CROWNING OF JESUS WITH THORNS

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus inside the praetorium and stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they placed it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. Then, bending the knee before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Matthew 27:27-29

Each one so chosen should justly consider himself as a privileged one of God, privileged without any merit on his own part, privileged only because the Most High has so decreed in the unfathomable designs of His will.