 **PRAYER FOR THE VOCATIONS**

**28th October 2015**

**ENTER INTO THE PRAYER!**

1. **Create the atmosphere of contemplation¡**

*Comfort, comfort my people,   
says your God.   
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.* Isaiah *40:1-2*

1. **Reading and meditation of n°10:** **Closeness as companionship**

We are called to undertake an exodus out of our own selves, setting out on a path of adoration and service.(52) “We must go out through that door to seek and meet the people! Have the courage to go against the tide of this culture of efficiency, this culture of waste. Encountering and welcoming everyone, solidarity and fraternity: these are what make our society truly human. Be *servants of communion and of the culture of encounter*! I would like you to be almost obsessed about this. Be so without being presumptuous”.(53)

“The ghost to fight against is the image of religious life understood as an escape and consolation in face of an ‘external’ difficult and complex world”.(54) The Pope urges us to “leave the nest”,(55) to live the life of the men and women of our times, to hand ourselves over to God and to our neighbour.

**In silence I contemplate:** ***“We are called to undertake an exodus out of our own selves, setting out on a path of adoration and service”.* “*Encountering and welcoming everyone, solidarity and fraternity: these are what make our society truly human. Be servants of communion and of the culture of encounter!”* What this asking of me? At where does this sending me to?**

“Joy is born from the gratuitousness of an encounter! […] And the joy of the encounter with him and with his call does not lead to shutting oneself in but to opening oneself; it leads to service in the Church. St Thomas said:*bonum est diffusivum sui.*Good spreads. And joy also spreads. Do not be afraid to show the joy of having answered the Lord’s call, of having responded to his choice of love and of bearing witness to his Gospel in service to the Church. And joy, true joy, is contagious; it is infectious... it impels one forward”.(56)

Faced with this contagious witness of joy, serenity, fruitfulness, the testimony of tenderness and love, humble charity, without arrogance, many people feel the need to “come and see”.(57)

Many times Pope Francis has pointed out*the path of attraction*, of contagion, the path for the growth of the Church, the path of the new evangelization. “The Church must be attractive. Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world. […] It is this witness I expect from you”.(58)

**In silence I contemplate**: **Are we the witnesses contagious who give desire of coming to see?**

Entrusting to us the task of *waking up the world*, the Pope urges us to approach the stories of the men and women of today in the light of two pastoral categories that have their roots in the newness of the Gospel: *closeness*and*encounter*, two ways through which God himself is revealed in history culminating in the Incarnation.

On the road to Emmaus, like Jesus with his disciples, we welcome in daily companionship the joys and sorrows of the people, giving them ‘heart warmth’,(59) while we tenderly care for the tired and the weak, so that our journey together has light and meaning in Christ.

Our journey together “matures towards pastoral fatherhood, towards pastoral motherhood, and when a priest is not a father to his community, when a sister is not a mother to all those with whom she works, he or she becomes sad. This is the problem. For this reason I say to you: the root of sadness in pastoral life is precisely in the absence of fatherhood or motherhood that comes from living this consecration unsatisfactorily, which on the contrary should lead us to fertility”.(60)

**In silence I contemplate:** ***“Our journey together “matures towards pastoral fatherhood, towards pastoral motherhood, and when a priest is not a father to his community, when a sister is not a mother to all those with whom she works, he or she becomes sad. This is the problem. For this reason I say to you: the root of sadness in pastoral life is precisely in the absence of fatherhood or motherhood that comes from living this consecration unsatisfactorily, which on the contrary should lead us to fertility”.* In all sincerity, am I there for my personal interest or for the service of the others?**

1. **Let us pray!**

* **We pray that, we should be capable of testifying the mercy of God: that God should give us knowledge to watch over the world through the closeness, the encounter, the service, the serenity, the fertility and the happiness.**
* ***Give us VOCATIONS!***