

Prayer vigil for Dehonian vocations

March 14, 2019



WE ARE CALLED
TO LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP

1. Song: Come Holy Spirit

2. Introduction

Dear confreres, this evening we celebrate the prayer vigil for Dehonian vocations and for the Church.

In his message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope John Paul II urged us with these words:

“**Duc in Altum**”, that is “**launch out into the deep**”, as a reference to the words with which Jesus exhorts the first disciples to throw the fishing nets that will prove to be prodigious. “Peter and the first companions trusted the word of Christ and let down the nets” (Lk 5: 4).

So, we want this evening to place ourselves on the lake of Genesaret, not as spectators of a distant scene, but as **participants in a meeting, available** to do all that the Lord proposes to us, available to launch out into the deep on his word.

In the Dehonian context, how will we achieve our mission?

Jesus, who enters the world, faced with the ineffectiveness of the ancient sacrifices, says: “Behold, I come to do your will (see Heb 10: 9); Mary too “trusts” and repeats: “Ecce ancilla” (Lk 1, 38).

Here we have the synthesis of all that Father Dehon has left us: “in these words - Ecce Venio and Ecce Ancilla - we find all our vocation, our purpose, our duty, our promises” (Dir. Spir. I, 3).

Ecce Venio: that is, the obedience, the availability, to all the needs of our vocation and mission, as they arise from time to time, until the sacrifice of our whole life, “**up to the cross**”.

Let us take a moment of silence and ask God for an open heart to listen.

3. Silence

4. Responsorial Song

5. A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 5.1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep

water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything* and followed him.

6. Silence

7. Reflection

REFLECTION OF POPE FRANCIS ON VOCATIONS

“The call of the Lord has no evidence of one of the many things we can feel, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes in a silent and discreet way, without imposing on our freedom. So it can happen that his voice remains suffocated by many worries and solicitations that occupy our mind and our heart. It is then necessary to prepare oneself for a profound listening to his Word and life, to pay attention to the details of our daily life, to learn, to read events through the eyes of faith and to remain open to the surprises of the Spirit. We will not be able to discover the special and personal call that God has envisioned for us if we remain closed in ourselves.

The vocation is today! The Christian mission is for the present! And each of us is called to become a witness of the Lord, here and now. In fact, the present that is proclaimed by Jesus assures us that God continues to “descend” to save our humanity and to participate in his mission. The Lord still calls us to live with him and go after him in a relationship more closely in his direct service. And if he makes us understand that, he calls us to consecrate ourselves totally to his Kingdom, we must not be afraid! It is beautiful - and it is a great grace - to be entirely and forever consecrated to God and to the service of the brothers. The Lord continues today to call us to follow him. We must not wait to be perfect to answer our generous “here I am”, nor to be fearful of our limits and our sins, but to welcome with an open heart the voice of the Lord, to listen to him, to discern our personal mission in the Church and in the world, and finally, to live it in the present that God gives us.

8. Dynamics of light

Christ, the Light of world, the source of our vocation!

Dear brothers, in our Rule of Life it is stated that “the Way of Jesus is our way” (Cns, 12) and that for Fr. Dehon “The open side and the pierced heart of the Savior most wonderfully expressed for Father Dehon a love whose active presence he experienced in his own life “(Cst 2).

For this reason we invite you to renew the promises of our religious profession at the foot of the cross. Christ told us: **“He who wants to be my disciple, renounces himself, takes up his cross and follows me”.**

As a sign of our availability in today’s life, we contemplate the cross of Jesus and take the light at the foot of the cross.

The purpose of this action is the willingness to be faithful witnesses to embody the word of the Master who taught us: **“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father”**(Mt 5: 13-16).

An important aspect of a vocation is responsibility, that is, the answer to existence, to others, to God. This is why we go to the Light of the world that is Christ. Let us renew our “ecce venio”, let us take our cross with joy and pray for our brethren. May everyone praise the Lord and be vocational witnesses of authentic life (Cst. 88).

(At this moment everyone lights a candle, a symbol of Christ, the Light of the world. In the silence of our hearts we renew our vocational commitment. Therefore, we are invited to take a cross and a small note on which is written the name of a confrere entrusted to our prayer until Easter. With the light, each one returns to his place)

- Background music

- At the end we pray together the prayer for Vocations

9. Prayer for vocations

O Jesus, divine Shepherd of souls,
you called the apostles to make them fishers of men,
attract to you still ardent and generous souls of young people,
to make them your followers and ministers;
take part in your thirst for universal dedication,
for which you renew your sacrifice on the altars.
You, Lord, always live to intercede for us,
open them the horizons of the whole world,
where the silent supplication of many brothers
asks for light of truth and warmth of love,
so that by answering your call, extend your mission here,
build your mystical body, which is the church,
they are salt of the earth, light of the world.
Extend, Lord, your generous call also to many generous souls
and infuse in them the thirst for evangelical perfection
and dedication to service of the church
and of brothers in need of assistance and charity.
Amen.

10. Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant.
Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,

for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name,

and his faithful love extends age after age
to those who fear him.

He has used the power of his arm,
he has routed the arrogant of heart.

He has pulled down princes from their thrones
and raised high the lowly.

He has filled the starving with good things,
sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the help of Israel his servant,
mindful of his faithful love

according to the promise he made to our ancestors
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

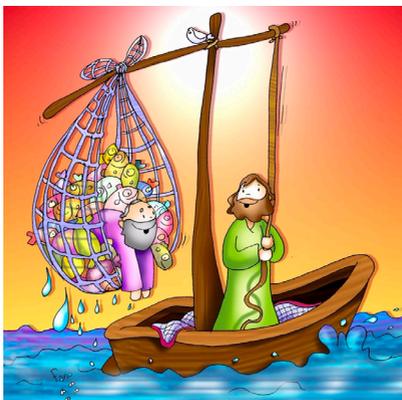
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

11. Our father

12. Prayer

Lord, Holy Father, your Church is looking to all young people of the world. We pray to you because they courageously take their lives in their hands, aim at the most beautiful and deepest things, keeping an open heart. Accompanied by wise and generous guides, help them to respond to the call of your Son with love and generosity. We also pray for all the Sanctified, because with your help, may they be witnesses of the Resurrection of Jesus and know how to recognize you alive next to them announcing with joy that You are the Lord who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

12. Song to Mary



WITH
**OPEN
HEART
& MIND**
Lehoniani
EST. 1878