



May 7, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church invites us to contemplate the image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This Sunday has also traditionally been designated by the Church as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The whole Church, therefore, is united today in praying that more men will answer God's call to be the visible face of the Good Shepherd in our world.

In his message for the 54<sup>th</sup> World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Francis writes, "There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer." Indeed, of all the many ways that we can foster vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, Jesus specified only one: prayer. "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). On this day, I would therefore like to make a special request of all the families in our Archdiocese.

May I ask that you take a short amount of time today to pray the Rosary, or some part of it, especially as a family, with the intention of an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life? On the Archdiocesan website (<http://rcav.net/pray-for-vocations>) you will find a document with some specially prepared meditations on the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary with a vocations theme. I am certain that your prayers will bear much fruit in our Archdiocese.

May the Good Shepherd bless you all and make you ever more aware of His love. In the words of Pope Francis, "May [the Lord] give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love."

With cordial best wishes and the assurance of my prayers for you and your families, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
J. Michael Miller, CSB  
Archbishop of Vancouver