



Prayer for Vocations May 25, 2021

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of **one body** you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Reflection:



Can you hear Sophie saying those words to you? I place myself under the nut tree at the noviceship in Poitiers on a little bench by Sophie’s side. Or perhaps I sit with Sophie under the tall cedar trees behind the Hôtel Biron in the dappled sunshine, with the children playing in the grass. Then I can hear Sophie’s gentle guidance, her eyes inviting my confidence, her perceptive questions. I have always loved my visits with Sophie. I remember sitting near her at St. Francois Xavier church in Paris during eucharist; the toddlers in the family chapel pressing their faces against the glass around Sophie’s châsse, drawn to her peaceful face and quiet repose. Perhaps Sophie joins you in your context and place to learn of your challenges, your hopes. In this chaotic time on the whole Earth, let us slow down and sit with Sophie for a bit on her feast day.

What would you like to share with Sophie today, about your life, our suffering world, the Society? What questions burble inside that you would like to ask Sophie? What does Sophie want to say to you? What are her concerns for the Society? Her guidance? Or perhaps there are no words. Let’s sit with Sophie and listen. For Sophie is surely with us in mission. Reading Margaret Williams’ biography of Sophie Barat set me on fire when I was a young searcher. As a novice, a dear rscj friend shared her favorite words of Sophie with me, “Go to the Heart of Jesus and draw from it, and when you need more, go back to the Source and draw again.” I have kept quote that on my desk ever since. May we feel Sophie and all our foremothers with us today, encouraging us, loving us, calling us back to our Source, our call and forward into mission.



Some questions that may help our sharing:

- What words of Sophie or part of her story have helped me in my life? How might I share Sophie's life and message with those who are searching and discerning their path?
- How can I express the love of the Heart of Jesus to searchers, inquirers, so that they ask themselves what is their call to discover and reveal Love?
- Sophie had five criteria by which to examine those who were discerning entering the Society: the capacity to learn, independence, interior life, desire to contribute to the transformation of the world, and good physical and mental health. How do those resonate as characteristics of rscj?

After sharing, we invite you to:

- Reread **Colossians 3:12-17** aloud, feeling the universal call to live those virtues as One Body.
- Pray for the women who are wondering about the possibility of a vocation to religious life, especially in the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. (We can name some women who are interested...)
- Ask Madeleine Sophie to send "adorers" to the Society of the Sacred Heart and ask Jesus to help us be a testimony of her love and to welcome new generations.
- Offer intentions ...
- End with the Prayer for Vocations (by Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aI6DT4gIaFyY0BeHrJYK7XledXkSw4Uv/view>

 [Oración Vocaciones final.mp4](#)

"God whose power is love and whose heart is infinite, You have called the Religious of the Sacred Heart to discover and reveal your love by living as women of the pierced heart of Christ, attentive both to your presence and to the anguish and hope of your people.

Keep us faithful to your longings for us: Contemplative by vocation, desirous of communion, generous in forgiveness and passionate for justice.

By our witness, attract other women to this same spirit and mission. Join to our number those who are great-hearted and ready to reveal your face.

Give us companions who, despite the ambiguities of this age, will lean on the love of their sisters as they root their lives in you.

Invite to the Society of the Sacred Heart those who are generous and joy-filled like Madeleine Sophie, those who are courageous and daring like Philippine, and renew us all in these habits of heart".

We ask this in confidence and hope through Christ, risen and reigning with you and the Spirit, now and forever". Amen.