

Pope Francis' Intention: **April 2017**

Young People

Pray for all young people (like yourself!). God calls all of you to live generous lives. May you seriously consider offering your life to God as a priest or religious brother or sister.

BY GRACE MAZZA URBANSKI

All young people have a vocation! A vocation is God's one-of-a-kind plan for each person. God calls each young person to live like Jesus, praising God by serving others.

God's plan for each person is always good. God's call always leads to happiness.

God has a happy plan, a vocation, for every one of us, to give us life and hope. God knows some people will be happiest and holiest if they get married and serve others through family life. God sets other people apart to remain single and offer their gifts to the whole human family.

And then there are priests and religious, men and women God calls to take special vows and dedicate their lives to prayer and service in the Church. Pope Francis asks us to pray especially for those young people called to priesthood and religious life.

Let's pray together:

Dear Lord, thank you for having a plan for each of us. Please help us listen carefully for your call to priesthood and religious life.

Think about it!

- * What are two special gifts God gave you?
- * How could you offer those gifts back to him?
- * How does your heart feel when you consider that God has a happy plan for you?

Vocation Activity:

Be a detective!

This month, as you pray with the Pope about vocations for young people, take some time to gather evidence like a detective!

- * Ask your parents to help you think of two or three people who

live different vocations (married lay people, unmarried lay people, priests, or religious).

- * Ask these people to share their vocation stories with you.

* Consider asking them questions like these:

- ▶ How old were you when you began wondering what God was calling you to do?
- ▶ How did you try to listen to that call?
- ▶ Can you tell me about any mistakes you made?
- ▶ When did you know you were making the right decision about how to live?
- ▶ What kinds of gifts and talents did God give you that are helpful in your vocation?
- ▶ What gifts and talents do you see in me that I should be grateful for — gifts I might be able to use to serve God and others?



Grace Mazza Urbanski is the author of *Pray with Me: Seven Simple Ways to Pray with Your Children*. These reflections on the Pope's monthly intentions are

courtesy of The Apostleship of Prayer. Go to ApostleshipOfPrayer.org.