

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



A SUMMER VOCATION RETREAT MOMENT

1. Find a quiet place. Bring your Bible, journal and your Servite Rosary.
2. Pray to the Holy Spirit for an attentive, prayerful attitude.
3. Sit quietly for 5 minutes and let the silence of the space and moment envelope you.

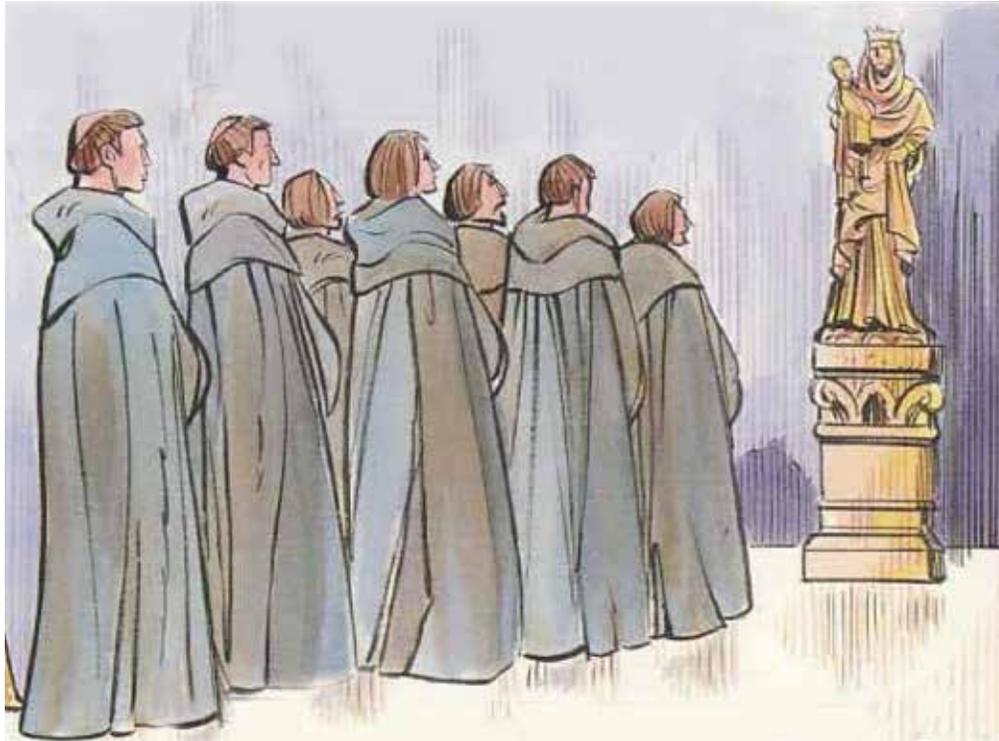
CALLED TO SERVE

ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY
Vocation Newsletter

4. Read the following, highlighting words and phrases that strike you.
- The thirteenth century has often been referred to as the “greatest of centuries” because of its many lasting achievements. Although its heritage of art,

architecture and theology is magnificent, it was also a time of great political, economic and social upheaval.

One year in that century, 1233, also bears the nickname “The year of the Great Alleluia.” Almost all of Italy was involved in a great attempt at renewal. Many preachers tried to make people aware of how vital it was to bring back true Christian values and perspectives to everyday life and behavior. This is the same year that saw the beginnings of the Servite Order.



The Seven Holy Founders did not have the intention of beginning a new religious order within the Church. What they attempted to do was to find a way to deepen their commitment to Christ and the Gospel by their lifestyle, and they wanted to do so together. The Seven wanted to intensify their ability to be of service to God’s people. They did so in dedicating themselves to Mary and in learning from her response at the Annunciation on how to say “yes” to God.

From the life of the Seven Holy Founders, Servites get their spirituality, their way



of following the Lord. The hallmarks of Servite spirituality are: an ever deepening relationship with God; service to God's people, especially the poor and the sick; prayer; of listening to God's word spoken in the depths of our hearts; in Sacred Scripture, and in the lives of those we meet; and community and friendship: that we do not walk alone, but with and for others.

Today, the Servite witness to the Gospel, as that of the Seven Holy Founders,

of compassion and support. Servites' prayer and study, combined with service continues to make Mary a living presence in the world.

5. Prayerfully read Luke 1:26-38 in your Bible. Spend 15 minutes pondering this text. Highlight the words and phrases in the text that stand out for you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the significance of these words and phrases for you. What is God asking of me? Am I willing to

The Servite witness to the Gospel expresses itself in fraternal communion and service of God and all people.

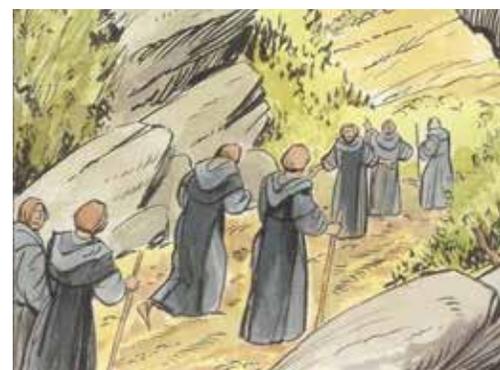
expresses itself in fraternal communion and service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. Mary is honored with particular acts of reverence: greeting her with the angelic salutation at the beginning of community gatherings; dedicating Servite churches to her; celebrating her feasts with solemnity and honoring her memory on Saturday and at the close of each day.

Prayer and Mary's example motivates the Servite's apostolate. Being sensitive to the needs of the Church, they seek to know more about Mary and her mission in the mystery of salvation. In Mary, the most excellent fruit of redemption, Servites find a model for freedom which unites us with the oppressed; unity, which makes them work for the unity of the Church; and hope, which allows Servites to reach all women and men in the journey of their lives.

This vision is nourished by remaining attentive to the summons of the Word of God in quiet listening, in imitation of the Virgin. The Servite spirit then, expresses itself in loving service of others, a service

serve as He wants or am I hesitant to do so. What are my hesitations in answering the call? What can Mary teach me about answering the Lord's call for my life?

6. What are my resolutions as I continue to discern the Lord's will?
7. Thank the Lord for being present with you in this prayer.
8. End the prayer by praying the Servite Rosary for your discernment.



Called to Serve, #35

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