

# GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



The Sacred Scriptures are God's word to humanity. In the pages of the sacred texts, God reveals His love for us. The scriptures instruct us in how to live in relationship with God and with others. The Catechism states, "...in Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, 'but as what it really is, the word of God.' In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them"(67-68). The scriptures are a means to conversing with God. The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation from the Second Vatican Council, teaches that "... prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred

## CALLED TO SERVE

### ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY

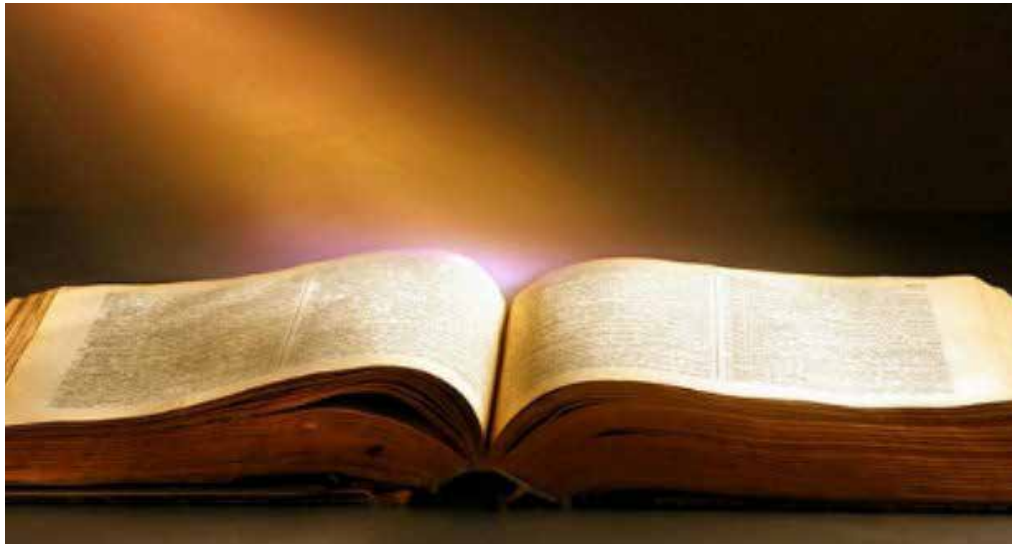
#### Vocation Newsletter

Scripture, so that God and man may talk together; for 'we speak to Him when we pray; we hear Him when we read the divine saying'" (25). One of the greatest gifts that the Vatican II Council gave us was the encouragement to know, study and pray the Sacred Scriptures.

For one beginning a serious prayer life, the scriptures can be intimidating. For the seasoned praying person, the scriptures are like a trusted friend, always stimulating

the heart to seek God. Whether one is new to prayer or prays daily, using the scriptures is important because, upon the sacred pages of scripture, one becomes a part of the great adventure of falling in love with God as God is in love with us. When using scripture for prayer, referring to a commentary or daily Catholic meditation magazine can assist in better understanding the sacred text. Prayerfully using scripture invites us to accept the friendship that God offers. Reflectively reading scripture is to enter into God's story of love. As mendicant friars, we Servites engage scripture everyday as a means to deepen our knowledge of God and to prayerfully encounter God's love and mercy within the quiet of our hearts.

In the daily life of the Servite Friar, the use of scripture is important. Article 116 of our Constitutions states "Every friar should develop the personal ability to discern the profound Christian significance of human events. This ability, nourished by constant contact with the word of God, especially in the Sacred Scriptures, will enable him to recognize the influence of the mystery of





Christ in the history of the human race and in the life of the Church. Acknowledging his responsibility to the world, he will give a Christian response to help to solve the problems of his environment and society.” Prayer connects us to God. In prayer, we experience the loving mercy and affectionate attentiveness of God towards us. Through prayer we discern the call of God for our lives. The manner in which we live is our response to that call of God. Praying and reading scripture tunes our hearts to the movement of God and how we give an authentic witness to God as well as the way we can respond to the problems of society. Servites pray the scriptures because on its pages we come to know God better, gain a deeper

pray the scriptures that more familiar they become and your comfortability in using scripture will grow. Praying scripture is an adventure in knowing God and knowing how loved you are as God’s child. As Venerable Angelo Maria Montorsoli, a priest of the Servite Order reminds us, “the reading of Sacred Scripture is the foundation of all Christian joy and of every good. It is well said of the Scriptures: If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. For this reason Saint Jerome and other Fathers call the Scriptures ‘the Word of God which contains abundant delights.’”

**Here are some scripture passages to aid your praying with scripture: Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 139; John 1:35-39; Matthew 6:19-34; Lk 10:25-37; I Corinthians 12:12-27; Mark 8:27-33; Jeremiah 1:4-15, 18-19; John 1:35-51.**

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**follow**



understanding of ourselves in light of God’s love and the encouragement to be compassionate to those who are poor and suffer. Scripture is God’s love letter to us and our manual for living our faith in religious community and in the world.

As you discern the call of God for your life, let scripture be your guide. The way to pray with the scriptures is simple. 1. Find a quiet place and once there, ask the Holy Spirit to pray with you. 2. Open your bible to a favorite scripture passage or to the Gospel of the day and slowly read that passage. As you read, take notice of words or phrases that strike you. Reread the text again. 3. Ask God the question “what does this mean for me? What are you asking of me?” 4. Pray for courage to follow the Lord. Tell God your hopes and hesitations, your concerns and how you believe that you can witness His love love to others. 5. Thank the Lord for being with you in this prayer.



Don’t let a lack of knowledge of scripture keep you from encountering God’s love in the sacred pages. The more you read and

Called to Serve, #49  
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