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Meditations on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

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Bishops Finn and Boland have urged Catholics to pray for vocations. They invite you to meditate on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary -- the mysteries of our faith that focus on the events of Christ's life.

Vocation to religious service begins with Baptism, when all are called to work for God. The word "vocation" means "calling." The bishops invite you to pray that people hear God's call to serve.

First Luminous Mystery

The Baptism of Our Lord in the River Jordan

John the Baptist insisted that he was not the expected Messiah but that somebody would come after him whose shoe laces he was not worthy to fasten. That somebody was Jesus who came to the Jordan to be baptized by John. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the Lord in the form of a dove a voice from heaven proclaimed, "You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased."

Lord, we ask you to inspire many young men and women to become priests and religious imbued with the humility and courage of John the Baptist as they lead others to baptism through their fearless proclamation of your divinity in everything they say and do.

Second Luminous Mystery

Christ Reveals Himself at the Marriage Feast in Cana

At the promptings of his mother, Jesus performed the first of his many miracles to ensure the happiness of a newly-married couple and their guests. So confident was Mary that her son would take care of the crisis that she simply instructed the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you," words we should never forget when we are perplexed by the difficulties of daily living.

Lord, at Cana you changed water into wine. Send us, in your providence, many worthy priests to enrich your Church by changing wine into your blood of salvation as you graciously empower them to follow your example.

Third Luminous Mystery

Jesus Proclaims the Kingdom of God and Calls Us to Conversion

Everything that Jesus did and said, especially during his three years of public ministry, was a call to identify ourselves with his Father's Kingdom, to abandon

our sinful ways and to be genuinely converted in mind and heart to his way of love so that peace may replace turmoil and holiness may destroy selfishness.

Lord, you have empowered priests to forgive sin in your name. Give your Church an abundance of compassionate confessors so that your loving mercy may be experienced by those whose lives are paralyzed by sin or confused by the calls of those who profess a Godless society with no prospects of an eternal life in your presence.

Fourth Luminous Mystery

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Jesus brought Peter, James and John to a high mountain where he was transfigured before them. This extraordinary revelation was enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses in conversation with the Savior. Was this unprecedented insight into his divinity a foretaste of his risen glory and a stark preparation for his suffering and abandonment in Gethsemane and Calvary ?

Lord, the joys and sorrows of daily life only make sense when viewed in terms of eternal life. We beg you to favor your Church with priests in the image of Peter, James and John to accompany us in good times and in bad times as we seek your eternal embrace.

Fifth Luminous Mystery

The Institution of the Eucharist

Gathering his apostles around him on the night before he died, Jesus took the bread and the wine of their shared Passover meal and declared them to be his Body and Blood, symbols of a new covenant which he commanded them to perpetuate in his memory.

Lord, as you ordained your first priests at the Last Supper and entrusted them with the responsibility of providing your people with your Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, we ask you to select young men from our parishes to be priests eager to fulfill your mandate in our time. We need the Eucharist as food for our souls and the focus of our adoration as we prepare to meet you "face to face."