

# Hints for prayer

## Psalm 40

*Psalm 40 is a prayer of praise and petition, moving from gratitude for God's past interventions to a plea for help against enemies and afflictions, and culminating in the celebration of God's will.*

Blessed the man who sets his security in the LORD, who turns not to the arrogant or to those who stray after falsehood.

You, yes you, O LORD, my God, have done many wondrous deeds! And in your plans for us there is none to equal you.

Should I wish to declare or tell them, too many are they to recount. Sacrifice and offering you do not want; you opened my ears.

Holocaust and sin-offering you do not request; so I said, "See; I come with an inscribed scroll written upon me. I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being!"

When I sing of your righteousness in a great assembly, See, I do not restrain my lips; as you, LORD, know.

I do not conceal your righteousness within my heart; I speak of your loyalty and your salvation. I do not hide your mercy or faithfulness from a great assembly.

While those who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. May those who long for your salvation always say, "The LORD is great."

## Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may cling with all our heart to the things of heaven, for through the saints you have given us a model of evangelical perfection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Mass For Monks and Religious)

5



# Willingness

with Father Angelico Carlesso



Edited by

sr. Deuzilene Ferreira, sr. Anna Vanzin, sr. Agnieszka Zdeb, sr. Afi Kotobissa, sr. Kasia Kloc, sr. Jeannette Wiyao, sr. Christine Ogoulou, and sr. Leen Halasah, Sisters Masters of Saint Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts, Vicenza.

# Allow me to introduce myself: I am Father Angelico Carlesso.

Vicenza, January 8, 1768 - Vicenza, December 2, 1832

## "It's not enough to do good; you must do it well.

When God calls, it is hard not to answer with a "yes," because, no matter how small it may seem, He always turns it into something great. I entered the Order of Friars Minor at a young age, and very soon I was entrusted with various responsibilities toward my confreres. However, when the Napoleonic suppressions forced us to leave the convent, I found myself carrying out other forms of service. For some years, I had been the director of the Soccorso and Soccorsetto, two charitable institutions for girls and young women in the city of Vicenza. There, I devoted myself with care, knowing that the Lord was entrusting to me, day after day, precious treasures. Among them was the young Redenta Olivieri, for whom I soon had the honor of becoming a point of reference and—by her mother's will—the steward of her family's considerable assets. Her story, delicately woven by God's hands with mysterious mastery, led her to spend her entire youth within that work, until the age of thirty-nine in 1821—the same year in which I, too, concluded my service there.

I then received the call to another mission. When I made myself available to serve as confessor and rector of the Church of St. Julian, in the parish of St. Peter, the parish priest, Don Giovanni Orlando, involved me in the founding of the "School of Charity," an initiative established by the Milanese count Baldassare Porta. As he foresaw his imminent return to Lombardy, he entrusted me with its direction and administration, which I sought to carry out with precision, aware that every small act, done with care before God, takes on great value. I was not alone: with me were eleven companions, among them Valentino Piccoli, whom I helped overcome a timidity that kept him withdrawn, and Felice de Maria, a faithful benefactor and friend. Unfortunately, good works do not always find true dedication in those who carry them forward. So, amid various challenges, we decided to ask the capable Don Antonio Farina to take charge of the School and reorganize it, uniting it with his Pious Work of Saint Dorothy. Thus, in 1831, the new School began again, right next to the house where I had been living for a couple of years, weakened by illness and under Redenta's care. I taught her the art of accounting, so that she could continue to manage both her family inheritance and the assets of the School, of which she had by then become the administrator. Very soon, she would become its director and the mother of a much larger family.

My life came to an end in the first days of December and...

...Don Antonio and my friends, in their final farewell, called me "the man of charity." If I truly was so, it was only for the glory of God, for whom alone I sought to "do well" the small yet great good He asked of me.

(cf. Felice de Maria and Don Giovanni Antonio Farina, *Historical Memoirs of the Institute*)



## Willingness yesterday...

## ...and today!

*Each day offers us a new opportunity, a new possibility. We should not expect everything from those who govern us, for that would be childish. We have the space we need for co-responsibility in creating and putting into place new processes and changes. Let us take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies.*

Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 77

**Like Father Angelico, let us too allow ourselves to be challenged by life and place our gifts at the service of others!**

### Some questions to reflect on



- Which of my talents can I place at the service and benefit of others?
- Thinking about a service I already offer—what can I do to carry it out in a better way?

### A practical step for today

- Set aside five minutes of your day to remember those who have been there for me.
- Give clothing, blankets, or other belongings to those in need.

To discover more about our history, please visit our website at [sdvi.org](http://sdvi.org).

