

Like the three men who asked to be accepted as Jesus' disciples in today's gospel, we too were equally excited when we were called to live a new life in Christ. This call to live a life in Christ does not take place in a vacuum but concretely in our daily life, especially in the vocation that God has chosen for us, or in a less perfect way, a vocation we have chosen for ourselves. This vocation to love, which is common to all vocations and states of life, often begins with joy, excitement, enthusiasm, high expectations and filled with hopes. Then we were so grateful, excited and happy that we were so privileged to be blessed with such a challenging and meaningful career or life partner. We said to ourselves, "This is it! This is what I always want to do! Or, this is the person I want to spend the rest of my life with." We thought then that this would be the realization of our dream and indeed the best thing that could have happened to us.

Yet in most cases, such hopes are dashed when reality sets in. When we came together, we had so much to share. We thought of each other all day. But now, we hardly talk. We have nothing in common. We prefer to be with our friends, and even when together, there are no feelings of joy, no romance, no real love. Deep down in our hearts we are too fearful even to admit that the flame of love has died. This is of course true in our career as well. Instead of being grateful, we complain and drag our feet to work. Perhaps for many of us the honeymoon period is long over.

In this situation We must go forward, think positively and continue to do good, working tirelessly even when we face difficulties and sufferings in our vocation and ministry. This is what our vocation is all about. It is a call to total self-emptying which inevitably involves sacrifices and sufferings.

So, in the face of challenges and difficulties, let us not complain because we have given up that right, since the vocation we have chosen is a free response on our part. To be a true disciple of Jesus Christ in the final

analysis is to carry the cross after Jesus for the sake of love in our Vocation – married life, Priestly life.

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess you have given me. I surrender it all to you to be disposed of according to your will. Give me only your love and your grace - with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Help me to overcome any and every hesitation in my life in saying “Yes” to Your holy will. Help me to discern Your voice and embrace all You say in my state of life – vocation and ministry every day. Jesus, I trust in You.