PRAYER TO MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

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O Mary, you are the model of every vocation. You were the first disciple. You lived a life of faithfulness as a daughter, wife, mother. Your fiat—acceptance of the angel Gabriel's message—reveals to us what is necessary in the vocational process: listening to God's word and will, inquisitive discernment and bold decision-making. We pray that we have the courage to offer the words you did: I am the Lord's servant, May it be to me as you have said when we are called…as we are called, to serve God and one another.

We turn to you as a source of inspiration. Help those who are discerning their vocation. Strengthen those who are following God's calling. Assist those who remain faithful to it. Let us look to you, Our Mother, "our life, our sweetness and our hope" as Jesuits West aims to serve the needs of our unique communities and apostolates.

In the words of Pope Francis, we ask you to "help all believers to dedicate themselves to the path of peace and fraternity founded on welcoming and forgiving, on respect for others and on love as a gift of oneself." Bless those in our province who forge that path of peace, welcome the stranger and forgive the sinner— as your Son, Our Lord did.

Hail Mary! Through your intercession, help us to be more like you: wise, humble and courageous, poor and generous. "May we be unafraid to welcome the Gospel into our lives."

Deepen in all of us the gift of appreciation for your example, love for your Son and gratitude for the gift of your vocation. We pray in a special way that the Provincial's visitation to the novitiate in Culver City will affirm the grace and mercy God gives through our vocation. We ask that the provincials' retreat in the Holy Land sharpen their vision as leaders in the Society of Jesus and as servants to all.

Help us O Mary, to understand that our primary vocation as Jesuits and Companions-in-Mission is to love and to be loved, as you were by God.

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