

Litany for Men in Christ, Men of the Church, Men for Others¹

A boy wants to have fun. A man wants to do his duty.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy does not think according to system. A man attempts to order his intellectual world.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is concerned that he be liked. A man is concerned that he be respected.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is infatuated with the immediate. A man looks to ultimate consequences.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is often ill-mannered and ruled by his feelings. A man keeps himself in hand.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is mainly self-focused. A man looks out for others.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy often shirks responsibility and is easily forgetful of it. A man desires responsibility.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is quickly discouraged by obstacles. A man is not easily turned aside from his purpose.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy goes along with his environment. A man influences his environment.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is impressed by show. A man looks more deeply at character and principle.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy views women as a source of self-indulgence. A man looks to honor and protect women.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy needs external discipline to stay on the right path. A man imposes his own inner discipline.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy engenders chaos in ordered situations. A man orders the chaos he encounters.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy looks at rules as something to get around. A man sees the purpose of rules and honors them.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is quickly distracted. A man is focused and steady.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy looks to be praised. A man looks to express gratitude to others.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy works in fits and starts and leaves jobs unfinished. A man finishes his work.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy tends to brag and strut. A man does not exalt himself, but lets his actions speak.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy whines and complains at difficulty. A man does not complain, but either acts or endures.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy is distracted by things of little importance. A man stays concerned with important matters.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy avoids serious commitment. A man looks for the right commitments and makes them.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy wants a mother to care for him. A man wants a wife as a partner in mission.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy waits passively for life to happen to him. A man takes initiative according to his ideals.

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

A boy dreams only of his own accomplishments; a man helps others into their full maturity.²

Jesus, give me the grace to desire it.

¹ Motto given by Fr. William Baer (d. January 14, 2018) during his tenure as Rector (2000-2011) to the seminarians at Saint John Vianney College Seminary, Saint Paul, MN.

² The invocations of manly virtues are compiled in "Seminary Formation Proposal" by Sophia Consulting, 2018, pp. 3-4.