

What Does It Take?

What does it take to endure criticism, hatred, and mockery for the Most Holy Name of Jesus? Courage. What does it take to follow Jesus in a world that rejects Him? Courage. What is required of a person who takes up the cross of suffering? Courage. What virtue must a person need, to take radical action and leave the security of worldly success for the sufferings of a religious vocation? Courage.

Today, men and women courageously follow Jesus Christ in a religious vocation, despite a world that rejects them. Men and women, called to the priesthood and religious life, face taunting and daily tests of fidelity, because the devil and many people think their life is worthless. Like Jesus, listening to the mocking crowds on His way to the Cross, priests and religious receive the same discouragement through current newspaper headlines, television stories, and gossip from you and me.

Today, it is very common for people to make fun of priests. I have heard stories of people spitting, yelling, and cursing at Catholic priests when they see them wearing their collars in public. This type of behavior would never have been tolerated when my grandparents were young, yet today it is all too common

There is so much evil in our world that we need courageous people to take radical action with their lives and answer the call of God. But who would want to become a priest or religious when they have to face so many challenges. The answer is – a person with courage.