



## Prayer in Vocation

**Feast of Blessed Brother Arnold Rèche, FSC (October 23)**

### **A School Prayer:**

In the person of Blessed Brother Arnold, we see dedication to the spiritual development of the newest Brothers, called "Novices." Loving Creator, you allow us to hear the voice of goodness in our hearts.  
May we be open to your call and live lives of holiness, helping others understand that they, too, are good, and worthy of our respect and gratitude.  
We pray through your Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

### **A Classroom Prayer:**

Jesus, you look out for the little guy.  
You look out for those most in need of someone's attention.  
As we move into the heart of our academic semester, may we not lose touch of the hearts around us, our fellow students.  
May we, like Blessed Brother Arnold, pay attention to the goodness in the persons who sit next to us in class.  
May we be grateful for our time together today. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Parents** *(could be used in a newsletter):*

Blessed Brother Arnold cared most for the spiritual and professional development of the young men he guided in their first year as Brothers.  
May we too spend the time with our children that allows us to hear the voice of God's goodness working through them and through us.  
May we be encouraged in our efforts to create a loving home environment that prepares our children to love others. Amen.

### **The Story:**

Jules-Nicolas Rèche was born into a poor family living in Landroff in the province of Lorraine, France. He left school at an early age to work as a stable-boy, a coachman, and finally as a teamster for a local construction company. Even as a young man he was known among his fellow workers for his piety and his self-discipline. He first met the Brothers while attending evening classes in their school and asked to be admitted into the congregation. He taught for fourteen years at the boarding school in Reims. Despite the demands of a full teaching schedule he managed by private study to master theology, mathematics, science and agriculture, which he taught to small groups of advanced students. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, he worked with other Brothers to care for the medical and spiritual needs of the wounded soldiers on both sides. The intensity of his prayer life soon led the superiors to appoint him Director of Novices. He won the hearts of the Novice Brothers by authentic care for their spiritual and professional development. There are stories of little miracles and cures, as well as his uncanny ability to discern their inmost thoughts. Brother Arnold was known for his devotion to the Lord's passion and for his docility to the Holy Spirit who, as he often remarked, "strengthens a person's heart." When the novitiate was moved to the new formation center near Reims in 1885, Brother Arnold was instrumental in having it dedicated to the Sacred Heart. He died at age fifty-two with a reputation for sanctity.