



## **Harvest of Prayer**

### **Holy Hour for Vocations**

***“Eucharistic Love Motivates and Finds the Vocational Activity of the Whole Church”***

**Composed by Msgr. Charles M. Mangan**  
**(For private use)**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Lord God, we thank and praise You for the gift of the Holy Eucharist. In the Most Blessed Sacrament, You reveal Your infinite love for all of humanity. Through the intercession of Mary Most Holy, may we deepen our Eucharistic love for You in this wondrous Sacrament, and may our efforts to promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life be nourished by our worship of Your Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Reading from Sacred Scripture** (*John 6:35-40*)

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst. But I told you that although you have seen (Me), you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to Me, because I came down from Heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent Me. And this is the will of the one who sent Me, that I should not lose anything of what He gave Me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day.”

*After a period of silent prayer:*

#### **Intercessions**

That the Lord of the Harvest may open the hearts of our young people to the possibility of a life in priesthood or religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

For all men and women who wish to follow Christ, that they may respond generously to God’s graces especially found in the Bread of Life, trusting His leading them into His service as priests or religious, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

For Christian families, the source of priestly and religious vocations, that they may be prompted to encourage young people to rejoice in doing God's will, we pray to the Lord.

*R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

That young people may show generosity to Jesus' call and make wise decisions as they discern their mission and purpose in life, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

For a full appreciation of the gift of ministry within the Church, and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

For all those in formation for the priesthood and consecrated life, that the Eucharist may nourish them in their generosity and conviction that God is calling them to witness and serve His loving presence in the world, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

For all those who promote vocations within the Church, that they may be blessed for the assistance they give our bishops, seminarians, and religious communities, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

That our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, will be strengthened as he leads Catholics to lift up the world to God in prayer, we pray to the Lord. *R. Eucharistic Lord, hear us!*

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Reading from Pope Benedict XVI's 2007 Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

At the center of every Christian community is the Eucharist, the source and summit of the life of the Church. Whoever places himself at the service of the Gospel, if he lives the Eucharist, makes progress in love of God and neighbor and thus contributes to building the Church as communion. We can affirm that the "Eucharistic love" motivates and founds the vocational activity of the whole Church, because, as I wrote in the Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, vocations to the priesthood and to other ministries and services flourish within the people of God wherever there are those in whom Christ can be seen through His Word, in the Sacraments and especially in the Eucharist. This is so because "in the Church's liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive His presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He loved us first and He continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love" (no. 17).

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Meditation**

Why is the Most Holy Eucharist at "the center of every Christian community"? It is because the Eucharist is Christ Himself! Jesus is the heart of each assembly gathered in His Name.

To live the Eucharist means placing oneself at the service of the Holy Gospel. The Holy Eucharist is all about self-emptying (*kenosis*)—Jesus emptying Himself for our salvation. Thus, the one who worthily receives the Body and Blood of Christ is conformed to Jesus and then enabled to surrender to the exalted mission of proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed.

Those who love the Most Holy Eucharist want to foster new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life in order that young men and women will imitate the self-emptying of Christ and, therefore, be at the service of the Church. Without the Eucharist, our idea of service would be greatly impoverished. But with the Holy Eucharist as our template, we know what authentic service is.

As we pray and work for more priestly and religious vocations, we perform a great service for our youth in two distinct ways. First, we pray and do penance for them, begging the Holy Spirit to keep them always close to the Most Holy Eucharist. Second, we ourselves seek from the merciful hand of God an increase in our own love for and adoration of the Body and Blood of Christ, thereby becoming livelier Eucharistic models for our younger brothers and sisters.

The success of our efforts to promote vocations is directly linked to our humble recognition of the power and the glory of the Most Holy Eucharist.

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Litany for a Strong and Lively Eucharistic Faith**

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

God, the Father of Heaven, *Have mercy on us.*

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

God, the Holy Spirit, *Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, Living Bread which came down from Heaven, *Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, Bread from Heaven giving life to the world, *Have mercy on us.*

Hidden God and Savior, *Have mercy on us.*

My Lord and my God, *Have mercy on us.*

Who has loved us with an everlasting love, *Have mercy on us.*

Who has given Your Flesh for the life of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

Who promises eternal life to those who receive You, *Have mercy on us.*

Who is ever ready to receive and welcome us, *Have mercy on us.*

Who has not left us orphans, *Have mercy on us.*

Most Dear Sacrament, *Have mercy on us.*

Sacrament of Love, *Have mercy on us.*

Sacrament of Sweetness, *Have mercy on us.*

Life-giving Sacrament, *Have mercy on us.*

Sacrament of Strength, *Have mercy on us.*

That we may love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament with our whole heart, with our whole soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength, *We implore You, hear us.*

That our one desire may be to love You and to do Your will, *We implore You, hear us.*

That we may ever remain in Your love, *We implore You, hear us.*

That You would be our protection from all danger, *We implore You, hear us.*

That You would give us grace to persevere to the end, *We implore You, hear us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Graciously hear us.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

### **Let us pray.**

We come to You, Dear Lord, with the Apostles, saying: *Increase our faith.* Give us a strong and lively faith in the mystery of Your Real Presence in the midst of us. Give us the faith of all Your saints, to whom the Blessed Sacrament has been Heaven begun on earth. In every Communion increase our faith; for with faith, love and humility and reverence and all good will come into our souls. Dearest Lord: *Increase our faith.* Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Now offer together the prayer our Lord Jesus Christ taught us:

*Our Father...*

*After a brief period of silence, the Holy Hour for Vocations concludes:*

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, we worship You living among us in the Sacrament of Your Body and Blood. May we offer to our Father in Heaven a solemn pledge of undivided love. May we offer to our brothers and sisters a life poured out in loving service of that Kingdom where You live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

*(Prayer from the Mass for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ/Corpus Christi)*