



## **HARVEST OF PRAYER**

### **HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS**

***“Signs of the Love of Christ”***

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

#### **Opening Prayer**

Lord, we come before You mindful of the many needs of Your Church, especially for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Hear the humble prayers of Your people gathered here before you. By this great Sacrament of Love, bring to maturity the seeds You have sown in the field of Your Church. May many more young people choose to serve You by devoting themselves to the service of Your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Reading from Sacred Scripture** (*Matthew 5:13-20*)

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Intercessions**

For our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, and all our bishops, may they courageously shepherd the people entrusted to their care and protection, we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

For parish faith communities, may they remain faithful to their baptismal commitment to be salt for the earth and light for the world, we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

For consecrated men and women in convents, cloisters and monasteries, may their lives of hidden prayer and silent recollection serve to spread the love of God in our broken world, we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

For those who may be discerning God's call, especially young men and women considering the priesthood or consecrated life, may they be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as Our Lady always was, we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

For priests, religious and other consecrated persons who may be struggling to live their vocation and mission, may they respond to the many graces offered to be visible signs of Christ's love., we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

For all priests and religious who have died, may they may experience the fullness of God's glory as they undertake their mission of intercession, we pray to the Lord. *R. Lord, hear us!*

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Reading from Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Clergy and Religious Given During a Pastoral Visit to Assisi on the Occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the Conversion of Saint Francis**

May you in particular, cloistered religious, be able to hold high the torch of contemplation. I would like to repeat to each one of you the words which St Clare wrote in a letter to Agnes of Bohemia, asking her to make Christ her "mirror": "Look into this mirror every day, O Queen, spouse of Jesus Christ, and continually examine your face in it..." (*Fourth Letter to Agnes*, 15).

May your hidden life of prayer never leave you out of the Church's missionary dynamism; on the contrary, may it place you at its heart. The loftier the apostolic challenges are, the greater is the need for your charism. Be signs of the love of Christ, to whom all the other brothers and sisters exposed to the toil of apostolic life and secular commitment in the world may look.

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Meditation**

Cloistered religious are well known for being a hidden but real "prayer backup" for religious who perform apostolic works. In fact, cloistered religious are busy interceding not only for their brothers and sisters in the religious life but also for *the entire Church and the world*.

It is no exaggeration to claim that the Church and the world are better off when cloistered religious are more faithful to their vocation of prayer, silence and self-denial. Only God Himself knows the abundant graces that flow when He is moved by the petitions, solitude and mortification of his sons and daughters who have given themselves completely to the life of the cloister.

Yes, cloistered religious pray, remain silent and sacrifice for us. But they also teach us how to pray, be silent and sacrifice. Their joyful service to the Risen Lord Jesus provides us with an excellent example.

What thanks can we render to the Lord for the gift of cloistered men and women? Certainly our own prayer, silence and self-denial for them. Furthermore, we express our gratitude to Him by our own imitation of their cheerful and abiding self-offering.

Although our personal vocation may differ in kind from that of cloistered religious, it is the one and only Christ Who calls us to holiness as He has invited them. For that reason, we gladly embrace the path that He has chosen for us while praising and praying to Him for our cloistered brothers and sisters.

*After a period of silent prayer:*

### **Litany of the Blessed Sacrament**

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

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

Holy Trinity, One God, *Have mercy on us.*

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

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

Wheat of the Elect, *Have mercy on us.*

Lamb without Spot, *Have mercy on us.*

Food of Angels, *Have mercy on us.*

Hidden Manna, *Have mercy on us.*

Word Made Flesh, dwelling in us, *Have mercy on us.*

Sacred Host, *Have mercy on us.*

Mystery of Faith, *Have mercy on us.*

Most High and Adorable Sacrament, *Have mercy on us.*

Most Holy of All Sacrifices, *Have mercy on us.*

Heavenly Antidote against the Poison of Sin, *Have mercy on us.*

Most Wonderful of All Miracles, *Have mercy on us.*

Gift Transcending All Fullness, *Have mercy on us.*

Special Memorial of Divine Love, *Have mercy on us.*

Medicine of Immortality, *Have mercy on us.*

Tremendous and Life-Giving Sacrament, *Have mercy on us.*

Sacrament of Piety, *Have mercy on us.*

Bond of Charity, *Have mercy on us.*

Priest and Victim, *Have mercy on us.*

Refreshment of Holy Souls, *Have mercy on us.*

Pledge of Future Glory, *Have mercy on 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, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sins of the World, *Have mercy on us.*

### **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**

O God, Who in this wonderful Sacrament has left us a memorial of Thy Passion.  
Grant us the grace, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and  
Blood, that we may ever continue to feel within ourselves the blessed fruit of Thy Redemption,  
This we ask through Christ Our Lord. Amen.