



**Holy Hour for Vocations**

*In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; Eucharistic Adoration is simply the natural consequence of the Eucharistic celebration, which is itself the Church's supreme act of adoration. Receiving the Eucharist means adoring him whom we receive. Only in this way do we become one with him, and are given, as it were, a foretaste of the beauty of the heavenly liturgy. The act of adoration outside Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself. Indeed, only in adoration can a profound and genuine reception mature. And it is precisely this personal encounter with the Lord that then strengthens the social mission contained in the Eucharist, which seeks to break down not only the walls that separate the Lord and ourselves, but also and especially the walls that separate us from one another.*

- *Pope Benedict XVI*
- *Sacramentum Caritatis, 66*

With these words, Our Holy Father clearly calls the faithful to pray before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. It is in this personal encounter with Jesus, itself a reflection of the encounter in the reception of Communion, that gives the faithful the strength to respond to Jesus' invitation to "Come, follow me!" It is also in this encounter with Jesus that we make our most urgent desires known to Him, for He sees into the depths of our hearts and leads us to a deeper unity with Himself. Therefore, we present this model of a "Holy Hour for Vocations" for use with your parish and/or school, as an opportunity for the faithful to gather before Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament and not only to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, but also to pray for their own discernment in the way that Jesus calls each individual Christian to follow him and embrace his or her own cross of discipleship.

Encouragement is given to adapt this Eucharistic Holy Hour to the needs of your particular parish and/or school.

### **Opening Hymn**

O Saving Victim, op'ning wide  
The gate of heav'n to us below!  
Our foes press on from ev'ry side:  
Your aid supply, your strength bestow.

*O salutaris hostia,  
Quae caeli pandis ostium:  
Bella premunt hostilia,  
Da robur fer auxilium.*

To your great name be endless praise,  
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;  
O grant us endless length of days  
When our true native land we see. Amen

*Uni trinoque Domino  
Sit sempiterna Gloria:  
Qui vitam sine termino  
Nobis donet in patria.*

### **Reading from Scripture** (Choose one of the following- See text on pages 5 & 6)

*Judith 8:9-14, 17-20*

*Isaiah 6:1-10*

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

*Matthew 4:18-22*

*Matthew 9:9-13*

*Mark 14:3-9*

*John 21:15-23*

### **Homily**

A period of silent adoration may follow.

### **A Litany For Vocations**

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, hear us.  
God the Father of heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God.

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

Holy Mary,  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of Virgins,  
St. Michael, leader of the heavenly host,  
St. Gabriel, messenger of God's divine plan,  
St. Raphael, companion of the journey,  
All you holy Angels and Archangels,  
St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church,  
St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests,  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga, patron of youth,  
St. Alphonsus Liguori, patron of vocations,  
St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminarians,  
St. John Berchmans, patron of altar servers,  
St. Maria Goretti, patron of teenagers,  
St. Francis De Sales, primary patron of the Archdiocese,  
All you holy men and women.

***Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.  
Pray for us.***

Be merciful,  
Be merciful,  
Through your mercy,  
Through Your kindness,  
Through the fervent prayers and sacrifices of Your people,  
Through the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,

***Spare us, O Lord.  
Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.***

Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels,  
Through the sanctification of the family,  
Through parents being generously open to life,  
Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness,  
Through a renewed sense of fidelity to our Catholic Faith.

That young people might seek to live the truth of Christ,  
That young people might seek God's will for them in their lives,  
That young people might hear the call to give their lives for the mission of the Church,  
That all priests and religious might be renewed in the spirit of the new evangelization,  
That Bishops might be strengthened to be courageous shepherds,  
That we may always zealously pray for and promote vocations,  
That those who are being called to be priests and religious might respond generously,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

The harvest is great but the laborers are few.

Let us pray: O God, who chose the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and who by Baptism and Confirmation has called us to build up Your Holy Church, we earnestly implore You to choose among us, Your children, many priests and religious who will love You with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives making You known and loved by all. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Prayer for Vocations (Pope Benedict XVI)**

O Father, raise up among Christians numerous and holy vocations to the priesthood, to keep the faith alive and guard the gracious memory of your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments, with which you continually renew your faithful.

Give us holy ministers of your altar, who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Call ministers of your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of your forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son and, docile to His teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptized in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfill their mission at the service of the Gospel. This we pray You through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.  
Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.***

***Send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.***

***O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.***

***O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.***

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***O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.***

***O Lord of the harvest, graciously hear us.***

***Spare us, O Lord.  
Graciously hear us, O Lord.  
Have mercy on us.***

***Beg the harvest Master to send out laborers for His harvest.***

**Benediction:**

Come Adore this wondrous presence,  
Bow to Christ the source of grace.  
Here is kept the ancient promise  
Of God's earthly dwelling place.  
Sight is blind before God's glory,  
Faith alone may see His face.

*Tantum ergo Sacramentum  
Veneremur cernui:  
Et antiquum documentum  
Novo cedat ritui:  
Praestet fides supplementum  
Sensuum defectui.*

Glory be to God the Father,  
Praise his coequal Son,  
Adoration to the Spirit,  
Bond of love, in Godhead one.  
Blest be God by all creation  
Joyously while ages run.

*Genitori Genitoque  
Laus et jubilation,  
Salus, honor, virtus quoque  
Sit et benedictio:  
Procedenti ab utroque  
Compar sit laudation*

**Minister:** You have given them bread from heaven.

**Response:** Having all sweetness within it.

**Minister:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You gave us the Eucharist  
As the memorial of your suffering and death.  
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood  
Help us to experience the salvation you won for us  
And the peace of the kingdom,  
Where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.

- Amen

*Priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Eucharist.*

**Divine Praises:**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his holy name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.  
Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of  
the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be St. Joseph, he most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.  
Amen.

**Conclusion:**

Holy Hour can conclude with a suitable song of praise, such as *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name*.

## **Readings from Scripture:**

### **A reading from the Book of Judith**

*Judith 8:9-14, 17-20*

When Judith, therefore, heard of the harsh words which the people, discouraged by their lack of water, had spoken against their ruler, and of all that Uzziah had said to them in reply, swearing that he would hand over the city to the Assyrians at the end of five days, she sent the maid who was in charge of all her things to ask Uzziah, Chabris, and Charmis, the elders of the city, to visit her. When they came, she said to them: "Listen to me, you rulers of the people of Bethulia. What you said to the people today is not proper. When you promised to hand over the city to our enemies at the end of five days unless within that time the Lord comes to our aid, you interposed between God and yourselves this oath which you took. Who are you, then, that you should have put God to the test this day, setting yourselves in the place of God in human affairs? It is the Lord Almighty for whom you are laying down conditions; will you never understand anything? You cannot plumb the depths of the human heart or grasp the workings of the human mind; how then can you fathom God, who has made all these things, discern his mind, and understand his plan?" "No, my brothers, do not anger the Lord our God. So while we wait for the salvation that comes from him, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our cry if it is his good pleasure. For there has not risen among us in recent generations, nor does there exist today, any tribe, or clan, or town, or city of ours that worships gods made by hands, as happened in former days. It was for such conduct that our forefathers were handed over to the sword and to pillage, and fell with great destruction before our enemies. But since we acknowledge no other god but the Lord, we hope that he will not disdain us or any of our people."

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah 6:1-10*

In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two they veiled their feet, and with two they hovered aloft. "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts!" they cried one to the other. "All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it. "See," he said, "now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!" And he replied: Go and say to this people: Listen carefully, but you shall not understand! Look intently, but you shall know nothing! You are to make the heart of this people sluggish, to dull their ears and close their eyes; else their eyes will see, their ears hear, their heart understand, and they will turn and be healed.

### **The Word of the Lord**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

The word of the LORD came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD answered me, "Say not, 'I am too young.' To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying, "See, I place my words in your mouth! This day I set you over nations and over kingdoms, To root up and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant."

### **The Word of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew**     *Matthew 4:18-22*

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew**     *Matthew 9:9-13*

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark**

*Mark 14:3-9*

When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. There were some who were indignant. "Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages and the money given to the poor." They were infuriated with her. Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. Amen, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John**

*John 21:15-22*

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me." Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me."

**The Gospel of the Lord**