

Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations

The Hour begins with a procession with incense and the Presider goes and takes the pix for the monstrance and places it in the monstrance.

As the Presider incenses the Host, the congregation, lead by a music leader sings an appropriate hymn of adoration.

Opening Prayer: *(together)* O Lord, Jesus Christ, you promised that wherever two or three shall be gathered in Your name, You will be in the midst of them; look down with compassion, love and mercy upon us, who are now united before You, to adore Your Sacred Presence, in the desire to make it known and loved by all. Stay in our midst, sweet Jesus. Fill our hearts with Your blessings; inflame them with Your love. O Jesus, united with all the faithful on earth, and the saints in Heaven, we adore You, true God and true Man, here present in the Eucharist.

We offer this Holy Hour that You may bless this parish with numerous people dedicated to service to the people of God. Grant us grace, dear Jesus, to spend this hour for your greater honor and glory.

O Jesus, be our Mediator with Your Heavenly Father. Strengthen our weakness; confirm our resolutions; make us love You more and more; grant that nothing in life or death may ever separate us from You. Amen.

Psalm: *(Psalm 139... to be recited in 2 groups, e.g. right side and left side of the Assembly)*

1. Lord, you have examined me and you know me.
You know everything I do;
From far away you understand all my thoughts
2. You see me, whether I am working or resting;
You know all my actions.
Even before I speak, you already know what I will say.
1. You are all around me on every side;
You protect me with your power
Your knowledge of me is too deep; it is beyond understanding.
2. Where could I go to escape from you?
Where could I get away from your presence?
1. If I went up to heaven, you would be there;
If I lay down in the world of the dead, you would be there.
2. If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest place in the west,
you would be there to lead me; you would be there to help me.
1. I could ask the darkness to hide me or the light around me to turn into night, but even the darkness is not dark for you, and the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.
2. You created every part of me;
You put me together in my mother's womb.
1. I praise you because you are to be feared; all
you do is strange and wonderful; I know it
with all my heart.
2. When my bones were being formed,
Carefully put together in my mother's womb
when I was growing there in secret,
You knew that I was there – you saw me before I was born.

1. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began.
2. O God, how precious are your thoughts to me; how many of them there are!
If I counted them, they would be more than the grains of sand.
When I awake, I am still with you.
1. Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts.
2. Find out if there is any evil in me,
And guide me in Your everlasting ways.
1. Glory to the Father, and to the son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was, is now and forever will be, Amen.

Moment of silent reflection (5-8 minutes)

First Reading: Romans 1:1-12 (*another reading may be selected which reflects the call of all Christians to live according to the Gospel*).

Prayer:

Dear Lord, we come today to pray that we, as your saints on earth, may live our lives according to our individual calls to live the Gospel message. May you strengthen each of us so that our lives and our words may proclaim your goodness to the nations. Send your Spirit to enlighten us, so that we may live each day in such a way that it will be pleasing to you.

Moment of reflection: 4 – 5 minutes (a hymn may be sung here)

Second Reading: Acts 6: 1 – 7 (*another reading reflecting the Church as one who calls each of us to ministry could be chosen*)

Prayer:

Dear Lord, just as the early Church called the seven deacons to help their people, help each of us to answer the call which we receive from our Church. There are many different ministries in the Church to which we might answer faithfully. Let us then live out our Christian call as we minister to each other in our faith community and may the spirit of the Lord continue to give us strength and courage in ministering to those who are beyond our immediate faith community.

Moment of reflection 4 – 5 minutes (a hymn may be sung here)

Third Reading: Luke 5: 1 – 11 (*another reading dealing with the lord or the Father calling particular individuals to a mission for his people could be utilized.*)

Prayer:

Dear Lord, as you call men and women from amongst your faithful people; help us each to foster this call with our prayers and support. May we foster your call within our own children and the children whom we encounter daily. Give us your spirit to guide those from our community who hear Your call, so that, with our assistance, they may faithfully answer Your call.

At the end of the hour of prayer, the Presider gives the benediction with the monstrance and after the Innovations of Praise, proceed to return the pix to the tabernacle. The Presider should then thank those in attendance for their support and ask that they continue to pray particularly for those who are studying towards a religious life in our diocese.

You might wish to end with a Hymn: "Here I am Lord," or another vocational song.

Adapted from the Alberta Vocation Binder