

# FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR

**FIRST FRIDAY Date: September 4 2015**

**Title for Reflection: “Come with joy into the presence of the Lord” (Psalm 100: 1b)**

**Opening Hymn: Sing to the mountains or Come O Lord or any other suitable hymn**

**Leader: (Introduction):** Community life is never easy; living and working together will, at times, lead to disagreements or resentments. We may have to find the courage to speak up when problems arise and at times we may need to give and receive a little gentle correction. Love of neighbour is easier preached than practiced. We are invited to keep an open mind and listening heart, so that we may be able to discern the voice of God in the midst of our messy efforts to live and work together. In the Gospel, Jesus assures us that he is with us even in the smallest gathering “in my name”, indicating his presence among us in every circumstance of our lives.

## **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**

**Leader:** Call for silence (*Silence for atleast 2 mins*)

**Leader:** We are spiritual beings having a human experience. As humans, we are vulnerable to the difficulties of being human: we experience many good things, but we also experience despair and anxiety, grief and loss, fear and worry. Together as a Community, and with the help of God through our local support teams, these things can be transformed into greater faith, greater gratitude, and greater joy. (*Silence 1 min*)

## **Scripture Reading: Mt 5: 13-16**

### **Reflection:**

Friends, we are not just to know the gospel and preach the gospel—we are to be living examples of the gospel—examples of grace and faith and love. We want our lives to support the gospel, to commend the gospel, to make it attractive to others. We want the words we say about Jesus Christ to be accompanied by the sweet aroma of a Christ like life.

A good example, however, helps the gospel to be favorably received. That is one of the dynamics at work in friendship evangelism. People can be won to Christ in only a few words after they have seen some good examples of the gospel in action. As Paul wrote, “Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (Philippians 1:27). Some behaviours are worthy of the gospel, and some are not. Our example is important. Our lives should reflect the grace and faith we have in Jesus Christ.

**Hymn: This is my commandment or any suitable hymn**

**Leader:** Living in community will never be easy. Let us pray for the grace to discern God’s presence at the heart of our communities, encouraging and supporting us in our struggles to love our neighbour as ourselves. Our response is...

**Response: Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For our Pope Francis, Bishops, for the Church and all who minister and on whom the Spirit pours out the gift of wisdom; *we pray to the Lord...*

2. For world leaders, standing in need of wisdom, prudence and a passion for justice; *we pray to the Lord...*

3. For the needy and suffering who reach out for God's healing strength, peace and joy; *we pray to the Lord...*

4. For us, God's people gathered here, on whom God pours out wisdom and love, that we may find their realisation in our hearts and lives; *we pray to the Lord...*

5. For our personal and local needs; *we pray to the Lord*

**Leader:** God, our Father, give us your wisdom to live in love and unity as your community, building your Kingdom here on earth. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Benediction Hymn: Let us bow in adoration**

**Divine Praises:**

**Concluding Hymn: Hand in hand or any other hymn of thanksgiving**

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