

HOLY HALF HOUR FOR AUGUST 2017

The Precious Gift of Priests

**Hymn : Father we adore you, lay our lives before you, how we love you.
(Jesus, Spirit)**

Introduction :

Dear Friends, today we focus on the precious gift of priests as we celebrate the feast of Jean-Marie Vianney, patron of priest. Lord Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and living perpetually among us through your priests, grant that the words of Your Priests may be only Your words, that the gestures be only Your gestures, and that their lives may be a true reflection of your life.. Grant our priest be men who speak to God on behalf of His people, and speak to His people of God. In a challenging world may our priest be courageous in service.

We pray for priest all over the world that they may be faithful to their commitments, zealous in their vocation and mission, clear mirrors of their own identity, and living the joy of the gift they have received. (SILENCE)

Hymn : Take my life- No.307

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:18-19 **(To be proclaimed from the Bible)**

We now reflect on 7 characteristics of a priest...

He's not an angel...The priest is a person like us, who feels pain and joy, who gets tired, who struggles to fight his imperfections.

He experiences hunger, cold, the aches of aging...they keep fighting for building the Kingdom of God in earth.

He carries passions and sin.....they too carry their own crosses. But its not an impossible load, as we recall Jesus' words: "my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

His holiness is a work in progress: an effort, a combat"Spiritual combat is for everyone, surely not in the same measure, but for all of us, it's a battle day after day.

He comes from God but is chosen from among us.....the priest has a life history, family, dreams, feelings etc. He's chosen among men and put at the service of God in the favor of men.

When he prays we all pray with him...the intercessory character is very ingrained in the priest's heart. When he prays we all pray with him.

He is not superman.... The priest may not be superman but he's an authentic brother, a good friend,, a Great father and a faithful son of the Church (SILENCE)

We now pray for every priest who has served us... who has contributed to building our community. For the priest who baptized and welcomed us into the community. For the priest who healed us in the Sacrament of confession. For those priests who catechized us and helped us grow in the faith. For the priest who celebrated our nuptials and those who visited our home and blessed us. For the priest who comforted us in grief and moments of difficulty, and those priest who taught us to pray. For priest who encouraged our talents and strengths and counseled us and for the priest who is a precious friend.. (SILENCE)

Hymn : Keep them we pray thee-No.233

Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament we pray that many more young men respond to your call to continue your mission.

Response : Send workers into Your harvest O Lord

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...

Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels...

Through the sanctification of the family...

Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness...

Through a renewed sense of fidelity to your Catholic Church...

We make all these prayers through Jesus who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn : I give my hands-187

With conclude with a prayer by St. John Marie Vianney...

I love You, O my God, and my only desire is to love you until the last breath of my life.

I love You, O my infinitely lovable God, and I would rather die loving You, than live without loving You.

I love You, Lord and the only grace I ask is to love You eternally.

My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love You, I want my heart to repeat it to You as often as I draw breath. Amen

Hymn : O Sacrament most holy – No.301

*Written by Charmaine Moraes
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