

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR FOR AUGUST 2018

TO SERVE WITH LOVE

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

Introduction:

My Lord Jesus Christ, who, for the love you bear to mankind, do remain night and day in this Sacrament, full of pity and love, awaiting, calling, and receiving all who come to visit you; I believe that you are present in the Sacrament of the Altar; I adore you from the depths of my own nothingness; I thank you for the many graces you have given me, and especially for having given me yourself in this Sacrament; and for having called me to visit you in this church. (Silence)

Today we remember our priests and pray for them. The priest have sacrificed their lives to serve us with love. May they imitate Jesus, the High Priest who stooped to wash his disciples feet. May they be like Jesus - caring and compassionate. We pray for our priest who face several challenges -physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural. We also pray for vocations to priesthood. The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. We implore you to send laborers into your harvest. Repeat anew to modern youth the loving invitation "Come, follow me." (Silence)

Scripture Reading: Mark 6:34; 39-44

Reflection:

Jesus taught his disciples FAITH. They had only five loaves and two fish. Jesus helped them to look upwards. True faith must rely on divine resources, not physical and material ones. Faith in God, self and others when we desire to reach out in service.

Jesus taught his disciples HOPE. The crowd was huge. They had no food. Yet Jesus did not miss the opportunity to teach them to satisfy their spiritual hunger. Hope that there will always be an opportunity to serve with love.

Jesus taught them about LOVE. He wanted to be their shepherd and guide. Jesus had compassion for them and provided them with food to satisfy their physical hunger. He taught them. Love is caring and sharing with all the persons around us.... then service transforms into pure Joy!

Hymn: Lord we touch you today

We will now recite the litany for priests :

Response: Hear us O Lord

Graciously preserve the order of Bishops, Priests and Deacons in holiness of life,
Graciously provide for Your people pastors after your own heart,
Graciously fill them with the spirit of Your priesthood,
Graciously grant that the lips of priests may speak your wisdom and knowledge,
Graciously send faithful labourers into Your harvest,
Graciously sanctify the stewards of Your mysteries,
Graciously grant them persevering service in accordance with Your will,
Graciously grant them meekness in the ministry, skill in action and constancy in prayer,
Graciously bring healing and reconciliation to those scandalized by abuse in the Church,
Graciously receive into Your joy those who have served you well,

Concluding Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ we thank you for the gift of holy priest who serve us everyday at your altar. Fill them with grace to follow you in this exalted path. Grant that many may hear and willingly obey your loving inspiration and embrace their vocation to the priesthood or consecrated religious life, where they will enjoy your special grace and tender care. That those who are being called to be priests and religious might respond generously. O Lord, enlighten many generous hearts with the ardent rays of your Holy Spirit and by the powerful intercession of your most loving mother, Mary, enkindle and sustain the fervor of your love in these hearts so they may offer themselves in service to you as a priest or consecrated religious for the greater glory of your name.

Hymn : Keep them we pray

*Written by Charmaine Moraes
For the
Archdiocesan Liturgy Committee*

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Song of Mary

Hymn: Be still and know-No.56

Introduction:

Dear friends, as we focus our eyes on the Blessed Sacrament let us along with Mary praise God as we say - My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. In silence we let our souls feel the greatness, holiness and mercy of God.

Mary did not recite the Magnificat but boldly and joyfully proclaimed it in a moment celebrated by two women...Mary and Elizabeth. One who had come in haste bearing our savior, and another, filled with the Holy Spirit and her infant dancing for joy in her womb. Two women filled with the joy of God, two women celebrating what God was doing in their lives.

We look within ourselves and praise God for the marvelous deeds in our lives. **(Silence)**

Scripture Reading : Luke 1:46-55 (Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat) - **(Silence)**

Reflection :

- Mary's song challenges us about our values and desires. It forces us to admit the times that we have been 'worldly' in our wants and desires.
- Mary's song challenges us to consider our goals. How much time of our life is devoted seeking material gain, reputation, power and wealth?
- Mary's song challenges us on our attitude towards the poor and needy. Very often we tend to hold on to our material blessing rather than share them with the poor and hungry.
- Mary's song challenges us about our attitude of gratitude. All the good things that come from God are acts of grace. Are we thankful?
- Mary challenges us to believe in a God who is faithful and keeps his promises.
- Mary challenges us to feel the sentiment of Joy and express it to God in the liturgy and sacraments and in our relationships with humankind.

Hymn : Let my soul proclaim - 240

Prayer of the Faithful:

We praise God along with Mary our Mother as we say...

Response: My soul glorifies the Lord

- For creating me with beauty
- For blessing me with good things in life
- For gifting me with talents
- For giving me opportunities of serving the poor
- For helping me notice the hungry and downtrodden
- For teaching me the value of goodness and holiness
- For being merciful towards me, a sinner.
- For being patient when I go astray
- For promising never to leave me
- For loving me completely

Concluding Prayer :

Mother of Jesus and Mother of God, teach us something of your quiet peacefulness and childlike confidence in your Son. Help us to trust Him, especially when things seem to go wrong. Help us to believe in Him as you did, that the promises He makes to us He will fulfill. Help us never to worry or be sad but always rejoice like you, in God, your Savior and ours, your beloved Son and our dearest Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Star of the ocean

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