



04 February 2022

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid” Mt 5:14

HYMN: 83. Come adore this wondrous presence (*Joyful Celebrations*) or any appropriate hymn.

OPENING PRAYER:

My Lord Jesus Christ, it is Your great love for us that keeps You day and night present in the Blessed Sacrament, full of compassion and love, waiting for us to visit You. I believe that You are really present in the Sacrament of the Altar. From the depth of my heart, I adore You and I thank You for the many graces You have given me, especially for the gift of Yourself in this Sacrament, for the gift of Your most holy Mother as my Mother and for the privilege of visiting You in this church at this time.

(Brief moments of silent personal adoration of Jesus present in the Sacred Host.)

INTRODUCTION:

World day of consecrated life comes on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. This comes forty days after his birth, at one of the weakest times of Jesus’ entire life. The fact that, the Lord of the Universe at this point of time was a vulnerable babe unable even to speak for himself tells a lot about what it really means to be presented or consecrated to the Lord even in the frailest, weakest and most vulnerable times of our imperfect lives. He chooses the weak precisely so that the Glory of God can be revealed, making the words of Isaiah ring true- “He gives power to the faint, abundant strength to the weak” (Is 41:29) To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice...otherwise, Jesus becomes only a nice memory of the past. It means welcoming the Lord’s gift with open arms, as Simeon did. This is what the eyes of consecrated men and women behold: the grace of God poured into their hands. “The consecrated person is one who every day looks at himself or herself and says: Everything is gift, all is grace” says Pope Francis. As the salt and light of the world, we are called to influence the world. As the yeast, we are destined to influence the dough of the society we live in.

(Hymn to the Holy Spirit: 363 Spirit of the living God (*Joyful Celebrations*) or any other.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 5:14 -16

REFLECTION:

Jesus wants every one of us to know him because of the transforming power of that knowledge and because of the indescribable joy it brings into our lives. But the influence of the gospel is to extend beyond each individual. It is to be as a light that dispels the darkness from the lives of those around us. No one is saved solely and simply for himself alone, just as no lamp is lighted merely for its own benefit. "The candle that the Lord has lighted in this dispensation can become as a light unto the whole world, and others seeing our good works can be led to glorify our Father in Heaven and emulate in their own lives the examples they have observed in ours.

Beginning with you and me, there can be an entire people who, by the virtue of our lives in our homes, in our vocations, even in our amusements, can become as a city upon a hill to which men may look and learn, and an ensign to the nations from which the people of the earth may gather strength.

PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED PERSONS

Lord God, every vocation is your call to love.
In every age and place, from all walks of life
you set aside women and men to be consecrated to You
Choosing you as the pearl of great price above everything else.
Conscious of the privilege and its accompanying graces,
we give You praise for the religious of our days.
In particular, those serving in our own Parish/Archdiocese.
Bless and empower them. Fill their hearts with your infinite love.
May their witness of a life of committed service and love
serve as beacons lighting the path for all
who seek a closer walk with You.
We ask this through Jesus Your Son, our good shepherd
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,
God dwelling in everlasting glory. Amen

Hymn: 43. As the deer that pants for water (*Joyful Celebrations*) or any appropriate hymn.

PAUSE: (*Moments of silent examination of life / conscience, asking ourselves, how we have corresponded to the graces and gifts received from God's hand*)

LEADER: Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey. Says Pope Francis in "The Joy of the Gospel" Let us bring our prayers and petitions to the Lord of the harvest.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:

RESPONSE: Lord, make us your credible witnesses.

Every Christian and religious community reflects the Trinitarian community. To a world centred on efficiency and production, on economy and personal success, the consecrated life and their evangelical vows presents as a sign of God and his grace. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

We pray for those who are consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. May they always reveal the love of Christ to those they encounter and continue to enrich our world by their dedicated lives of service and of prayer. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

In an age characterised by individualism, religious communities have an opportunity and a task of creating, inspiring, enlivening and sustaining authentic fraternal communion that radiate friendship, mutual encouragement, support and reconciliation. A truly fraternal community is one of the most eagerly awaited signs in our highly networked yet fragmented world and culture. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

Consecrated life must strengthen and accommodate the cultural and spiritual diversity of its members and of everyone they meet or serve in their ministry, knowing that living fraternal life is already a mission. United in diversity, the religious communities must strive to create genuine and humanizing relationships that are open, joyful and welcoming. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

Religious community will be a powerful witness when it is rich in personal relationship, hospitality, dialogue, discernment, responsible freedom, mutual care and concern; in short melding of spirits and union of hearts for God's Kingdom on earth. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

It is necessary to promote gestures of solidarity with all denominations, identifying and recognizing the presence of God in the wealth of other religions and cultures. This will lead us to build bridges and social ties with the emerging new scenarios, to establish new alliances, conscious of the plurality of the world. It leads to join forces and to discover great and shared ideals with Humanity. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

We pray for all those who are discerning to join the religious life. May they be given the wisdom to hear God's call and the courage to respond generously and all those already in religious formation that they be enriched and challenged to follow the radical path of the gospel. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

For all the religious men and women serving in the Archdiocese of Bombay with their diversely rich charism, that they may be truly the light and salt of the earth and that they experience a sense of fulfilment and joy in all their ministries. We seek God's grace and pray, **R/-**

CONCLUDING PRAYER: God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes. Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: 213. It takes courage to answer a call (*Joyful Celebrations*) or

237. Leave your country and your people (*Joyful Celebrations*)

(Benediction ...)

