



**02 September 2022**

**Holy Hour**

*(You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. Jn 13:13)*

**Hymn:** no.122. Father, We Adore You. (*Joyful Celebration*) or any other appropriate one.

**Introduction:** The month of September which honours the teachers in our Country, invites us to reflect on our call to teach and admonish each other and to learn at the feet of Jesus our Supreme Teacher and Lord. The role of teachers is incredibly vital in shaping the future of millions of our children and youth in our nation. During this Holy Hour, we pray specially for all those engaged in the teaching ministry in the academic field and our teachers of life. We are all Teachers and Learners at the same time, because our life and actions invariably affects those around us. Jesus says, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The Truth that teaches, the Way that Jesus traced by his example in order that we may live the way he lived, and the Life because he communicates grace, even more, he gives us life eternal. Hence, he is the Teacher in the complete meaning of the word.

*(Pause... for Moments of Silent and Personal Adoration before the Eucharistic Lord)*

**Prayer:**

Lord, You came among us as a teacher, healer and Saviour. You are the Supreme Teacher who illumines all life with your love and your light. Bless all those present here, before you and bless all our elders and teachers. Help us become even more exemplary to those who look up to us. Make us echoes of your wisdom and Truth. Help us to be kind and understanding towards each and every one of our learners. Grant us a good sense of fairness, balance, friendliness and discipline. Teach us elders and Teachers when to encourage and praise and when to give a constructive criticism, in a manner that is palatable to young minds. Help us avoid harshness and a belittling attitude that would break the more sensitive ones. Above all, Let us all be models of genuine love and care to all those you entrust to our care. Amen.

**Hymn:** 363. Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me. (*Joyful Celebration*)

**Scripture Reading:** Jn 13: 12-17

*(Pause for few moments after the scripture reading)*

**Reflection:**

We have here, a Teacher who walks the talk. "*Wash one another's feet as I have done to you*" like the disciples perhaps; we would willingly wash the feet of Jesus our Master. But the challenge lies in Jesus telling us to wash one another's feet. Anything we do for each other that

washes away the shame of our wrongs and the dust of defeat and discouragement, is foot washing. It is easy for us to stay aloof and criticize those with dirty feet instead of *washing them*. In our increasingly materialistic, fragmented and individualized world, it is easy to take pride in the Church/community of so-called perfect individuals and try to exclude those who do not measure up to our standards. We must remember that the feet of all the disciples then and now are dirty. We need to submit ourselves to cleansing by one another, so as to emerge as a perfect community desired by the Lord. We may probably have no issues having ourselves cleansed by Christ, but to submit to cleansing by another fellow being and vice versa, requires inner humility. There could not have been a better way of teaching the importance of relating to one another by forgiving, cleansing, and accepting each other in perfect mutuality. If we are going to wash one another's feet, we should be careful of the temperature of the water. Sometimes, we try to wash someone with our water too *hot* – we are too fervent and zealous. Sometimes our water is too *cold* – we are cold and distant in heart to them. The temperature needs to be right in ministering to others.

(Pause... for *Silent Self-examination of conscience in the light of the Gospel*)

**Hymn: No 243.** Let there be love shared among us. (*Joyful Celebration*) or any other.

### **Beatitudes for Teachers**

Blessed are those who shape and mould young minds.  
Blessed are those who foster creativity and make learning a joy.  
Blessed are those who teach and admonish with compassion, patience and care.  
Blessed are those who inspire integrity and confidence.  
Blessed are those who believe in the greatness of the seemingly weak.  
Blessed are those who know to be firm and be gentle at the right time.  
Blessed are those who teach and promote life's skills and values.  
Blessed are those who share laughter and cheer with young and old alike.  
Blessed are the teachers who know to admit their wrongs.  
Blessed are the teachers who are open to learn from their students.

### **General Intercessions:**

**Presider:** “*For I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you*” Jesus was far more than an example to the disciples and to those who would follow Him ages to come. Let us pray that we all take Jesus as an example for both attitude and action.

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

We pray for all the schools administrators, teachers, staff, especially teachers of special children or differently abled, that they be blessed for their dedication, love and sacrifice. **R/-**

For Parents who are the first and foremost educators of their children, that the Lord's wisdom and strength will continue to inspire them in their challenging responsibilities. **R/-**

We pray for struggling or unsupported teachers who feel overwhelmed by their workload both at home and at work. **R/-**

We look back and pray for our teacher/teachers who encouraged us to dream big or helped us hone a specific skill or perhaps in whose gentle care and attention, we grew to our better self. **R/-**

For deeper discipleship: that we may celebrate each day as gift from God and trust God's Spirit to guide our way. **R/-**

**Concluding Prayer:**

*(Prayer from the Pauline Family)*

Jesus, Master, sanctify my mind and increase my faith.  
Jesus, teaching in the Church, draw everyone to your school.  
Jesus, Master, deliver me from error, from vain thoughts and from eternal darkness.  
Jesus, Way between the Father and us, I offer you all and await all from you.  
Jesus, Way of sanctity, make me your faithful imitator.  
Jesus, Way render me perfect as your Father who is in heaven.  
Jesus, Life, live in me so that I may live in you.  
Jesus, Life, do not permit me to be separated from you.  
Jesus, Life, may I live eternally in the joy of your love.  
Jesus, Truth may I be light for the world.  
Jesus, Way may I be an example and model for souls.  
Jesus, Life may my presence bring grace and consolation everywhere.

**The Divine Praises:** Hymn no **14.** *(Joyful Celebration)*

**Closing Hymn:** DOWN IN ADORATION FALLING  
*(Let us bow in adoration Tune)*

Down in adoration falling,  
Lo! the sacred Host we hail;  
Lo! O'er ancient forms departing,  
Newer rites of grace prevail;  
Faith for all defects supplying,  
Where the feeble senses fail.

To the everlasting Father,  
And the Son who reigns on high,  
With the Holy Spirit proceeding  
Forth from each eternally,  
Be salvation, honour, blessing,  
Might and endless majesty.

-Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay.

