



**04 August 2023**  
**HOLY HOUR**

*(You did not choose me, but I chose you. John 15:16)*

**HYMN: No. 179.** Humbly we adore thee, Christ, Redeemer, King. *(Joyful Celebration)* Or any other appropriate hymn or Bhajan.

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

**PRAYER:** *(Bl. James Alberione, Prayers of the Pauline Family)*

O Jesus Divine Master, I thank and bless your loving Heart for the gift of the holy Eucharist. Your love makes you dwell in our tabernacles, to give yourself as food to our souls in Holy Communion. May I come to know you, O hidden God, May I drink from the fount of living waters that flow from your heart.

Grant me to visit you every day in this holy Sacrament; to assist at holy Mass with understanding; to receive you in Holy Communion often and with the proper dispositions. May all people respond to your invitation, 'Come to me all of you who are burdened.

**LEADER:**

Dear Friends, on 4th August we celebrate the feast of St John Vianney, the Patron of the Priests/Parish Priests. Hence, we dedicate this Holy Hour praying for our Priests who dedicate their lives to God in the joyful service of their brothers and sisters. In the words of St Pope John Paul II, "Priests are stewards of a treasure that is not our own, a treasure intended by God to be shared by all." By virtue of our Baptism, we all share in the common priesthood of Christ. Let us reflect on what Pope Francis had to say on the "International Theological Symposium on the Priesthood". "A Priest is called above all to cultivate this intimacy with God, and from this relationship, he will be able to draw all the strength needed for his ministry. Our relationship with God is, so to speak, what "grafts" us to him and makes us **fruitful**. Closeness to Jesus and daily contact with his word, enables us to measure our life with His, learning not to be scandalized by whatever befalls us and protecting ourselves from "stumbling blocks", like the Master, you will experience joy, wedding feasts, miracles and healings, multiplication of loaves and repose, moments of praise. But you will also experience ingratitude, rejection, doubt and solitude, to the point of crying out: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27: 46)

Many crises in the priesthood originate precisely in a poor life of Prayer, a lack of intimacy with the Lord, the reduction of spiritual life to mere religious practice... the intimacy born of prayer, the spiritual life, concrete closeness to God through listening to his word, the celebration of the Eucharist, the silence of adoration, entrustment to Mary, the wise accompaniment of a guide and the sacrament of Reconciliation...without these "forms of closeness", a priest is merely a weary hireling who has none of the benefits of the Lord's Friends." Someone rightly said, "The most successful CEO will be an utter failure running a church without a heart for Jesus. The sole defining quality of great workers for the Lord is being with Him."

*(Pause..... for Moments of Silent Personal Prayer)*

**HYMN: No. 304.** O Spirit, Source of Wisdom (*Joyful Celebration*) or any other.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** John 15:16-20. (*Pause..... for personal reflection*)

**REFLECTION:**

“*You did not choose me, but I chose you*” (Jn 15:16) If we feel drawn to Jesus, it’s because we were chosen and loved first. Not because we came we were chosen, but the father gave us to Jesus. “*All that the Father gives me will come to me. . . . Yours they were, and you gave them to me*” (Jn 6: 37; 17: 6.) The one overriding purpose we have in life is to fulfil our mission in line with the will of God. God gives each one of us a particular mission in life. Discovering and ultimately following our vocation and mission gives the greatest glory and praise to our Creator.

The fact that God chooses us is humbling and consoling. Just like the disciples who fled and disassociated with Jesus the night he was arrested, we can disown Jesus in the face of adversity but the Lord who knows all, still chooses us and claims us into his fold. Pope Francis says, “*A vocation, while a gift, will undoubtedly also be demanding. God’s gifts are interactive; to enjoy them we have to be ready to take risks. Yet the demands they make are not an obligation imposed from without, but an incentive to let that gift grow and develop, and then become a gift for others. When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.*” - **Christus Vivit 289.**

**HYMN: Keep Them, We Pray**

Keep them, we pray Thee, dearest Lord,  
keep them, for they are Thine  
Thy priests whose lives burn out  
before Thy consecrated shrine.

Keep them, for they are in the world,  
though from the world apart;  
when earthly pleasures tempt, allure  
shelter them in Thy heart.

Keep them, and comfort them  
in hours of loneliness and pain,

when all their lives of sacrifice  
for souls seems but in vain.

Keep them, and O remember, Lord,  
they have no one but Thee,  
yet they have only human hearts,  
with human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host,  
that daily they caress;  
their every thoughts and word and deed,  
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.

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

**Prayer for Priests** (*By Bl. James Alberione*)

By the power of the Holy Spirit, you anointed your only Son Messiah and Lord of creation. You have given some men a share in the anointing by consecrating them in priestly service in your Church. Bless them with the fullness of His Love. Help them to be faithful ministers of Christ.

O Jesus, Eternal Priest, keep your holy priests within the shadow of your Sacred Heart where none may touch them. Keep pure a heart sealed with the sublime marks of your glorious priesthood. Let

your holy love surround them, and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labours with abundant fruit.

O Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests; for your unfaithful and tepid Priests; for your priests labouring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for your tempted priests; for your lonely and desolate priests; for your young priests; for your dying priests; for the souls of your priests who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins, the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me your body and blood in holy Communion, the priests who taught and instructed me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:**

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

*We pray for the intention of Pope Francis for August: which is "For World Youth Day, we pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives." We pray to the Lord. R/*

For all our Parish priests, and the priests of the Archdiocese of Bombay, may they feel supported by the prayers, collaboration and love of God's people as they teach, guide and minister in Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

Lord Jesus, as you once called the Apostles to make them fishers of men, visit our own shore of Galilee again and invite young men with your irresistible call, "*Come follow me*" **R/**

Hear our prayer for all our priests ; let them be shepherds according to Your own Heart, single-minded in service to You and to the Church and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life to the world. **R/**

Awaken in our family and community a missionary eagerness, let the answer to the prayer, "Lord, send workers to your harvest," come from our own family, Parishes and Diocese so that no one lacks Priests, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. **R/**

**THE DIVINE PRAISES: (For Benediction)**

Blessed be God. Blessed be His Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man. Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the

Paraclete. Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception. Blessed be her glorious Assumption. Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother. Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse. Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.

**CLOSING HYMN:** Let us bow in adoration.... or any other appropriate one.

**-Commission for Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay.**