



**02 February 2024**

*“Before you were born I consecrated you.” Jer 1:5*

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

*(Moments of silent personal adoration of Jesus present in the Sacred Host.)*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Eucharistic Lord, at this blessed time and place made sacred by your presence, you invite us to enter into communion with you. We adore you Jesus, our High Priest, who offered yourself as the perfect and spotless Lamb to the Father on our behalf. We marvel at the mystery of your love; a love so profound that you choose to remain with us in this humble form, accessible to all who seek you at heart. O Blessed Sacrament, source of grace and mercy, pour your divine blessings upon us and our world.

As we approach the throne of grace, we place our needs and cares, our confessions of our failures, and our gratitude at your feet. You, who know the depths of our hearts, be our advocate before the Father. You are the Light that pierces through the darkness, the Hope that sustains us in our trials, and the Peace that surpasses all understanding.

*(Moments of silent personal adoration of Jesus present in the Sacred Host.)*

**INTRODUCTION:**

*“Vocation touches the very roots of the human soul. It is an interior calling of God directed to the unique and irreplaceable person.”* said Pope John Paul II. 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’ earthly 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. This is truly our story. God 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) If the consecrated life is all about the sinless and the perfect in the sight of God and fellow being, none of us would find our place.

*“To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice. 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.

**HYMN: 58.** Beginning Today my **moments**/mornings are yours (*Joyful Celebrations*) or any appropriate hymn.



## **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 TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:** 363 Spirit of the living God (*Joyful Celebrations*) or any other.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Jeremiah 1: 4-8

### **REFLECTION:**

The Bible constantly narrates instances of God's call seeking a response to his invitation like that of Samuel. Consecrated life is a multifaceted journey that intertwines the sacred and the mundane, blending the spiritual with the earthly. The gift of consecrated life is not merely about personal fulfilment but is rooted in a deep sense of purpose, contributing to the spiritual enrichment of the individual and the community. It requires perseverance in the face of adversity and a constant willingness to grow in faith and humility. The resonance of a Divine calling is often subtle, it can manifest in various forms—a sudden realization or an overwhelming sense of purpose, a purpose that transcends personal desires and ambitions. The journey is inherently paradoxical, demanding both surrender and empowerment. Often, the individual may face resistance from friends, family, or societal norms that seek to confine them within the boundaries of conventional expectations. Yet, it is precisely through these challenges that the authenticity of the calling is tested, and the depth of one's commitment is demanded. The journey is not without its trials, but the rewards are immeasurable; a profound sense of fulfilment and inner peace.

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

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

### **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS:**

#### **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.

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



For the Church: May she continue to be blessed with the gift of consecrated men and women who, through their commitment to religious life, bear witness to the Gospel and inspire others to follow Christ, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For all the religious men and women serving in the Archdiocese of Bombay with their diversely rich charisms, that they truly be the light and salt of the earth and experience a sense of fulfilment and joy in all their ministries. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

For those discerning a call to consecrated life or information: May they be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and courageously respond to God's invitation, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

For the elderly and infirm members of religious communities: May they be comforted by the love and care of their brothers and sisters, and find strength and peace in their union with Christ, we pray to the Lord. **R/**

In an individualistic, highly networked yet fragmented world and culture; we pray that the religious communities may inspire and sustain authentic fraternal communion that radiate friendship, mutual encouragement, and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

We pray for our world and religious leaders for the wisdom and light they need to lead God's people entrusted to their care. We pray to the Lord. **R/**

**COCLUDING PRAYER:** God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, 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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN OF ADORATION:** Let Us Bow. In Adoration.

**BENEDICTION:**

<p><b>THE DIVINE PRAISES:</b>  <i>(After the Benediction)</i>          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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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**CLOSING HYMN: 213.** It takes courage to answer a call (*Joyful Celebrations*) or **237.** Leave your country and your people (*Joyful Celebrations*)