



HOLY HOUR FOR AUGUST 2025

A Reflection on the Priesthood

Opening Hymn: O Sacrament Most Holy

INTRODUCTION: In the words of Cardinal Basil Hume: “Priesthood is not a career. Priesthood is not designed to provide us with a comfortable livelihood. Priesthood is not a reward for any achievement of ours. It is a service. Our Lord said that he came not to be served but to serve. (Mark 10:45) It is a lifetime of entering into the Holy of Holies, to worship God, to give him praise, to offer prayer for and on behalf of the whole Church. It is a lifetime spent washing the feet of others – being involved in the daily concerns of your parishioners, helping them when they turn to you in their needs, suffering with them when they suffer, rejoicing with them when they rejoice.”

INTENTIONS FOR THE HOLY HOUR:

Lord God, at this time we beg your loving care and protection for:

Our Holy Father, Pope Leo

Archbishop John Rodrigues and Bishop Dominic Savio Fernandes and all Bishops throughout the world

All Priests who minister within the Archdiocese of Bombay and all Priests throughout the World

All Missionaries labouring in India and abroad

All Priests and Religious who are discouraged or at the point of giving up

All Priests who left the active ministry

All Deceased Priests

All Seminarians, that they may persevere in their vocations

All Families, where holy vocations are born

OPENING PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, You have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim Your Word and to act in Your name. For so great a gift to Your Church, we give You praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of Your love, that their ministry may reveal Your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that Your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed; in their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them

through prayer to live each day the mystery of Your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them Your Spirit, and help them to praise Your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit, put Your words on their lips and Your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken hearted. And may the gift of Mary Your mother, to the disciple whom You love, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed You in her human image may, be her intercession, help to form them in Your divine image by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING:

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to **Luke 10:1-12**

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

“When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets, and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.’ I tell you; it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

The Word of the Lord.

REFLECTION:

Is it hard to follow the way of Jesus? Yes, it’s hard. But will we stop following Him because it’s hard, or will we keep following Him even when the path is difficult?

When Jesus sent out the seventy-two in pairs to prepare the way for Him, they knew it would not be a walk in the park. They knew there would be challenges and hardships along the way.

Yet, knowing all these difficulties they would face, they still chose to go. Why? Why move forward when dangers and uncertainties awaited them? They moved forward because they trusted that the abiding presence of Jesus would be with them every step of the way.

This is what often weakens our resolve as we follow Jesus: our fear of the difficulties and uncertainties ahead. But why should we fear when the abiding presence of Jesus is always by our side? If we let fear paralyze us, who will work in the vineyard of the Lord? Who will shepherd, care for, and minister to the abundant harvest that is waiting?

Hymn: Here I am Lord

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

Leader: Brothers and sisters, our Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal high priest who offered himself as a willing sacrifice for the life of the world. Let us pray to him that he may raise up worthy priests and ministers in the service of his Church.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

For our Holy Father Pope Leo, that the Lord may continue to guide and strengthen him in leading the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all bishops, that they may be faithful teachers of the Gospel and wise shepherds of God's people. Let us pray to the Lord.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, that many generous souls may respond to God's call. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all priests, that they may be living icons of Christ the High Priest through their zeal, holiness of life, and loving service. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all religious sisters, brothers and consecrated persons, that their witness of total self-giving may inspire others to deeper faith and holiness. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all seminarians and those in formation for priesthood and religious life, that they may persevere with joy on the path to which they are called. Let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: Almighty God, be favourable to these prayers we offer. Be pleased to accept them in union with the perfect prayer of your beloved son, the eternal high priest, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips, daily purpled with your Precious Blood. Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion. Bless their labours with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here on earth and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Concluding Hymn: Lord Make me like you