

Guide: God, you inspire and fulfill every holy decision, guide your people on the way to eternal salvation. Grant that those who are consecrated to you, having abandoned everything to follow Christ in chastity, poverty and obedience may serve with faithfulness you, our Father, and the community of brothers and sisters through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Song (standing)

Reader: From the Exhortation of Pope Paul VI (seated)

Dear Religious, how could you fail to desire to know better him whom you love and whom you wish to make manifest to men? It is prayer that unites you to Him. If you have lost the taste of prayer, you will regain the desire for it by returning humbly to its practice. Do not forget moreover, the witness of history: faithfulness to prayer or its abandonment are the test of the vitality or decadence of the religious life. (E.T. 42)

Pause for Reflection

Song (standing)

Guide: Let us kneel. We will now present to Jesus our prayers spontaneously. The response is: Hear us Lord!

All: Hear us Lord!

Guide: Let us now pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Final Song

Liturgical
Celebration for
Vocations

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Song and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (*kneeling*)

Guide: The Church is called to give a worthy service through her sanctity of life. The Church is called, wholeheartedly consecrated in the service of God. Therefore to serve God is the concern of all faithful Christians according to his or her own vocation.

We now consider those whom Christ consecrates to the service of God's glory "those who abandon everything" - the Religious men and women.

Religious life has a very special role in the great and complex family of Christ, the Church; highly distinguished, not apart nor ignored. WE want to pray that vocations to religious life may always exist in the Church.

Short Pause

Reader: From the Gospel of Matthew 16:21-27 (standing)

Pause for Reflection (seated)

Meditation Song (seated)

Reader: From the Decree Perfectae Caritatis

From the very beginning of the Church there were men and women who set out to follow Christ with greater liberty, and to imitate him more closely, by practicing the evangelical counsels. They led lives dedicated to God, each in his own way. All those who are called by God to the practice of the evangelical counsels, and who make faithful profession of them, bind themselves to the Lord in a special way. They follow Christ who, virginal and poor, redeemed and sanctified men by obedience unto death on the Cross.

Under the impulse of love, which the holy spirit pours into their hearts, they live more and more

for Christ and for his body the Church. The more fervently, therefore, they join themselves to Christ by this gift of their whole life, the fuller does the Church's life become and the more vigorous and fruitful its apostolate. (P.C. 1)

Pause for Reflection

Guide: Let us kneel. Let us pray to the Father of every grace that He may increase the number of those who will commit themselves to live the evangelical counsels and for all those whom He calls. Let us invoke the Lord our Savior.

All: Keep us, Lord in your service.

Guide: Father and Lord of the universe, you sent your Son in the world to gather the whole human race in praise of your name.

All: Strengthen the witnesses of your Church in the whole world.

Guide: Watch over your priests and the ministers of your Church in the entire world.

All: May their life be never in dissonance with the Gospel they proclaim to their brothers and sisters.

Guide: Bless those you have called to perfect chastity for the Kingdom of heaven.

All: May they follow your Son with the generosity of your saints.

Guide: Send workers to your harvest.

All: That your name may be glorified among people.

Guide: You have made Mary your faithful servant, attentive to your Word.

All: Through her intercession make us disciples and servants of your Son.