

## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

### Exposition Hymn

#### Opening Prayer

(All together) Lord, we ask You to hear the prayers we bring before you. By this sacrament of Your love bring to maturity the seeds you have sown in the field of Your Church; may many of Your people choose to serve You by devoting themselves to the service of their brothers and sisters as priests and religious.

**Begin rosary** – Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, Glory Be

#### Reading: *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

The Church should daily take up Jesus' persuasive and demanding invitation to "pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:38). Obedient to Christ's command, the Church first of all makes a humble profession of faith: In praying for vocations, conscious of her urgent need of them for her very life and mission, she acknowledges that they are a gift of God and, as such, must be asked for by a ceaseless and trusting prayer of petition. This prayer, the pivot of all pastoral work for vocations, is required not only of individuals but of entire ecclesial communities. There can be no doubt about the importance of individual initiatives of prayer, of special times set apart for such prayer -- beginning with the World Day of Prayer for Vocations -- and of the explicit commitment of persons and groups particularly concerned with the problem of priestly vocations. Today the prayerful expectation of new vocations should become an ever more continual and widespread habit within the entire Christian community and in every one of its parts. Thus it will be possible to relive the experience of the apostles in the upper room who, in union with Mary, prayerfully awaited the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14), who will not fail to raise up once again in the People of God "worthy ministers for the altar, ardent but gentle proclaimers of the Gospel" (Roman Missal, Collect of the Mass for Vocations to Holy Orders).

#### First Decade

Lord, You choose whom You will, in response to Your command we beg You to send forth workers into Your vineyard.

#### Hymn

#### Second Decade

As You called Abram to be the father of many nations, inspire many young people to answer Your call.

**Reading: *Pastores Dabo Vobis***

In addition, the liturgy, as the summit and source of the Church's existence (cf. Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10) and in particular of all Christian prayer, plays an influential and indispensable role in the pastoral work of promoting vocations. The liturgy is a living experience of God's gift and a great school for learning how to respond to his call. As such, every liturgical celebration, and especially the Eucharist, reveals to us the true face of God and grants us a share in the paschal mystery, in the "hour" for which Jesus came into the world and toward which he freely and willingly made his way in obedience to the Father's call (cf. Jn. 13:1). It shows us the Church as a priestly people and a community structured in the variety and complementarity of its charisms and vocations. The redemptive sacrifice of Christ, which the Church celebrates in mystery, accords a particular value to suffering endured in union with the Lord Jesus. The synod fathers invited us never to forget that "through the offering of sufferings, which are so frequent in human life, the Christian who is ill offers himself as a victim to God, in the image of Christ, who has consecrated himself for us all" (cf. Jn. 17:19) and that "the offering of sufferings for this intention is a great help in fostering vocations."

**Third Decade**

As You spoke to awake Samuel with your call, open the ears of Your chosen ones.

**Hymn****Fourth Decade**

As Elisha was anointed by the prophet Elijah, give those You call strength to follow You without looking back.

**Reading: *Pastores Dabo Vobis***

In carrying out her prophetic role, the Church feels herself irrevocably committed to the task of proclaiming and witnessing to the Christian meaning of vocation, or as we might say, to "the Gospel of vocation." Here too, she feels the urgency of the apostle's exclamation: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16) This admonishment rings out especially for us who are pastors but, together with us, it touches all educators in the Church. Preaching and catechesis must always show their intrinsic vocational dimension: The word of God enlightens believers to appreciate life as a response to God's call and leads them to embrace in faith the gift of a personal vocation.

**Fifth Decade**

As You called the Apostles to be ambassadors for Christ, so send us fervent priest and religious to strengthen our spirits.

**Hail Holy Queen  
Litany****Silent Adoration****Evening Prayer****Reposition**