

# *World Day for Consecrated Life*

## **25th anniversary**

Welcome to our time of adoration.

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day: the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

Today we will have reflections, praise and worship songs, Scripture and moments of silence to lead us through these next 2 hours as we spend it in the presence of the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament.

**Opening song & Exposition** followed by silence

### **Reflection 1**

Let us listen to the words of Pope Benedict XVI

I invite you in the first place to nourish a faith that can illuminate your vocation. For this I urge you to treasure, as on an inner pilgrimage, the memory of the “first love” with which the Lord Jesus Christ warmed your hearts, not out of nostalgia but in order to feed that flame. And for this it is necessary to be with him, in the silence of adoration; and thereby reawaken the wish to share — and the joy of sharing — in his life, his decisions, the obedience of faith, the blessedness of the poor and the radical nature of love. Starting ever anew from this encounter of love, you leave everything to be with him and like him, to put yourselves at the service of God and your brothers and sisters (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, n. 1).

Songs

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Time of silent adoration

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### **Reflection 2**

To adore is to “**be with**”, to dwell in His presence. It is to gaze at God. We search for He who is “Other”. We see the One our heart loves. It is His face we seek. “When will we see you face to face?” Adoration is an act of love which comes from our hearts. “You have made us for you, Lord, and our hearts are without rest until they rest in you. “ St. Augustin

**To adore is to love...and to let yourself be love!**

*Consecrated men and women are called first and foremost to be men and women of encounter. Indeed, the vocation does not originate from a plan we have designed "on the drawing board", but from a grace of the Lord which touches us, through a life-changing encounter. Pope Francis, 2016*

Songs

\*\*\*\*\* Time of silent adoration \*\*\*\*\*

### **Reflection 3**

Conversion

**Adoration is the origin of all true conversion.** Adoration is not only looking at God but letting God gaze on us. **In adoration we let God look at us, at our hearts, at our lives... and allow Him to fill what needs filling, heal what needs healing, change what needs changing.** In difficult times the temptation is to turn in on ourselves. In adoration we turn away from our idols and turn to God, dwelling before him with our struggles, our hurt, our humiliations. In placing our needs before Him something changes in our lives. God never reveals His holiness without at the same time revealing His tenderness, His mercy, His proximity. We cannot remain in His presence without being touched by the "rays of His Son" and being healed by God's great mercy, love and compassion.

To follow Jesus is not a decision taken once and for all, it is a daily choice...Otherwise, Jesus becomes only a nice memory of the past. --Pope Francis, 2019

Songs

\*\*\*\*\* Time of silent adoration \*\*\*\*\*

### **Word of God:**

Mt 4;18-22 **Jesus Calls His First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup> Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee. He saw two brothers. They were Simon (his other name was Peter) and Andrew, his brother. They were putting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. <sup>19</sup> Jesus said to them, "Follow Me. I will make you fish for men!" <sup>20</sup> At once they left their nets and followed Him.

<sup>21</sup> Going from there, Jesus saw two other brothers. They were James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were sitting in a boat with their father, mending their nets. Jesus called them. <sup>22</sup> At once they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

pause

## Luke 1:26-38 **The Birth of Jesus Foretold and Mary's Response**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>Ⓜ</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

### **Reflection 4**

**Adoration becomes a permanent way of being and living:** a disposition to revere our Father and conform to His will. Adoration is not simply to bend our knee and bow our heads. Our whole life must bend in adoration and humble submission, as a creature of the Creator who consents to her Maker. **To worship in spirit and truth is to delight in the will of God day by day, in sadness as in joy, in darkness as in light, always and everywhere.**

Why did you do this? Because you fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him, and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind. Religious life is this **vision**. It means seeing what really matters in life. 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". Pope Francis 2020  
Songs

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Longer time of silent adoration

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**Intentions:** Let us bring our intentions to God our Father through his Son Jesus:

1. That the hearts and minds of those called to serve the Lord as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life will not be lacking in any spiritual gift, but will continue to be enriched in Christ, we pray to the Lord.
2. That the faithful response, "Behold, I come to do your will, O Lord," will be voiced by each person discerning a call to serve Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord
3. That Catholic families will pray for and nurture the gift of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from among their children, we pray to the Lord.
4. That our young people will open the treasure of their unique vocation through prayer, and honor Christ the King by their faithfulness to His call, we pray to the Lord.
5. That all Catholics will recognize that they are to pray for vocations and ask the Holy Spirit to guide the deep searching of all who are discerning their vocations in Christ, we pray to the Lord.

### *Our Father*

### *Reflection 5*

#### **Adoration and Mission**

**Adoration is the foundation and condition for mission.** In the burning bush God reveals His holiness to Moses. Moses reacts by covering his face, prostrating himself in respect and adoration. He is then given a mission. Isaiah encounters God who is Holy. The prophet recognizes himself as unclean. Cleansed by the burning coals he is given a mission. Ezekial in seeing the mysterious brilliance of God looks and falls to the ground. "Get to your feet. I'm sending you". The more we grasp God's holiness, the more we grasp our lowliness but also the call to serve our Master and Lord.

**Closing Prayer: Jesus our light and our Savior send us forth to share in your mission: to proclaim what we have seen and heard. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### **Recessional song and Deposition**