Eucharistic Holy Hour Guide for Parishes
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2020

“For the intercession of St. Joseph to help foster vocations and grow missionary disciples.”

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38)

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Introduction

“In my pastoral letter of 2011, Green Bay Parishes: Called to be Holy, Fully Engaged, Fully Alive, I explained that since the world “has become very secularized and is losing sight of God, it is incredibly important for all of us who are members of the church to help to satisfy the great hunger for holiness and for meaning in life through spirituality… We need to make space for Christ in our minds and in our hearts which are often too cluttered. We need to make space for the gift which is Jesus Christ himself for ‘Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever’ (Hebrews 13:8)” – Bishop Ricken, Disciples on the Way

As a sign of unity all parish sites are to provide the faithful with an opportunity for a Eucharistic Holy Hour which follows the protocol and intentions provided in this Guide each month. Through this effort, we join as brothers and sisters in Christ within the Diocesan community as the Church of Green Bay in order to grow in prayer and holiness together. In doing so, we actively seek to open our hearts to ongoing conversion towards Christ in order to more passionately respond to the present call of the New Evangelization to discover, follow, worship, and share Jesus with others.

Parish leadership should take time to carefully determine the best time and day for implementation within each unique parish environment in order to inspire active participation from the local community.

Holy Hour Outline

Welcome / Introduction
Entrance of the Ministers and Chant (O Salutaris Hostia / O Saving Victim)
Exposition & [First Incensation]* Greeting
Opening Prayer
Reading Selection I / Sacred Silence
Reading Selection II / Sacred Silence
Litany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Priest & Victim / Sacred Silence
Reading III & Prayer of St. Therese / Sacred Silence
Reflection (Optional)
Intercessions
The Lord’s Prayer
Chant (Tantum Ergo/ Down In Adoration Falling) & [Second Incensation]*
[Benediction]*
Divine Praises
Reposition
Recessional (Holy God We Praise Thy Name or other hymn of praise)

*Priest or Deacon only
Preparation for the Holy Hour

Who may minister at the Eucharistic Holy Hour?
The Parish’s Priest or Deacon is the ordinary minister for the Eucharistic Holy Hour. Parish Priests and Deacons are especially encouraged to lead the monthly Holy Hour and to be present with the community in prayer.

If this is not possible, a lay minister may preside (ie: Pastoral Leader, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or Pastoral Associate). If a lay minister presides, the incensation at the Exposition and the Benediction are omitted.

What is needed for Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist?
All parishes should have available the following liturgical items:
- Cope/Humeral Veil (Priest/Deacon only)
- Alb (Lay Leaders)
- Incense / Thurible (if needed)
- Corporal
- Monstrance
- 4 or 6 Candles at the Altar
- Copy of the Order for Service
- Prayers and songs for recitation by the faithful
  *(available in most Missalettes or the provided Participant Guide)*

Is there a specific timeframe for the Eucharistic Holy Hour?
The Holy Hour may take place at any reasonable time during the day or evening. If the parish already has hours of exposition, this monthly Holy Hour is to take place distinctly in a location and time that would allow large numbers of the faithful to attend. The monthly Holy Hour is to follow the specially prescribed format for this service.

Can we join with another Parish in their Eucharistic Holy Hour?
Each Parish should host their own Eucharistic Holy Hour. Where there are two or more Parishes that are linked, it is desirable to have the Holy Hour at each individual Parish. Where there is one Parish with multiple worship sites, a specific site should be selected for the Holy Hour, perhaps on a rotating basis.
How can we best communicate the Holy Hour to our Parishioners?
Consider communicating the Holy Hour via:
- Parish Bulletin / Bulletin Insert
- Diocesan Posters (Given to each parish to fill in with times/locations)
- Social Media / Website
- Announcements
- Invitations through Religious Education / Catholic Schools
- Announcements at other Parish events
- Personal Invitation

Do we need designated music ministers for the Holy Hour?
While it is highly desirable to find music ministers to assist with the music of the Holy Hour, it is not necessary to have designated ministers to do so. If there are no music ministers available, the presiding minister or designated person should be prepared to lead *Tantum Ergo/ Down In Adoration Falling and O Salutaris Hostia/ O Saving Victim.*

Who do we contact with questions regarding the Holy Hour?
Questions regarding the Eucharistic Holy Hour can be directed to:

Shaun Johnson
Assistant Director of Divine Worship
Diocese of Green Bay
sjohnson@gbdioc.org
920-272-8311
Order of Eucharistic Holy Hour

Welcome / Introduction to Prayer

The presiding minister or another designated minister approaches the ambo and greets the assembled faithful in these or similar words:

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening:

Welcome to our Monthly Holy Hour of Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

We gather in the presence of Christ, truly present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Blessed Sacrament, along with parishes across our Diocese as we journey as ‘Disciples on the Way’.

This year during our monthly Holy Hours we pray especially for the intercession of St. Joseph to help foster vocations and grow missionary disciples.

At this time, please kneel or prayerfully be seated as we expose the Blessed Sacrament and sing together *O Salutaris Hostia / O Saving Victim*, found ______________________________(insert location in hymnal/worship aid).
Entrance of the Ministers & Chant

The presiding minister, accompanied by other ministers if present, enter the Sanctuary and genuflect to the Tabernacle (or if the Tabernacle is not located in the Sanctuary profoundly bow to the Altar) before either going to their assigned seats or kneeling before the Altar.

O Salutaris Hostia / O Saving Victim is to be sung in either Latin or English:

1. O sav - ing Vic - tim, o - pen wide The gate of
2. To your great name be end - less praise, Im - mor - tal
1. O sa - lu - tá - ris Hó - sti - a, Quae cae - li
2. U - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi -

1. heav’n to us be - low, Our foes press on from
2. God - head, One in Three; Grant us, for end - less
1. pan - dis ó - sti - um: Bel - la pre - munt ho -
2. tér - na gló - ri - a, Qui vi - tam si - ne

1. ev - ry side; Your aid sup - ply, your strength be - stow.
2. length of days, In our true na - tive land to be.
1. stí - li - a, Da ro - bur fer au - xí - li - um.
2. tér - mi - no No - bis do - net in pâ - tri - a.

Text: LM; O Salutaris; St. Thomas Aquinas, 1227–1274; tr. by Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.
**Exposition & Incensation**

The presiding minister goes to the Tabernacle, genuflects, removes the Blessed Sacrament, brings it to the Altar, and places it in the monstrance turned towards the faithful.

If a Priest or Deacon, kneel before the altar and incense the Holy Eucharist. Musical accompaniment should continue, if possible, until the incensation is concluded.

If the Pastoral Leader or a Lay Minister, go directly to the Greeting and Opening Prayer

**Greeting**

**OPTION A (if Priest/Deacon Only):**

**PRESIDER:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*R*: And with your spirit

or

**OPTION B:**

**PRESIDER:** Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us new birth into a living hope by resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

*R*: Blessed be God for ever.
**Opening Prayer**

**PRESIDER:** Let us pray

*(brief pause)*

Almighty and eternal God, in Christ your Son
you have shown your glory to the world. Guide the work of your Church:
help it proclaim your name, to persevere in faith
and to bring salvation to people
everywhere. We ask this through Christ our
Lord.

*R:* Amen.
Reading I

During this time, the presiding minister and/or a designated reader should present the first Reading from Sacred Scripture, quotes, and other material throughout the time of adoration found starting on Page 31 for the corresponding month. Only these selections should be utilized.

[INSERT READING I HERE FROM THE APPENDIX]
Sacred Silence

There should be *approximately 8 minutes* of silence after the reading/selection.
Reading II

[INSERT READING II HERE FROM THE APPENDIX]
Sacred Silence

There should be approximately 4 minutes of silence after the reading/selection.
**Litany**
The minister should then lead the assembly in the **Litany of St. Joseph**.

**PRESIDER: Let us pray the Litany of St. Joseph**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lord, have mercy.</td>
<td>Lord, have mercy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ, have mercy.</td>
<td>Christ, have mercy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord, have mercy.</td>
<td>Lord, have mercy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ, hear us.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christ, hear us.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christ, graciously hear us.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Christ, graciously hear us.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>God, the Father of Heaven</strong></td>
<td><strong>have mercy on us.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>God, the Son, Redeemer of the world</strong></td>
<td><strong>have mercy on us.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>God, the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, One God</strong></td>
<td><strong>have mercy on us.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Holy Mary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holy Name</th>
<th>Prayer Request</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renowned offspring of David</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light of Patriarchs</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse of the Mother of God</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaste guardian of the Virgin</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster father of the Son of God</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diligent protector of Christ</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of the Holy Family</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most just</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most chaste</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most prudent</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most strong</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most obedient</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph most faithful</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirror of patience</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lover of poverty</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model of artisans</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gory of home life</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian of virgins</td>
<td>Pray for us.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pillar of families  Pray for us.
Solace of the wretched  Pray for us.
Hope of the sick  Pray for us.
Patron of the dying  Pray for us.
Terror of demons  Pray for us.
Protector of Holy Church  Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world have mercy on us, O Lord.

He made him lord of His house. And ruler of all his possessions.

Presider: Let us pray. O God, who in your unspeakable providence deigned to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your own most holy Mother: grant, we beseech you, that we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate on earth as our protector, who lives and reigns, world without end.

Amen.

(Following the Litany, the minister should return to their place.)

Sacred Silence

There should be approximately 4 minutes of silence after the Litany.
Reading III & Prayer

[INSERT READING/SELECTION III HERE FROM THE APPENDIX]
Sacred Silence

There should be approximately 8 minutes of silence after the reading-selection.
Reflection (Optional)

(The presiding minister may at this time present a 3-5 minute reflection on the readings / selections.)

Intercessions

PRESIDER: Let us kneel or remain seated. Our hope is in God, who gives us help. Let us call on the Lord as we pray:

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.

Deacon, presiding minister, or other minister leads the prepared intentions:

For the Universal Church, that she may continue to proclaim Jesus Christ’s Gospel with joy to all people; we pray to the Lord...

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For world leaders, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and development for all nations; we pray to the Lord...

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For strong marriages and family life and for the protection of all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death: let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For those who suffer injustice, that they may receive the grace necessary to persevere in Jesus Christ and that we courageously respond to their needs; we pray to the Lord...

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Green Bay; we pray to the Lord...

R: Lord, hear our Prayer.
INSERT TWO MONTHLY INTENTIONS:

JANUARY:
For Pope Francis’ January Intention: We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s January Intention: That the leaders of the world will respect the right of men and women to exercise the right to religious freedom of all people.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

FEBRUARY:
For Pope Francis’ February Intention: We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered. We pray to the Lord.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s February Intention: For those struggling with mental, physical, or spiritual illness; that they may be drawn closer to Jesus Christ in their suffering and healed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

MARCH:
For Pope Francis’ March Intention: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s March Intention: That inspired by the humble example of the fatherhood of St. Joseph, men may strive to be worthy servants and disciples who help lead their families and communities into the Kingdom of God.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.
APRIL:

For Pope Francis’ April Intention: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s April Intention: That inspired by the humble example of the fatherhood of St. Joseph, men may strive to be worthy servants and disciples who help lead their families and communities into the Kingdom of God.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

MAY:

For Pope Francis’ May Intention: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s May Intention: That those suffering from addictions of any kind may be freed from their bondage through the intercession of our Mother, Mary.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

JUNE:

For Pope Francis’ June Intention: We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s June Intention: For farmers, that God’s bountiful blessings be upon them as they continue laboring to help provide sustenance.

*R*: Lord, hear our Prayer.
JULY:
For Pope Francis’ July Intention: We pray that today’s families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.
℟: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s July Intention: That all of those enjoying the warmth and recreation of summer may be protected and renewed in their faith.
℟: Lord, hear our Prayer.

AUGUST:
For Pope Francis’ August Intention: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.
℟: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s August Intention: That families may be drawn closer to Jesus through a common life of prayer and adherence to the Gospel.
℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

SEPTEMBER:
For Pope Francis’ September Intention: We pray that the planet’s resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.
℟: Lord, hear our Prayer.

For Bishop Ricken’s September Intention: That our Catholic schools truly be schools of discipleship, where our youth can grow in their friendship with Jesus Christ.
℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.
**OCTOBER:**

_for Pope Francis’ October Intention:_ We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

_for Bishop Ricken’s October Intention:_ For all expectant mothers, that they may be inspired by the faith of Mary to care for and protect the life they nurture inside their wombs.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

**NOVEMBER:**

_for Pope Francis’ November Intention:_ We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

_for Bishop Ricken’s November Intention:_ That all men and women may take seriously their responsibility to discern their call to serve the Church as priests and religious.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

**DECEMBER:**

_for Pope Francis’ December Intention:_ We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.

_for Bishop Ricken’s December Intention:_ That our hearts may truly make room for the coming of our Savior.

℣: Lord, hear our Prayer.
**Lord’s Prayer**

PRESIDER: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray:

℟: Our Father...

PRESIDER: Together we will now sing Tantum Ergo / Down in Adoration Falling found (insert location in missalette/hymnal).

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**Incensation & Chant**

If incense is used, the Priest or Deacon kneels before the altar and again incenses the Holy Eucharist.

Meanwhile, Tantum Ergo / Down in Adoration Falling (found on next page) is to be sung in either English or Latin (it is appropriate to adjust the accompaniment depending upon the time of the Liturgical Year).
Prayer

PRESIDER: You have given them Bread from heaven

R: Having within it all Sweetness

PRESIDER: Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  R: Amen.
Eucharistic Blessing (Priest / Deacon ONLY)

The presiding minister, if a Priest or Deacon, dons the humeral veil and goes to the altar and the Blessed Sacrament. He genuflects, takes the monstrance, and makes the sign of the cross with it over the people in silence. He then replaces the monstrance on the altar, genuflects, and returns to the front of the Altar to kneel.

A lay presiding minister may not minister the blessing with the Eucharist or conduct a blessing / ritual action in its place. The Order of the Holy Hour should move, instead, from the preceding Prayer directly to the Divine Praises.

Divine Praises

The presiding minister then leads the faithful in the recitation of the Divine Praises:

PRESIDER: The Divine Praises:

R: 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.
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 St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.
Reposition

The presiding minister then genuflects, removes the Blessed Sacrament from the monstrance and places it in the tabernacle, and genuflects again. Once the tabernacle is closed, all stand.

PRESIDER: Please stand as we conclude this Holy Hour with the singing of *Holy God We Praise Thy Name* (or another appropriate hymn), found (insert location in missalette/hymnal).
Recessional Hymn

The song *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* (or another appropriate hymn of praise) is then sung.

During the song, the presiding minister, accompanied by other ministers if present, go before the Altar, genuflect to the Tabernacle (or if the Tabernacle is not located in the Sanctuary profoundly bow to the Altar) before exiting the Sanctuary.

Text: *Grosser Gott, wir loben dich* asc. to Ignaz Franz, 1719-1790; tr. by Clarence Walworth. 1820-1900
Tune: GROSSTER GOTT, 7 8 7 8 7 7: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774
MONTHLY READINGS APPENDIX
Selection I: GEN 12:1-4a
A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram:
“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk
and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.

I will make of you a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you
and curse those who curse you.
All the communities of the earth
shall find blessing in you.”

Abram went as the Lord directed him.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: MT 5:13-16
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:
"You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your heavenly Father."

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: St. Hilary of Poitiers

Joseph carried Jesus Christ first to Egypt, then to Judea, and so traced for us the path of the apostles who preached his name to the Jews and to the Gentiles.

*St. Joseph Gems, 20*

(pause)

Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:

(next page)
Good St. Joseph,
As you led the Holy Family, watch over our families.
Help our family and all families to know and share God’s love.
In our family relationships, may we find healing and seek to be holy.
May our fathers help us to become faithful disciples of Jesus who share our love for Him.

As foster father of Jesus, watch over all who serve as spiritual fathers.
In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

**FEBRUARY 2019**

*Selection I: Isaiah 7:14-17*

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel. Curds and honey he will eat so that he may learn to reject evil and choose good; for before the child learns to reject evil and choose good, the land of those two kings whom you dread shall be deserted.

The LORD shall bring upon you and your people and your father’s house such days as have not come since Ephraim seceded from Judah (the king of Assyria).

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: Mt 1:18-25
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.

Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.

She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: St. JoseMaria Escriva

You don’t have to wait to be old or lifeless to practice the virtue of chastity. Purity comes from love; and the strength and gaiety of youth are no obstacle for noble love. Joseph had a young heart and a young body when he married Mary, when he learned of the mystery of her divine motherhood, when he lived in her company, respecting the integrity God wished to give the world as one more sign that he had come to share the life of his creatures. Anyone who cannot understand a love like that knows very little of true love and is a complete stranger to the Christian meaning of chastity. (39)

St. Joseph Gems, 39.

(pause)

Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:

(next page)
Good St. Joseph,
As you led the Holy Family, watch over our families.
Help our family and all families to know and share God’s love.
In our family relationships, may we find healing and seek to be holy.
May our fathers help us to become faithful disciples of Jesus who share our love for Him.

As foster father of Jesus, watch over all who serve as spiritual fathers.
In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

March 2019

Selection I: Micah 5:2-4
A reading from the book of the prophet Micah

Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, then the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel.

He shall take his place as shepherd by the strength of the LORD, by the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall dwell securely, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: Mt 2:13-18
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a
dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay
there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him.”
Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt.
He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through
the prophet might be fulfilled, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became
furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity
two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from
the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
sobbing and loud lamentation;
Rachel weeping for her children,
and she would not be consoled,
since they were no more.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Pope Pius IX

As almighty God appointed Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob, over all the land of Egypt to save grain for the people, so when the fullness of time had come and He was about to send to earth His only-begotten Son, the Savior of the world, He chose another Joseph, of whom the first had been the type, and He made him the lord and chief of His household and possessions, the guardian of His choicest treasures.

Indeed, he had as his spouse the Immaculate Virgin Mary, of whom was born by the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ our Lord, who deigned to be reputed in the sight of men as the son of Joseph, and was subject to him.

Him whom countless kings and prophets had desired to see, Joseph not only saw but conversed with, and embraced in paternal affection, and kissed. He most diligently reared Him whom the faithful were to receive as the bread that came down from heaven whereby they might obtain eternal life.

Because of this sublime dignity which God conferred on his most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble.

And now therefore, when in these most troublesome times the Church is beset by enemies on every side, and is weighed down by calamities so heavy that ungodly men assert that the gates of hell have at length prevailed against her, the venerable prelates of the whole Catholic world have presented to the Sovereign Pontiff their own petitions and those of the faithful committed to their charge, praying that he would deign to constitute St. Joseph Patron of the Church. And this time their prayer and desire was renewed by them even more earnestly at the Sacred Ecumenical Council of the Vatican.

Accordingly, it has now pleased our Most Holy Sovereign, Pope Pius IX, in order to entrust himself and all the faithful to the Patriarch St. Joseph’s most powerful
patronage, has chosen to comply with the prelates' desire and has solemnly declared him Patron of the Catholic Church.

*Quemadmodum Deus, Dec. 8, 1870*

(pause)

Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:

(next page)
Good St. Joseph,
As you led the Holy Family, watch over our families.
Help our family and all families to know and share God’s love.
In our family relationships, may we find healing and seek to be holy.
May our fathers help us to become faithful disciples of Jesus who share our love for Him.

As foster father of Jesus, watch over all who serve as spiritual fathers.
In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

April 2019

Selection I: Hosea 11:1-4
A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea

When Israel was a child I loved him,
out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them,
the farther they went from me,
Sacrificing to the Baals
and burning incense to idols.
Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
who took them in my arms;
but they did not know that I cared for them.
I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like those who raise an infant to their cheeks; I bent down to feed them.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: Mt 2:19-23
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.”

He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee.

He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He shall be called a Nazorean.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Pope Francis

I like Saint Joseph, he emanates so much “power”! For over 40 years I have recited a prayer that I found in an old French missal that says of Saint Joseph: “… dont la puissance sait rendre possibles les choses impossibles” [“whose power makes impossible things possible”]. The power of Saint Joseph. He never, never said ‘no’. We must take courage from this...

Enriched by the industrious simplicity of Saint Joseph, you are called to be witnesses in the world to a distinctive message, to a comforting good news: which is that God makes use of everyone, with a preference for the least and the humanly ill-equipped, in order to sow and cultivate his Kingdom. May the prospect of serving Jesus in the Church and in brothers and sisters, with particular attention to young people and to the humblest, always shape your life and your joy.

Excerpt from: ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE OBLATES OF SAINT JOSEPH

Friday, 31 August 2018

(pause)

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**MAY 2019**

*Selection I: Gen 3:1-21*
A reading from the book of Genesis

Now the snake was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden’?”

The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”

But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know* good and evil.”

The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?

He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”
Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the
tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?

The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit
from the tree, so I ate it.”

The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman
answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the snake: Because you have done this, cursed are you
among all the animals, tame or wild; On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you
shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike
at their heel.

To the woman he said: I will intensify your toil in childbearing; in pain you shall
bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over
you.

To the man he said: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about
which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it, Cursed is the ground because of
you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it
shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field. By the sweat of your
brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, from which you were
taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the
living.

The LORD God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he
clothed them.

The Word of the Lord
Selection I: Luke 1:26-38
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Pope Francis

Thus, I encourage you to continue to live and work in the Church and in the world with the simple and essential virtues of the Bridegroom of the Virgin Mary: humility, which attracts the benevolence of the Father; intimacy with the Lord who sanctifies all Christian action; silence and hiddenness, together with zeal and hard work to further the Lord’s will...

Confronted by a superficial culture which reveres the possession of material goods and promises happiness through dangerous shortcuts, you do not fail to encourage young people to temper the spirit and to form a mature character, capable of strength but also of tenderness. And the greatest joy is speaking to young people about Jesus, reading the Gospel with them, correlating it with life.... This is the best path for building a solid future.

Excerpts from: ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF THE OBLATES OF SAINT JOSEPH

Friday, 31 August 2018

(pause)

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Selection I: Phil 3:8-14

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
I consider everything as a loss
because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things
and I consider them so much rubbish,
that I may gain Christ and be found in him,
not having any righteousness of my own based on the law
but that which comes through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God,
depending on faith to know him and the power of his resurrection
and the sharing of his sufferings by being conformed to his death,
if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

It is not that I have already taken hold of it
or have already attained perfect maturity,
but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it,
since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ Jesus.
Brothers and sisters, I for my part
do not consider myself to have taken possession.
Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind
but straining forward to what lies ahead,
I continue my pursuit toward the goal,
the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: Mk 10:28-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Peter said to Jesus:
"We have given up everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you,
there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or lands
for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel
who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age:
houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands,
with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Benedict XVI

In all of this he showed himself, like his spouse Mary, an authentic heir of Abraham’s faith: faith in God who guides the events of history according to his mysterious salvific plan. His greatness, like Mary’s, stands out even more because his mission was carried out in the humility and hiddenness of the house of Nazareth. Moreover, God himself, in the person of his Incarnate Son, chose this way and style of life – humility and hiddenness – in his earthly existence.

From the example of St. Joseph we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us. I think especially of fathers and mothers of families, and I pray that they will always be able to appreciate the beauty of a simple and industrious life, cultivating the conjugal relationship with care and fulfilling with enthusiasm the great and difficult educational mission.

To priests, who exercise a paternal role over Ecclesial Communities, may St. Joseph help them love the Church with affection and complete dedication, and may he support consecrated persons in their joyous and faithful observance of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. May he protect workers throughout the world so that they contribute with their different professions to the progress of the whole of humanity, and may he help every Christian to fulfil God’s will with confidence and love, thereby cooperating in the fulfilment of the work of salvation.

ANGELUS
Third Sunday of Lent, 19 March 2006

(pause)

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(next page)
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In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

Selection I: 2 COR 5:14-20

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
The love of Christ impels us.
once we have come to the conviction that one died for all;
therefore, all have died.
He indeed died for all,
so that those who live might no longer live for themselves
but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one according to the flesh;
even if we once knew Christ according to the flesh,
yet now we know him so no longer.
So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.
And all this is from God,
who has reconciled us to himself through Christ
and given us the ministry of reconciliation,
namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting their trespasses against them
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
So we are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: LK 5:1-11
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret [gehn-NEHS-uh-reht]. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord
"Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took his wife" (cf. Mt 1:24).

Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model.

On the occasion of the centenary of Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical Epistle Quamquam Pluries, and in line with the veneration given to St. Joseph over the centuries, I wish to offer for your consideration, dear brothers, and sisters, some reflections concerning him "into whose custody God entrusted his most precious treasures." I gladly fulfill this pastoral duty so that all may grow in devotion to the Patron of the Universal Church and in love for the Savior whom he served in such an exemplary manner.

In this way the whole Christian people not only will turn to St. Joseph with greater fervor and invoke his patronage with trust, but also will always keep before their eyes his humble, mature way of serving and of "taking part" in the plan of salvation.

I am convinced that by reflection upon the way that Mary's spouse shared in the divine mystery, the Church - on the road towards the future with all of humanity - will be enabled to discover ever anew her own identity within this redemptive plan, which is founded on the mystery of the Incarnation.

This is precisely the mystery in which Joseph of Nazareth "shared" like no other human being except Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word. He shared in it with her; he was involved in the same salvific event; he was the guardian of the same love, through the power of which the eternal Father "destined us to be his sons through Jesus Christ" (Eph 1:5).

REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS, no. 1
Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:

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As you led the Holy Family, watch over our families.
Help our family and all families to know and share God’s love.
In our family relationships, may we find healing and seek to be holy.
May our fathers help us to become faithful disciples of Jesus who share our love for Him.

As foster father of Jesus, watch over all who serve as spiritual fathers.
In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

Beloved, we love God because
he first loved us.
If anyone says, "I love God,"
but hates his brother, he is a liar;
for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen
cannot love God whom he has not seen.
This is the commandment we have from him:
Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God,
and everyone who loves the Father
loves also the one begotten by him.
In this way we know that we love the children of God
when we love God and obey his commandments.
For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome,
for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world.
And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.
Selection II: LK 9:57-62
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey to Jerusalem, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."
Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me."
But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God."
And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home."
Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: St. John Paul II

At the culmination of the history of salvation, when God reveals his love for humanity through the gift of the Word, it is precisely the marriage of Mary and Joseph that brings to realization in full "freedom" the "spousal gift of self" in receiving and expressing such a love. (16) "In this great undertaking which is the renewal of all things in Christ, marriage—it too purified and renewed—becomes a new reality, a sacrament of the New Covenant. We see that at the beginning of the New Testament, as at the beginning of the Old, there is a married couple. But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union, wherein is manifested his all-powerful will to purify and sanctify the family— that sanctuary of love and cradle of life." (17)

How much the family of today can learn from this! "The essence and role of the family are in the final analysis specified by love. Hence the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church his bride." (18) This being the case, it is in the Holy Family, the original "Church in miniature (Ecclesia domestica)," (19) that every Christian family must be reflected. "Through God's mysterious design, it was in that family the Son of God spent long years of a hidden life. It is therefore the prototype and example for all Christian families." (20)

REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS, no. 7

(pause)

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(next page)
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Selection I: IS 6:1-8

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

In the year King Uzziah died,  
I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne,  
with the train of his garment filling the temple.

One of the seraphim flew to me,  
holding an ember that he had taken with tongs from the altar.

He touched my mouth with it, and said,  
“See, now that this has touched your lips,  
your wickedness is removed, your sin purged.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”  
“Here I am,” I said; “send me!”

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: LK 14:25-33
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, ‘This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.’ Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: St. Teresa of Avila

I have never known a person to have been truly devoted to St. Joseph and to have rendered him special honor without seeing him advance rapidly in virtue; because the holy patriarch assists with special care those who recommend themselves to him... should the reader not believe my words, I only ask him for the love of God to make a trial and he will experience for himself what a grace it is to recommend oneself to this glorious patriarch.

St. Joseph Gems, 90.

(pause)

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October 2019

Selection I: Jeremiah 1:4-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The word of the LORD came to me thus:

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I dedicated you,
a prophet to the nations I appointed you.

"Ah, Lord GOD!" I said,
"I know not how to speak; I am too young."

But the LORD answered me,

Say not, "I am too young."
To whomever I send you, you shall go;
whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Have no fear before them,
because I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.

Then the LORD extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying,

See, I place my words in your mouth!

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: JN 1:35-42
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.”
The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?”
They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”
He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day.
It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, “We have found the Messiah,” which is translated Christ. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas,” which is translated Peter.

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Pope Francis; Message (55th World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

When Jesus, in the synagogue of Nazareth, reads the passage of the prophet Isaiah, he discerns the content of the mission for which he was sent, and presents it to those who awaited the Messiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor (Lk 4:18-19). In the same way, each of us can discover his or her own vocation only through spiritual discernment. This is a process by which a person makes fundamental choices, in dialogue with the Lord and listening to the voice of the Spirit, starting with the choice of one’s state in life.

(pause)

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Selection I: Heb 5:1-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:
Every high priest is taken from among men
and made their representative before God,
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring,
for he himself is beset by weakness
and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself
as well as for the people. No one takes this honor upon himself
but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.
In the same way,
it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest,
but rather the one who said to him:
“You are my Son;
this day I have begotten you;
just as he says in another place,
You are a priest forever
according to the order of Melchizedek.”
In the days when he was in the Flesh,
he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears
to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverence.
Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered;
and when he was made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: John 20:19-23
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, “Peace be with you.”
When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
[Jesus] said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”
And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord
“...So that the Church may continue to fulfill the mission entrusted to her by Christ, and not lack promoters of the Gospel so badly needed by the world, Christian communities must never fail to provide both children and adults with constant education in the faith. It is necessary to keep alive in the faithful a committed sense of missionary responsibility and active solidarity with the peoples of the world. The gift of faith calls all Christians to co-operate in the work of evangelization. This awareness must be nourished by preaching and catechesis, by the liturgy, and by constant formation in prayer. It must grow through the practice of welcoming others, with charity and spiritual companionship, through reflection and discernment, as well as pastoral planning, of which attention to vocations must be an integral part.

Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated. Christian communities that live the missionary dimension of the mystery of the Church in a profound way will never be inward looking. Mission, as a witness of divine love, becomes particularly effective when it is shared in a community, “so that the world may believe” (cf. Jn 17: 21). The Church prays every day to the Holy Spirit for the gift of vocations. Gathered around the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Apostles, as in the beginning, the ecclesial community learns from her how to implore the Lord for a flowering of new apostles, alive with the faith and love that are necessary for the mission.”

(pause)

Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:
Good St. Joseph,
As you led the Holy Family, watch over our families.
Help our family and all families to know and share God’s love.
In our family relationships, may we find healing and seek to be holy.
May our fathers help us to become faithful disciples of Jesus who share our love for Him.

As foster father of Jesus, watch over all who serve as spiritual fathers.
In a special way, bless our Holy Father, our Bishop, and our priests.
May they follow your humble example in their fatherly care for the people of God, the Church.

With Mary, you raised Jesus the High Priest.
You know our need for priests.
Please raise up good and holy priests from our families to serve the people of our diocese. May our children and grandchildren hear and say “yes” to the call of Jesus, just as you and Mary did.

Selection I: 2 COR 4:1-2, 5-7
A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged.
Rather, we have renounced shameful, hidden things; not acting deceitfully or falsifying the word of God, but by the open declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.
For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus.
For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ.
But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.

The Word of the Lord
Selection II: LK 10:1-9
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.
Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.'
If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment.
Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

The Gospel of the Lord
Selection III: Benedict XVI

Let all persons... learn from Joseph to consider present passing affairs in the light of future good which will endure forever, and find consolation amid human vicissitudes in the hope of heavenly things, so that they may aspire to them in a manner conformable to the divine will – that is, by living soberly, justly, and piously.

St. Joseph Gems, 125.

(pause)

Now, together let us pray the Prayer of St. Joseph:

(next page)
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Diocese of Green Bay; Office of Divine Worship

*Cover: Liebmann Memorial Rose Window, "The Mystical Body of Christ", St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay, WI*