

Pause for Personal Prayer

Guide: Let us pray together:

All: Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church!

You manifest your mercy and your compassion for all those who ask your protection. Listen to the prayer we address to you with loving trust and present it to your Son Jesus, our only Redeemer. Mother of mercy, Mistress of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you who come to meet us sinners we consecrate our whole being and our whole love. We also consecrate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities and our sufferings.

Mary, our Mother, grant peace, justice and prosperity to our people because we entrust to you all that we have and all our being. We want to be completely yours, take us by the hand, that we too may trust Jesus Christ in his Church. Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, we pray for all Bishops that they may guide the faithful on the pathways of intense Christian life of love and humble service to God and people.

Look how big is the harvest, and intercede with the Lord to infuse hunger for holiness in the people of God and grant numerous priestly and religious vocation, strong in faith and zealous distributors of the mysteries of God. Grant to our families the grace to love and respect life that starts with the same love by which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of God, protect our families, may they remain always united, and bless their children's education.

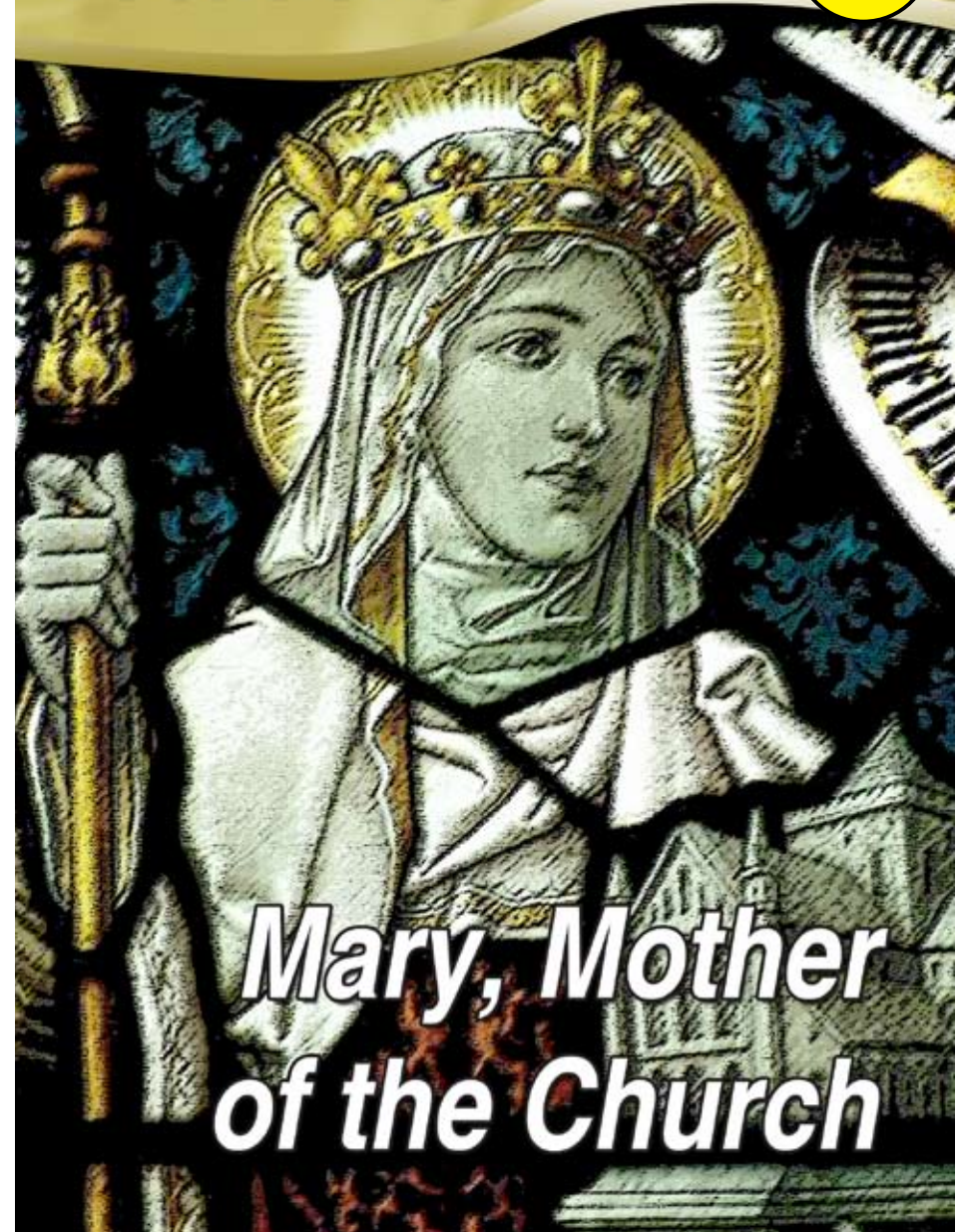
We beseech you, grant us greater love for all your Sacraments, signs of love your Son has left on earth.

Therefore, most Holy Mother, with God's peace in our conscience, with our hearts free from malice and hatred, we will be able to bring to everybody true joy and peace from your Son our Lord Jesus Christ who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

Liturgical Celebration for Vocations

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Song: (kneeling)

Guide: In the mystery of human salvation God wanted the active presence of a woman: Mary. She is in prayer in front of God when the angel announces the coming of the savior in the world; she is present in the hour of redemption beneath the Cross of her Son; she is still with the apostles and the whole church to implore the grace of the Holy spirit on the day of Pentecost. The long history of the Church tells us the role of the Virgin Mary in bringing souls towards salvation in awakening the hope of humans in raising apostles for the Gospel according to the needs of the times.

Today, Mary is once again the great implorer: she interceded for our lost world, she unceasingly prays for the urgent needs of the Church. Let us unite ourselves with this merciful Mother to ask the grace that the whole Church today implores: to obtain from God numerous and holy priests.

Pause for Reflection

Guide: God, you wanted Mary to become part of the mystery of our salvation, send us holy priests, grant us the grace we implore for the coming of your kingdom. We pray together and say:

All: Send us Holy Priests!

1. For the eternal love with which you chose the Virgin Mary among all the creatures, we pray.
2. For the great generosity by which this exceptional Virgin wholeheartedly gave herself to your will for the salvation of humans, we pray.
3. For the fidelity by which she adhered to the mystery of redemption, from crucifixion to the glorious Resurrection, we pray.
4. For the purity of her virginal heart, we pray.
5. For her deep humility by which she has become a unique example for all of us, we pray.
6. For all the virtues that adorned her soul, for your call by which she became the Mother of the Church in the course of time. Let us pray to her so that she will intercede for us as she did on Pentecost.

Song (standing)

Guide: The two readings we will hear, tell us of Mary's participation in the destiny of the Church in the course of time. Let us pray to her so that she will intercede for us as she did on Pentecost.

Reader: From the Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-14; 2-1-4 (seated)

Short Pause

Reader: From the word of Pope John Paul II

“A passage of the Psalter seems to define piety: Stay silently before the Lord and hope in Him” (Psalm 37-7). The purest religiosity of the poor of Yahweh is concentrated in Mary, she is free and totally open, in her soul, all the fibers are for the Lord. This is why God will donate himself to her like to nobody else. She will be the soil - almost a corner of the first Eden - in which the marvelous appointment of the Redeemer with the waiting humanity will take place. She is the faithful Virgin who paid the ransom for all the infidelities of Israel, she desired only Grace and she was full of it; accepting to enlarge her heart to the ends of the world, she became the model of all humanity.

Mary is the one capable to assure the success of God's plan.

Mary is the inexhaustible source of trust because she is one of us. Each one of us can say: Jesus “looking at me, love me.” he turned to me his particular looks and loved me in special way, when from the cross he said to his disciple indicating the Mother: “Here is your Mother” (Jn. 1927).

Therefore if we accept the vocation and to persevere in it means to believe in love, then in one whole life we must deeply insert even that look from the cross and the last words of our master: “here is your Mother”. Priesthood is built upon such faith and trust. It takes the particular resemblance of the One who, as Son of Mary, became “the first-born among many brothers” (Rom. 8:29).

Priesthood therefore, absorbs in itself, in a certain way, a particular and personal light of this hope and trust which is very necessary to the man called to the ministerial Priesthood in walking the pathways, sometimes hard of life, he must, again answer to God's eternal love.

Song (standing)