

# SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD for the SANCTIFICATION of PRIESTS

## WEEKLY HOLY HOUR - Archdiocese of St. Louis

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**Opening Prayer**, announce theme for this Holy Hour

### **Opening Hymn**

### **Prayer for Priests** *(from Opus Bono Sacerdotii)*

O Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest and exemplar of priestly holiness and dignity, we are grateful to You for having chosen certain men for the ministerial priesthood by which You continue to instruct, admonish, forgive, nourish and strengthen Your Church. We are sorely aware of the great need of priests in our time to be confirmed in their sacred calling so that they may continue confidently in their ministry of mediating Your graces to men and of representing them before Your august majesty. Relying on the intercession of Holy Mary, Mother of priests, and of Saint Joseph, Her beloved spouse, we beg Your help for the priests who are the most troubled, tempted, discouraged and suffering. May the noble and sacred office of the priesthood, which has too often been reviled and scorned, regain its admirable stature in the sight of all men for Your greater honor and glory, and for the sanctification and salvation of Your people.

**Sunday Mass Readings** – Scripture highlights are read aloud.

- 5 minutes of Silent Meditation
- 5 minutes for Sharing

### **Rosary for Priests**

Our Father for the Pope's health, protection & his Monthly Intentions (read)  
3 Hail Marys for (1) bishops; (2) priests formators – seminary rectors, instructors, confessors, spiritual directors (read weekly seminary intention);  
(3) priests facing violence & persecution, missionaries & military chaplains

Before each decade, the mystery is announced, and a meditation is read.

Decades 1-4: Each Hail Mary is dedicated to a priest on our list, by name.

Decade 5: Each Hail Mary is dedicated to a special intention for priests.

After each decade,

**Fatima Prayer:** *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.*

**Decade Prayer:** *God our Father, please send us holy priests, all for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with Saint Joseph.*

### **Miraculous Medal inscription:**

*O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



**Hail, Holy Queen**, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope, to thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**Rosary Prayer** O God, Whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and Resurrection has purchased for us the reward of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that by meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**St. Michael** the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

**The Memorare** Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee I come. Before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petition, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.*  
*Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.*  
*Most Precious Blood of Jesus, save us.*

### **Litany for Vocations** *(adapted from Invisible Monastery of the St. Louis Archdiocese)*

Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, have mercy.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
Lord, have mercy.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
Christ, hear us.	<i>Christ, graciously hear us.</i>
God the Father of heaven,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
God the Holy Spirit,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Trinity, One God,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>
Holy Mary, Mother of God,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Joseph, protector of the Holy Church,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Louis, King of France,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Rose Philippine Duchesne,	<i>pray for us.</i>

St. Vincent de Paul,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. John Vianney, patron of priests,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Pio of Pietrelcina,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Mary Magdelene,	<i>pray for us.</i>
St. Therese of Lisieux,	<i>pray for us.</i>
Venerable Conchita, (saint of the day)	<i>pray for us.</i>
Through your mercy,	<i>send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.</i>
Through Your kindness,	<i>send workers into Your harvest, O Lord.</i>
Through the fervent prayers and sacrifices of Your people,	“
Through the power of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass,	“
Through the intercession of all the Saints and Angels,	“
Through the sanctification of the family,	“
Through parents being generously open to life,	“
Through the example of priests and religious striving for holiness,	“
Through a renewed sense of fidelity to our Catholic Faith,	“
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>spare us, O Lord.</i>
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>graciously hear us, O Lord.</i>
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,	<i>have mercy on us.</i>

The harvest is great but the laborers are few.

*We beg the harvest Master to send out laborers for His harvest. Amen*

#### **Eucharistic Prayer taught by Angel at Fatima to the Children**

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly. I offer you the most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended. And through the infinite merit of His Most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of you the conversion of poor sinners.

#### **A Prayer for Thursdays** *(Fr. Mark Kirby's Prayers for Priests)*

Lord Jesus Christ, moved by the Holy Spirit, and united to the Maternal Heart of Thy Most Holy Mother, I offer Thee this Thursday, and every Thursday for the rest of my life, in thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Thy Most Holy Body and Blood, in adoration, in reparation, and in humble supplication for all the priests of Thy Church, especially for those who do not adore Thee, for those who are wounded in their souls, and for those who are exposed to the attacks of the powers of darkness. For them and in their place, allow me to abide before Thy Eucharistic Face. In their name, let me draw near to Thy open Heart, ever-flowing with the Blood and the Water that purify, heal, and sanctify all souls, but, first of all, those of Thy priests. Eternal High Priest, make me an entirely Eucharistic soul, according to the desires of Thy Sacred Heart and the designs of Thy merciful goodness upon my life. I desire only to love Thee more each day, and to be, by Thy grace, the faithful adorer of Thy Eucharistic Face and the consoling friend of Thy Sacred Heart hidden in the tabernacles of the world, where it beats, wounded by love, forgotten, forsaken, and waiting for the adoration and for the love of even one priest. AMEN.

**Prayer of the Mothers of Lu for Priests** O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen.

#### **Closing Song - Woman Beneath the Cross**

The Son of Man hangs on the Cross  
His Body racked with pain.  
Ours were the sufferings He bore –  
The Lamb for sinners slain.  
His eyes filled with blood and tears,  
He seeks one consolation.  
He sees His Mother standing there,  
Loving without condition.

**A woman stands beneath the Cross,  
Ready and at attention.  
Silent, but brave, she takes her post  
To support Him in His mission.  
The weaker one by nature,  
Her heart supplies what strength won't give.  
To love and suffer for the priest –  
This life the woman lives.**

A priest prostrates on the chapel floor,  
His heart burdened and sad,  
The weight of the world on his shoulders,  
Carrying both the good and the bad.  
His heart bleeding and broken,  
He looks for one to give him aid.  
“It's not good for man to be alone,”  
He bowed his head and prayed.

A soul kneels down before her Lord  
To make her daily oblation.  
A life of hiddenness she chose,  
This contemplative vocation.  
Her prayers will give him power  
And her sufferings will ease his pain.  
A mother, a daughter, a sister to priests –  
On Calvary it was ordained.

Like our Lady she'll stand near the foot of the altar.  
Like Veronica she'll give a hand  
To the priests who falter.

(repeat bold text above) **A woman stands beneath the Cross . . .**