

(This animated holy hour was prepared for pastoral use on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, February 2, 2018. We give credits to the different sources)

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple; Day of Consecrated Life

Introduction:

The **Presentation of Jesus at the Temple** is an early episode in the life of Jesus that is celebrated by the Church on the holiday of Candlemas. "In the Gospel of Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple, combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn (Luke 2:23–24)."

In 1997, St. John Paul II established the special Day of Consecrated Life to coincide with the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem (February 2). The Pope gave three reasons for his selection of February 2 as a special day for religious women and men: first, to praise and thank the Lord for the gift of consecrated life; second, to promote the knowledge and appreciation of consecrated women and men by all the People of God; and third, to invite all those who have dedicated their life to the cause of the Gospel to celebrate the wonderful ways that Lord has worked through them.

For today's holy hour, we remember all the Consecrated persons, Religious men and women who in one way or another have touched our lives especially on the journey of our faith. For all of them, we offer our prayers for their sanctification.

Please all kneel for the exposition hymn...

Exposition Hymn:

(kneel)

O Sacrament Most Holy (Fulda)

1. O Jesus, we adore You, who, in your love divine,
Conceal your mighty God head in forms of bread and wine.

Ref. O sacrament most holy, o sacrament divine,
all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!

2. O Jesus, we adore You, our Victim and our Priest,
Whose precious Blood and Body, become our Sacred feast. (ref)

Silence... silence... silence...

Leader: O Divine Jesus, we firmly believe in your presence here. In the Eucharist you made Yourself the "medicine of immortality". You gave us the taste for a full life that will help us journey on, as trusting and a joyful pilgrims on this earth, our eyes fixed on the goal of life without end.

All: We adore You, O Lord Jesus.

Leader: O Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist, light and life of the new millennium, our human heart, burdened with sin, often bewildered, weary and tried by suffering of all kinds, has need of light.

All: We adore You, O Lord Jesus.

Silence...

Opening Prayer: PRAYER FOR THE 2018 YEAR OF THE CLERGY AND CONSECRATED PERSONS

Leader: All together, we pray the Prayer for the 2018 Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons

All: O God most loving Father, with your priests and those who consecrated their lives to you, may we be fully and ever united to Christ. May they be our constant guides in this oneness with you through prayer, the Eucharist and personal conversion.

We have sinned and we have failed in so many ways. There are many brothers and sisters in our midst who continue to suffer. They hunger for truth and justice, for charity and solidarity. We pray that we may become bearers of the gospel that transforms lives as we reach out to our suffering brethren.

Together may we all be renewed and learn how to be servant-leaders for the gospel of Christ. Like Him who rose from the table to wash the disciples' feet, may we too rise up to the challenge to take care of the poor and the weak, to be always approachable rather than untouchable, and "to imbibe the odor of the sheep."

May our young people who are discerning the gentle call of the Lord to serve, be filled with courage and determination to follow you in service with humility and love.

With Mary, star of the New Evangelization, may we continue TO BE INSTRUMENTS OF THE GOSPEL IN OUR COUNTRY AND IN THE WORLD. AMEN.

Opening Hymn: LET US GO TO THE ALTAR (Stand)

REF:

LET US GO TO THE ALTAR OF GOD, THE GOD OF OUR GLADNESS AND JOY!
LET US ENTER THE COURTS OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SING TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

1. GIVE PRAISE WITH BLAST OF TRUMPET, WITH NOBLE SOUND OF THE HORN.
WITH THE CLASH OF THE CLANGING CYMBAL, GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD! (REF.)
2. GIVE PRAISE WITH LYRE AND TIMBREL, WITH LUTE AND SOUND OF THE HARP.
WITH THE DANCE OF THE FLUTE AND OBOE, GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD! (REF.)
3. GIVE PRAISE WITH PIPE AND ORGAN, WITH ROUSING BEAT OF THE DRUM.
WITH THE CALL OF THE BELL AND BAGPIPE, GIVE GLORY TO THE LORD! (REF.)

Silence... silence... silence...

(Sit)

First Reading: An excerpt of **Understanding the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons**
posted by Fr. Emmanuel Mijares on October 11, 2017

Understanding the Year of the Clergy and Consecrated Persons
Posted by Fr. Emmanuel Mijares | Oct 11, 2017 |

THE priority of this year, in preparing for the five hundred years of evangelization in the Philippines is given to the clergy and the consecrated persons. This is on the background of the primary purpose which is the new evangelization. The whole church in the country is called to be church together in being an evangelized and evangelizing community with new means, vigor and enthusiasm together with the priests, religious, consecrated persons and the laity. Pope Francis would say, we, both as individuals and as Church, do not need not only a continuous formation but continuous conversion.

If the whole church is called to be “saints together” why is the theme and priority of this year seems to be only for the priests and religious? Is it because some of the priests, the religious, in the light of what has notoriously and shamefully happened, have betrayed the church? Well, maybe so but this is not the main reason though perhaps, this year, could be the propitious time to say “mea culpa” as the previous and present Pope has done in order to repair and prevent the same sins of our religious leaders.

It is known that the amelioration or the worsening of any society depends to a greater degree to its religious leaders. This is true in Europe and this is also true in the Philippines. There is a direct relationship between the development of society with their clergy and hierarchy. When the clergy is corrupt the society becomes corrupt; but when the clergy or its religious leaders are holy the people becomes holy.

So this year would be rightly considered as the timely year for the clergy and the religious for without the reformation of the religious leaders, all the good that has been done on the past and perhaps in the future will go down the drain. In fact, perhaps the success or the failures of the themes given in the previous years depend so much on the leadership, creativity and enthusiasm of these leaders.

Response Hymn: THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

REF:

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST HAS COME INTO THE WORLD,
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST HAS COME INTO THE WORLD.

1.WE MUST ALL BE BORN AGAIN TO SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD;
THE WATER AND THE SPIRIT BRING NEW LIFE IN GOD’S LOVE. (ref.)

2.GOD GAVE UP HIS ONLY SON OUT OF LOVE FOR THE WORLD,
SO THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL LIVE FOREVER. (ref)

3. THE LIGHT OF GOD HAS COME TO US SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE SALVATION
FROM THE DARKNESS OF OUR SINS WE WALK INTO GLORY WITH CHRIST JESUS. (ref.)

Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia

(Stand)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-32

Silence... Silence... Silence...

(Sit)

Response Hymn: CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH, (Forest Green Short)

1. NOW BLESS THE GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO COMES IN LOVE AND POW'R.
WHO RAISES FROM THE ROYAL HOUSE DELIV'RANCE IN THIS HOUR.
*THROUGH HOLY PROPHETS GOD HAS SWORN TO FREE US FROM ALARM,
TO SAVE US FROM THE HEAVY HAND OF ALL WHO WISH US HARM.*
2. REMEMBERING THE COVENANT, GOD RESCUES US FROM FEAR. THAT WE MIGHT SERVE IN
HOLINESS AND PEACE FROM YEAR TO YEAR;
*AND YOU, MY CHILD, SHALL GO BEFORE TO PREACH, TO PROPHECY,
THAT ALL MAY KNOW THE TENDER LOVE, THE GRACE OF GOD MOST HIGH.*
3. IN TENDER MERCY, GOD WILL SEND THE DAY SPRING FROM ON HIGH.
OUR RISING SUN, THE LIGHT OF LIFE FOR THOSE WHO SIT AND SIGH.
*GOD COMES TO GUIDE OUR WAY TO PEACE, THAT DEATH SHALL REIGN NO MORE.
SING PRAISES TO THE HOLY ONE! O WORSHIP AND ADORE!*
4. ALL GLORY TO THE FATHER EVER BE AND GLORY UNTO HIS SON.
LIKE GLORY TO THE SPIRIT GOD'S OWN LOVE IN WHOM WE ARE ALL MADE ONE.
*FOR THUS IT EVER WAS INDEED BEFORE TIME CAME TO BE.
SO IT IS NOW SO FOREVER MORE THROUGH ALL ETERNITY.*

Silence... Silence... Silence...

Reflection Reading: An Excerpt from the...

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER
JOHN PAUL II
FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE
Vatican City, 6 January 1997**

The celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life, which will be observed for the first time on 2 February, is intended to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and, at the same time, is intended to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord...

On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple

The World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated on the feast which commemorates the presentation which Mary and Joseph made of Jesus in the temple "to present him to the Lord" (Lk 2:22).

This Gospel scene reveals the mystery of Jesus, the One consecrated by the Father, come into the world to carry out his will faithfully (cf. *Heb 10:5-7*). Simeon points to Jesus as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (*Lk 2:32*) and by a prophetic word foretells the supreme offering of Jesus to the Father and his final victory (*Lk 2:32-35*).

In this way the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is an eloquent icon of the total offering of one's life for all those who are called to show forth in the Church and in the world, by means of the evangelical counsels "the characteristic features of Jesus -- the chaste, poor and obedient one" (VC 1)...

It is my wish that this experience be extended to the whole Church, so that the celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life may gather consecrated persons together with other faithful in order to sing with the Virgin Mary the marvels which the Lord accomplishes in so many of his sons and daughters, and to manifest to all that being a "people consecrated to himself" (cf. *Deut28:9*) is the condition of all those who are redeemed by Christ...

May the Virgin Mary, who had the sublime privilege of presenting to the Father his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as a pure and holy oblation, obtain for us that we may constantly be open and welcoming in face of the great works which He does not cease to accomplish for the good of the Church and of all of humanity.

Silence... Silence... Silence...

Response Hymn: THOSE WHO SEE LIGHT

1. THOSE WHO SEE LIGHT CAN WALK IN THE DARK.
THOSE WHO SEE LOVE CAN SEE GOD. THOSE WHO LOOK UP WILL DISCOVER GOD'S FACE,
THOSE WHO LOOK DOWN WILL UNCOVER GOD'S PATH,
THOSE WHO PERCEIVE GOD IS HERE WITH US NOW WILL SEE GOD'S RETURN.

2. THOSE WHO SEE LIGHT CAN WALK IN THE DARK. THOSE WHO SEE LOVE CAN SEE GOD. THOSE WHO HAVE WITNESSED THE SUNRISE AND SET,
THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED A FLOWER UNFOLD,
THOSE WHO HAVE FOCUSED ON LAND, SEA AND SKY HAVE SEEN JESUS CHRIST.

3. THOSE WHO SEE LIGHT CAN WALK IN THE DARK. THOSE WHO SEE LOVE CAN SEE GOD.
THOSE WHO SEE GOOD IN EACH PERSON THEY MEET,
THOSE WHO LOOK AFTER THEIR NEIGHBORS IN NEED,
THOSE WHO BELIEVE GOD'S NOW LIVING IN THEM WILL SEE GOD'S RETURN.

Silence...

Intercession Prayer

(Stand)

Leader: Christ shines as the light of revelation to the nations and the glory of his people. Let us bring our prayers to the Father who gave up his only Son for us. Our response be... Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience that they may seek to live their baptismal promises more intensely and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to the Lord and serve with open hearts and willing spirits. We pray to the Lord...
2. For those who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be a consecrated person that they may experience the support of the Church as they continue their growth in holiness. We pray to the Lord...
3. We pray for all those who are discerning their vocation in life, particularly those whom the Lord is calling to consecrated life. May they be given the wisdom to hear God's call and the courage to respond generously. Lord hear us...
4. For all who actively support the promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, that they may see the fruit of their efforts in a rich harvest of vocations. We pray to the Lord...
5. That the life and mission of the men and women in consecrated life be a means of sanctification for them and building up the kingdom of God. We pray to the Lord...
6. For all pastors and parish priests of our diocese, that they will recognize and invite those men and women being called to ordained and consecrated lives to answer the call. We pray to the Lord...

Leader: Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, let us now go to the Father as we sing the Lord's prayer.

All: The Lord's Prayer *(to be sung)*

Concluding Prayer:

Leader: All-powerful Father, Christ your Son became man for us and was presented in the temple. May he free our hearts from sin and bring us into your presence. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Reposition Hymn: HYMN OF ADORATION

MIGHTY AND WONDERFUL ARE YOUR WORKS LORD GOD ALMIGHTY
 RIGHTEOUS AND TRUE ARE YOUR WAYS, O KING OF THE NATIONS

WHO WOULD DARE REFUSE YOU HONOR
 OR THE GLORY DUE YOUR NAME, O LORD.

SINCE YOU ALONE ARE HOLY, ALL NATIONS SHALL COME,
 AND WORSHIP IN YOUR PRESENCE,
 YOUR MIGHTY DEEDS ARE CLEARLY SEEN.

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE SON AND TO THE SPIRIT NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.