



## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

1. An opening song may be sung.

*The topical index for parish music resources identifies music referring to call, vocation, ministry, mission, Christian Life. Most of these would be appropriate for the holy hour. For example:*

*Be not Afraid; Here I Am, Lord (OCP, GIA) ; Jesus took a Towel (GIA); Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (GIA, OCP); Lord, You Give the Great Commission (GIA, OCP); May We See You, Pescador de Hombres/Lord You Have Come to the Seashore (GIA, OCP); Prayer of St. Francis (OCP); Send Me, Jesus/Thuma Mina (GIA); Servant Song; Ubi Caritas (OCP); Where Charity and Love Prevail (GIA).*

2. Brief introduction and invitation to prayer.

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Lord we ask you to open our hearts and minds to your Spirit. Help us to realize that your call to us as Christians is a call to holiness. Direct us to follow Christ more closely. Guide us in discovering new ways to make your Word come alive in our lives and in the lives of young people. Bless all who minister in our parish and lead others to respond to God's call to ministry. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

3. Scripture readings and music. *One or both of the readings below may be used.*

*One or two selections from scripture may be used during the time. A psalm (sung or recited) may also be used. Any selections from the Old Testament (including psalmody), the Letters, Acts or Revelations would be used before a Gospel reading is proclaimed. Allow sufficient time for silence, personal prayer and reflection between readings and songs. Additional suggestions may be found in the Parish Vocation Committee Guide from the Office of Vocations.*

A reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> letter of Paul to the *Corinthians* (15:9-10)

For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God (that is) with me. The Word of the Lord.

*(Quiet prayer time and possibly music)*

A reading from the Holy gospel according to Mathew (13: 31 –32)

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."

## The Gospel of the Lord.

4. Homily or reflection (optional) followed by quiet prayer time

5. Intercessions (*use these samples or write your own*)

*Invitation to prayer.*

As we gather in prayer today, let us ask our God to open our hearts to his call in our lives.

*Intercessions:*

That families will strive to make their homes places where children can hear God call them by name, we pray to the Lord:

That young men and women will listen to the Spirit in their hearts and respond to the call from deep within, we pray to the Lord:

That we may be signs of God's presence and love in the world, we pray to the Lord:

For parents and teachers, that they may have the courage and faith to speak God's word in their words and actions, we pray to the Lord:

For sincerity of heart, firmness of hope and purity of intention in our lives and in the lives of all, we pray to the Lord:

For men and women in seminaries and religious formation programs, that they may know the support and love of our community as they grow in self-awareness and continue to discern God's call, we pray to the Lord:

For all who respond to the call to minister to others, we pray to the Lord:

Shepherd God, we ask that you will hear all our prayers: those we have spoken, and those deep in our hearts. We pray this through Jesus, your Son and our Shepherd, who calls every baptized Christian to be a shepherd to those whom they encounter in their daily lives. Together we pray the prayer Jesus your Son has given us: Our Father . . .

6. Prayer for *Vocations*. *All could recite this prayer together from a card handed out before the Holy Hour begins. (Additional prayers may be found in the Parish Vocation Committee Guide from the Office of Vocations.)*

Lord God, you so loved the world that you sent your only son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in him. I join Jesus in His prayer for laborers in your harvest. May your Holy Spirit inspire and strengthen generous men and women to continue His mission in the world. I pray today especially for vocations to priesthood, religious life, diaconate and lay ecclesial ministry. May your Holy Spirit make known to me your will in my regard. Where you lead, I will follow. Let it be done to me according to your word. I make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

7. Concluding Rites

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to life everlasting.  
All: Amen.

8. Closing Song

*The topical index for parish music resources identifies music referring to call, vocation, ministry, mission, Christian Life. Most of these would be appropriate for the holy hour. For example:*

*Be not Afraid; Here I Am, Lord (OCP, GIA) ; Jesus took a Towel (GIA); Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (GIA, OCP); Lord, You Give the Great Commission (GIA, OCP); May We See You, Pescador de Hombres/Lord You Have Come to the Seashore (GIA, OCP); Prayer of St. Francis (OCP); Send Me, Jesus / Thuma Mina (GIA); Servant Song; Ubi Caritas (OCP); Where Charity and Love Prevail (GIA).*

9. This holy hour may be celebrated in the context of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament if a priest or deacon is available for the exposition and the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may open the tabernacle and place the ciborium on the altar or place the host in the monstrance. At the end of the time of exposition, that minister may replace the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Incense is not used and the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may not give benediction.



## HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS WITH EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION

### 1. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

An opening song may be sung while the minister comes to the altar.

The topical index for parish music resources identifies music referring to call, vocation, ministry, mission, Christian Life. Most of these would be appropriate for the holy hour. For example:

Be not Afraid; Here I Am, Lord (OCP, GIA) ; Jesus took a Towel (GIA); Lord Whose Love in Humble Service (GIA, OCP); Lord, You Give the Great Commission (GIA, OCP); May We See You, Pescador de Hombres/Lord You Have Come to the Seashore (GIA, OCP); Prayer of St. Francis (OCP); Send Me, Jesus / Thuma Mina (GIA); Servant Song; Ubi Caritas (OCP); Where Charity and Love Prevail (GIA).

The ciborium or monstrance is placed upon the table of the altar, which is covered with a cloth. After exposition with the monstrance, the priest or deacon incenses the sacrament.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may open the tabernacle and place the ciborium on the altar or place the host in the monstrance. At the end of the time of exposition, that minister may replace the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Incense is not used and the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may not give benediction.

### 2. Adoration and Prayer (*see the Holy Hour for Vocations*)

- Silent prayer, scripture readings and music direct the attention of those present to the worship of Christ the Lord.

One or two selections from scripture may be used during the time of exposition. A psalm (sung or recited) may also be used. Any selections from the Old Testament (including psalmody), the Letters, Acts or Revelations would be used before a Gospel reading is proclaimed. Sufficient time for silence and personal prayer and reflection should be provided between readings and songs.

- Homily or reflection (optional)
- Intercessions
- Prayer for Vocations

### 3. Benediction and Repose of the Blessed Sacrament

The priest or deacon goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels. A hymn or other Eucharistic song is sung. The priest or deacon incenses the sacrament if the exposition has taken place with the monstrance, then rises and prays. (see # 98 and #224-229 in Eucharistic Worship Outside of Mass – Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction). After the prayer, the priest or deacon take the monstrance of ciborium and makes the sign of the cross over the people in silence. After the blessing, the priest or deacon replaces the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

In the absence of a priest or deacon the extraordinary minister of Holy Communion replaces the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. There is no benediction.

### 4. Closing Song is sung when the Blessed Sacrament has been replaced in the tabernacle.