

# Special Holy Hour to Celebrate World Day of Cloistered Life

**Exposition:** *While the celebrant is bringing the Eucharist to the altar the suggested or another suitable hymn may be sung by the congregation.*

*Opening Hymn:* O Saving Victim/ O Salutaris

**Adoration:** *During this period there should be times of silence and appropriate prayers, hymns, songs, readings from Scripture, and a brief homily to help the congregation focus its attention on worship of the Lord and specifically to intercede for the cloistered and monastic life.*

*Gospel Reading* Lk 21:1-4

*Homily/Meditation*

*Prayer in Support of the Cloistered Life*

Eternal Father, we praise and thank you for those sisters and brothers who have embraced the gift of the cloistered and monastic life.

Their prayerful presence is indispensable to the Church's life and mission, and is the foundation of the New Evangelization.

As we celebrate World Day of Cloistered Life, let us honor the holiness and glory of the Blessed Virgin. May she, who was presented in the Temple, intercede so that many young people might dedicate themselves entirely to Your divine service by hidden lives of contemplative prayer and selfless sacrifice.

May all of us be mindful of the spiritual and material needs of those who commit their lives to seeking God by fixing their gaze on those things which are eternal.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Benediction** *After an extended period of silent meditation the celebrant goes to the altar, genuflects and kneels. The following or another suitable Eucharistic hymn is sung.*

*Benediction Hymn* Down in Adoration/ *Tantum Ergo*

*Eucharistic Prayer* Lord our God, You have given us the True Bread from Heaven. In the strength of this food may we live always by Your life and raise in glory on the last day. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Eucharistic Blessing* *The priest or deacon blesses the congregation with the Holy Eucharist.*

**Reposition** *When the priest or deacon has blessed everyone, he then places the Blessed Sacrament back in the tabernacle and genuflects. The Divine Praises may be said aloud at this time. Afterwards, the suggested or another suitable hymn may be sung by the congregation.*

*Closing Hymn* Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

