

Day for Consecrated Life - 2 February 2019
(Quotations from *Vultum Dei Quarere - Seeking the Face of God – Pope Francis, 2016*)

Blessing of Candles Archbishop Diarmuid Martin

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Dear brothers and sisters,
forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast
of the Nativity of the Lord.
Today is the blessed day
when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph.
Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law,
but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people.
Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple.
Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord
and confessed him with exultation.
So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit,
proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ.
There we shall find him until he comes again, revealed in glory.

Let us pray,

O God, source and origin of all light,
who on this day showed to the just man Simeon
the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing ✠ these
candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the
path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Processional Songs

All sing:

Lumen Christi (Jean-Paul Lécot)

Lumen Christi, Alleluia! Amen

Placing of Book of the Gospel Ranguel Mass (André Gouzes)

All sing:

The Lord is now about to enter his temple
He who is and who was and is to come
God among us comes to make his dwelling.

Introduction

Reflection

Contemplatives

Peter's words, "Lord, it is good for us to be here!", have a special meaning for all consecrated persons. This is particularly the case for contemplatives. In profound communion with every other vocation of the Christian life – all of which are "like so many rays of the one light of Christ, whose radiance brightens the countenance of the Church" – contemplatives "devote a great part of their day imitating the Mother of God, who diligently pondered the words and deeds of her Son, and Mary of Bethany, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened attentively to his words". (3)

Quiet

Song

Mary Temple of the Lord (Marie Dunne CHF)

All sing:

Mary, temple of the Lord, bearer of God's word.
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

Reflection

Lamps on a stand...

From the origins of the life of special consecration in the Church, men and women called by God and in love with him have devoted their lives exclusively to seeking his face, longing to find and contemplate God in the heart of the world. The presence of communities set like cities on a hill or lamps on a stand (Mt 5:14-15), despite their simplicity of life, visibly represent the goal towards which the entire ecclesial community journeys. (3)

Quiet

Song

Lux Mundi (Trevor Thomson)

All sing:

Lux mundi, tenebras dissipa et corda nostra illumina
et corda nostra illumina

Reflection

Formators

God is the formator par excellence, but in this work of craftsmanship God employs human instruments. Men and women formators are elder brothers and sisters whose principal mission is that of disclosing "the beauty of following Christ and the value of the charism by which this is accomplished". (14)

Quiet

Song

Críost Liam (Bernard Sexton)

All sing:

Críost liom, Críost romham, Críost i mo dhiadh,
Críost istigh ionam, Críost liom, Críost fúm,
Críost ós mo chionn.

Prayer

Today many persons do not know how to pray. Many simply feel no need to pray, or limit their relationship with God to a plea for help at times of difficulty when there is no one else to turn to. For others, prayer is merely praise in moments of happiness. In reciting and singing the praises of the Lord with the Liturgy of the Hours, you also pray for these persons and, like the prophets, you intercede for the salvation of all.

Quiet

Song **Nada Te Turbe (Taizé /St. Teresa of Avila)**

All sing:
Nada te turbe nada te-espante
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta
Nada te turbe nada te-espante
Sólo Dios basta.

Reflection **The Church needs you!**

It is not easy for the world, or at least that large part of it dominated by the mindset of power, wealth and consumerism, to understand your particular vocation and your hidden mission; and yet it needs them immensely. The world needs you every bit as much as a sailor on the high seas needs a beacon to guide him to a safe haven. Be beacons to those near to you and, above all, to those far away. Be torches to guide men and women along their journey through the dark night of time. (6)

Song **My Lighthouse (Rend Collective)**

Prayer of the Church

Among the most perilous temptations faced by contemplatives is that which the Desert Fathers called “the midday devil”; it is the temptation to listlessness, mere routine, lack of enthusiasm and paralyzing lethargy...little by little this leads to “a tomb psychology... that develops and slowly transforms Christians into mummies in a museum. (11)

Prayer

All say:
May there be peace within today
May we be content knowing that we are children of God
May we never forget the infinite possibilities born of faith
May we trust God that we are exactly where we are meant to be
May we use those gifts we have received and pass on the love
and peace that has been given to us

Song **Peace I Leave With You (Luigi Cherubini)**

Reflection

Reconciliation

The joyful experience of God's forgiveness received in this sacrament grants you the grace to become prophets and ministers of his mercy, and instruments of reconciliation, forgiveness and peace. Our world greatly needs such prophets and ministers. (23)

Song

Dona Nobis Pacem (Anonymous)

All sing:

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

Reflection

Word of God

Lectio divina, the *prayerful reading of God's word*, is an art that helps us pass from the biblical text to life. It is an existential interpretation of sacred Scripture, whereby we can bridge the gap between spirituality and daily life, between faith and life. The process initiated by *lectio divina* is meant to guide us from hearing to knowledge, and from knowledge to love. (20)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia (Fintan O'Carroll)

Gospel

(Lk 2:22-40)

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

‘Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel’.

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.’

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Homily

Reflection The Eucharist

In the Eucharist, the eyes of the heart recognize Jesus. Saint John Paul II tells us that "to contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him wherever he manifests himself, in his many forms of presence, but above all in the living sacrament of his body and his blood. (22)

Song The Last Supper (Bernard Sexton)

All sing:

Jesus took the bread he broke
Jesus shared the bread he broke
And said, 'do this, do this in memory of me.'
Jesus took the wine he poured
Jesus shared the wine he poured.
And said, 'do this, do this in memory of me.'

Prayer for Jubilarians – Archbishop

As you celebrate your Jubilee:

May the blessing of Almighty God descend upon you to strengthen you in the coming years.

May your faithfulness and serenity be a joy to you, an encouragement to others, and a constant witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And may our loving God bring you all to everlasting life. Amen.

Song Yes, Lord – Xin Vâng (Vietnamese)

*"Yes, Lord!" are the words that Mary prayed,
That she teaches me to proclaim.
"Yes, Lord!" are the words that Mary prayed,
May my response be the same.*

Reflection

Community Life

Fraternal communion is a reflection of God's own way of being and bestowing himself; it testifies to the fact that "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8, 16). The consecrated life professes to believe in, and live by, the love of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The community of brothers and sisters thus becomes a graced reflection of the God who is a Trinity of Love. (25)

Song

A Life Transformed By Gratitude (Trevor Thomson)

Concluding Prayer

All say: May our consecrated men and women be a beacon in the darkness, capable of seeing values where others see none and of recognising beauty where others fail to do so.
May they be missionaries who firstly 'are' and then 'do', and who hope against all hope.
May they enjoy silence in the midst of noise and dare to speak when cowardice would demand silence, always seeking new paths for prophetic proclamation.
May they experience daily the joy and the adventure that flows from giving one's life for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel.
May the 'yes' of Mary, Star of the Sea, continue to inspire and guide us all on the pilgrimage of life.
AMEN

Song

May The Road Rise To Meet You (Lori True)

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall softly on your fields
And until we meet again
May you keep safe in the gentle loving arms of God.