



MISSION HOLY HOUR 4:



"Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church's missionary activity and communities too poor to support themselves."

Gathering Hymn: *Whatsoever you do* (William F. Jabusch)

(The Blessed Sacrament is exposed, as the hymn is sung.)

Introduction: From earliest times in the Church, the Christian community has pulled together to support the evangelising works of the Church and its members. St. Paul often commends the various Christian communities for their support. The giving of alms to the poor is another practice as ancient as human beings.

In Jesus' ministry, he adds a new perspective, "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). It is awesome to consider that the charity I extend to others, I am actually extending to God. Only through the eyes of faith do I see the presence of God in my neighbour, and respond out of love.

In the early Church communities, there was a great urgency; that as many people as possible must be given knowledge of the coming of Jesus Christ, and the opportunity to receive Baptism and follow his Way. Today, we feel it is a right of all peoples to know and be given the opportunity to believe in God through Jesus Christ. The Church has always, therefore, been "Missionary"; reaching out in Christ's name, teaching, healing, offering the consolation of the Sacraments and striving to enhance the lives of God's children in the developed and developing countries of the world.

Just as Christ called the early disciples, today he calls men and women (Vocation) to fulfil his "Mission mandate" (Matthew 28:16-20). By merit of our Baptism into Christ, we are all missionaries. However, not everyone is called to leave home, family and all that is familiar to evangelise around the world. By prayer and charitable donation, towards this mission work, we can all fulfil the call to be missionaries. The Christian community today generously continues to support the work of missionaries around the world today, and to support young communities too poor to support themselves.

Missio assists us all to support missionaries and their works. Missio provides us with ways to support and assist our brothers and sisters around the world. In 1936 an alliance was created between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries, Britain's own missionary society, to help the faithful to support missionaries, their works and the peoples they serve.

During this Holy Hour, we take this opportunity to thank God for our common vocation as missionaries. We pray that through our combined efforts the Good News of Jesus Christ may indeed spread to the ends of the earth.

Scripture reading: Luke 4:16-22.

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me."

Reflection: Through our Baptism into Christ we too receive the same Spirit into our lives: the Spirit of love, service, concern and peace. As we live out our faith we are invited to find effective and affective ways of expressing our faith actively. As sons and daughters of God, all that is required of us is submission to his will and to respond to the promptings of the Spirit in our lives too. Faith enables us to see in a new, exciting and different way. We are all connected to, concerned with and committed to assist one another; those near and those far from us.

Hymn: *Lay your hands gently upon us* (Carey Landry)

(Pause for silent reflection)

Scripture reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7.

"My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

Hymn: *Come praise the Lord, the almighty* (Psalm 116 verified by James Quinn SJ)

Prayer of St. Francis Xavier for the conversion of the world :

O eternal God, remember that we are all the work of your hands, and that you have created us in your own likeness. Remember that Jesus Christ, your Son, suffered a most cruel death for our salvation.

Permit no longer that any of us should ever despise him. Be appeased by the prayers of the Church, the spouse of your Son, and remember your mercy.

Give all the grace ever to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is God; that he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection, and that by him we have been delivered from hell.

May glory be given to him forever and ever. Amen.

(Pause for silent reflection)

Intercessions: *The Prayer of the Faithful for Weekdays* (Eltin Griffin O. Carm.)

- May the light of Christ transform all who live in the darkness and selfishness of sin. May it help to break down the greed and destruction which divides, and create instead a climate of forgiveness and reconciliation so that our world can become a place of brotherhood, love and peace.

- May the love of Christ create new bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood among the peoples of the world; may the forgiveness of Jesus heal the wounds of past misunderstandings and divisions, thus opening new avenues for universal love and dialogue.
- May the hope of the risen Christ bring a sense of purpose and meaning to all those struggling for a better human life, for daily bread and a society marked by justice, equality and fraternity.
- May the joy of Christ touch the lives of those saddened by war, and those hurt by the greed of multi-national corporations. May it bring to all our lives, whether oppressors or oppressed, a deeper awareness of the one God we seek to serve and the one people he wishes us to become in the kingdom he is creating on earth.
- May the bread of Christ, broken for a better world, bring closer together all those estranged or divided in the name of religion, so that they may reconcile their differences and become one in the common search for the God of all peoples.
- A time to add our own prayers in silence

Recitation of the Our Father

Prayer: Father, we are gathered and united through the power of your word. May this word of life be proclaimed among all peoples, so that we can grow and progress as one universal family. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ Blessing of the people with the monstrance. +

The Divine Praises:

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her spouse most chaste.

Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

Hymn: *Tantum ergo sacramentum* (St. Thomas Aquinas) English version:

1. Come, adore this wondrous presence, bow to Christ, the source of grace.

Here is kept the ancient promise of God's earthly-dwelling place.

Sight is blind before God's glory, faith alone may see his face.

2. Glory be to God the Father, praise to his co-equal Son,

adoration to the Spirit, bond of love in Godhead one.

Blest be God by all creation, joyously while ages run. Amen.

Hymn: O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be
ev'ry moment thine (x3)

(During this chant, the Blessed Sacrament is deposited)

Prayer: Almighty, ever living God, you gave your saints and martyrs grace to lay down their lives for Christ. Help us in our weakness too: give us the strength to live for you even as they did, nor shrink from suffering and dying for your sake.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Antem to Our Lady: *Salve Regina*

Salve Regina, Mater misericordiae, vita dulcedo, et spes nostra salve.

Ad te clamamus exsules filii Havae, ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte; et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.

O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

(Translation: Hail holy Queen, mother of mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve, do thee do we send up our sighs weeping and mourning in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy upon us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, o loving, o sweet Virgin Mary.)

During Eastertide: *Regina Caeli*

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia, (Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia,)

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia, (For him whom you were worthy to bear, alleluia,)

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia, (Has risen as he said, alleluia,)

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia. (Pray for us to God, alleluia.)