

March 14, 2012

**With Leo Dehon:
Sons of the Church and
Citizens of the World**

Prayer Vigil

This worship aid was designed for an hour of solemn adoration with the participation of laity, young people and adolescents.

According to the needs, it can be used as it stands or with omitting one or other of the readings and what follows the reading, but preserving the gospel reading with what follows it.

Finally, it is equally possible to use only the liturgy of the Word. Omitting the part dedicated to the Eucharistic portion, one can take the three readings and what follows them, or else choose among them what is most suitable to the kind of celebration by the group.

Introduction

“It has become customary on the birthday of Fr. Dehon, March 14, to declare a Dehonian Vocation Day. In many of our communities it has become a day of prayer, a day of celebrating our vocation as Dehonians... In praying for vocations, we ask that we may have the courage to break through our narrow “nationalisms”, our human-made boundaries, and share our culture, our meanings, with others in order to show that we are, in all our differences, members of one family and can give witness to a unity in diversity in the way of Christ. (Letter of the Superior General and Council for March 14, 2012)

Part I

Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and Prayer of Praise

Song for Exposition

Presider: Center and summit of Christian life, the Eucharist unites the entire church in the *memory* and presence of the Lord who calls us together in community, consecrates us to God, and ceaselessly sends us out into the streets of the world in service to the gospel. We proclaim to our Eucharistic Lord, saying:

Response (R): **Glory to you, Lord Jesus!**

(two lectors alternating)

Eucharistic Lord, **resplendent light**, who illumines every person and without whom the world walks in darkness and sin, we acclaim you, saying: *R.*

Eucharist Lord, **gift of love from the Father**, in whom your Heart always burning with love for mankind and thirsting for its love is present, we acclaim you, saying: *R.*

Eucharistic Lord, **true Vine** of which we are the branches and without whom we are fruitless, have no love, joy, peace, patience, benevolence, goodness, fidelity, meekness, self-control, and cannot assist in the work of redemption of the heart of the world, we praise you, saying: *R.*

Eucharistic Lord, **divine Master**, who continuously calls those whom you wish to follow you more closely, even in our Dehonian way of life, we praise you, saying: *R*

Eucharistic Lord, **King and Lord of the universe**, in whom the Father has placed his predilection and into whose hands He has placed all power and majesty, we praise you, saying: *R*

Period of Silence

Part II

Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

*Speaking of a Jerusalem of the future, the prophet reveals the presence of God amongst his people. The words, **light, glory, and name** indicate this. God himself will draw all peoples and like a beacon will orient all pathways toward Him. Jerusalem reflects light from God and will become the resource for all who seek the Lord.*

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (60:1-6)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Raise your eyes and look around: they are all assembling, flocking back to you; your sons are coming from afar, your daughters walking beside them.

You will see it, and be radiant with joy, and your heart will thrill with gladness; sea-borne riches will be lavished on you and the wealth of nations will be yours. Camels in droves will cover the land, young camels from Midian and Ephah, all coming from Sheba laden with gold and frankincense, heralds of the LORD's praise (NRSV). *The Word of the Lord. R.*

Responsorial Psalm: 96 (95) 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a

***R./* Tell all the peoples of the marvels of the LORD**

O sing to the LORD a new song:
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless his name. ***R./***

Tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among the peoples. ***R./***

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of peoples,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD due his name (NRSV). ***R./***

Let us pray:

Holy Father who in Christ the Light of the world, have revealed to all peoples the mystery of salvation and, in manifesting him in our mortal nature, have renewed us with the splendor of his immortality, grant that in our personal and communitarian lives we can reflect your light to all those who seek you and whom you call to salvation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Period of silence.

Reading II

Religious nationalism, like every exaggerated nationalism, is anti-Christian. Because all are fellow-citizens of the one "city of God" there can't be "strangers" or "aliens" in the church.

From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians: (2: 19-22).

Brothers and sisters: you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together in the Spirit into a dwelling place for God (NRSV). *The Word of the Lord. R.*

Responsorial Psalm: 84 (85) 8ab-9, 10-11, 12-13

***R/.* The LORD announces peace to his people**

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
For he will speak peace to his people.
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
That his glory may dwell in our land. ***R/***

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet,
Righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
And righteousness shall look down from the sky. ***R/***

The LORD will give what is good,
And our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
And will make a path for his steps (NRSV). ***R/***

Let us pray:

Lord God, who, to confess your name, have gathered into one the great variety of peoples, send your Holy Spirit upon us so that we may live and work in communion and that

the people called into your kingdom may live united in faith and in works of charity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gospel

Jesus intercedes for his disciples who will remain in the world. He intercedes for them to remain united and be made holy in the truth. It is risky to live in a world closed in on itself and overwhelmed by evil while maintaining a sense of being beyond it. Only those united and made holy in the truth will be able to achieve the mission entrusted to them.

From the Gospel according to John (17: 1b, 11b, 17-19)

At that time, Jesus looked up to heaven and said: Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they may be sanctified in the truth (NRSV).
The gospel of the Lord. R./

Brief period of silence

Gospel Song:

Sint Unum

Sint u - num! Sint u - num.

(two lectors alternating)

Father, protect my disciples in your name, so that they may be one even as we are one.

May they be entirely yours by means of the Truth.

As you have sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world>

Gospel Song: **Sint Unum!**

I pray for those who will believe in me through their words.

That all may be one, as you Father, are in me and I am in thee.

That they may also be one in us and that the world may believe that you sent me.

Gospel Song: **Sint Unum!**

Let us pray:

Lord, our God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, grant that love for you and fraternal communion grow within us, so that our communities appear like a sign raised up in the midst of the peoples and that the human race believe in Him whom you have sent, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is God with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Period of silence and meditation

Reading from Texts taken from the Spiritual Works of Venerable Fr. Dehon.

(Various lectors)

The Heart of Jesus wants to reign in souls by his love, but also to establish his social reign in the world.

The peoples manifest a tendency today toward universal peace; they seek an increase of justice and charity.

One day they will understand that only Christ and his divine Heart can inspire in men and women this new spirit (cf. OSP 3, ASC, p. 62).

Antiphon: Adveniat Regnum Tuum

♩ = 80

A- A7- D- A- E- E7- A- G E- A-

Ad - ve - ni - at Re - gnum tu - um. Ad - ve - ni - at Re - gnum tu - um. ___

One of the most resplendent fruits of Pentecost was the love among the disciples of the Savior. The union among them edified those to whom they gave witness.

After having instituted the sacrament of love, by means of which in some way we all form one sole body with him, he gave us a new commandment for a new covenant: *love one another as I have loved you.*

Antiphon: Adveniat Regnum Tuum

And he urged: "Love as brothers, as sons of the church, as members of one and the same body of which I am the Head.

Love each other as I have loved you, to the point of sacrificing yourselves, to the point of giving your lives to save the lives of your brothers.

In this manner they will learn that you are my disciples" (cf. OSP 3, ASC, p. 418).

Antiphon: Adveniat Regnum Tuum

The reign of Jesus is not of this world because it comes from on high: it has its origins in heaven, and obtains its right from the bosom of the Father from whom the Word comes.

The kingship of Jesus extends throughout the world. It embraces the whole earth, from one pole to the other, from the rising to the setting of the sun, and affects all men and women and all the nations.

Go, says the Lord, make disciples of all the nations. I will be with you until the end of time" (cf. OSP 3, ASC, p. 38f).

Antiphon: Adveniat Regnum Tuum

Period of silence and meditation

Prayer of the Church

Presider:

Brothers and sisters, before the Eucharist, memorial of the infinite love of Jesus who gave himself over for us as the Lamb without blemish, we pray to the Father that he call us to be children of the church and citizens of the world in the manner of Fr. Dehon, and we say:

Response (R./): Hear us, O Lord.

For the church, born of the Heart of Christ, that it proclaim to all who hear that God is love and remains with those who love him, let us pray: *R./*

For bishops, priests, and deacons, that they proclaim the unfathomable riches of Christ by word and deed, let us pray: *R./*

For those responsible for justice and peace throughout the world, that they be servants of their citizens, particularly the weakest and the most oppressed, let us pray: *R./*

For the congregation and for each of our communities that, guided by the Holy Spirit, they may grow in charity and in mutual aid, let us pray: *R./*

That the Lord of the harvest grant us the grace of perseverance in his sacred service and send us new vocations willing to consecrate themselves to our Institute on behalf of the Kingdom, let us pray: *R./*

Let us pray:

Lord, send down on us the grace of the Holy Spirit and grant that, faithful to fraternal union, to the breaking of the bread, and to prayer, we may give witness to you and learn to attract new vocations willing to follow the ideal of perfect charity and work efficaciously for the Reign of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is God with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Part III

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Tantum Ergo

Benediction

Final Song

