Commemoration of Blessed Irene Stefani
Eucharistic Adoration 31st October, 2026

Cel. *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*
All . Amen

Cel. *Peace and charity, gifts of the Father through the Risen One in the Holy Spirit, be with you all.*
All . And with your spirit.

Guide:

As we conclude the Missionary Month, we listen to the Spirit, before Jesus in the Eucharist, the source that rekindles within us the impetus for mission. We entrust ourselves to the example of Blessed Irene Stefani, a Consolata missionary and Mother of Mercy in Africa. For her, Jesus in the Eucharist was the strength behind every gesture of love toward the sick, the poor, and the suffering, a gesture she lived out in her radical motto: ***"Only with Jesus, all with Jesus, always with Jesus."***

Like an inviting prayer, her words resonate today: " *If you have any sorrow that weighs you down, go and pour it out into the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and you will find yourself gently relieved, even if tears spring to your eyes. Speak to Him of all your joys, thank Him, ask Him for help, advice: pray for the souls dear to you, for sinners, the suffering, the deceased... Love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with all the fervor of your heart ! "* (Blessed Irene Stefani)

Exposition song :

Silent adoration…

Prayer:
Lord, I adore you and praise you.
I am contemplating the primacy of your love,
that placed you here in the species of bread,
in living memory of your passion and death.
Lord, in your weakness and loneliness,
You are our strength.
You are the risen one, you walk among us giving life and hope.
You do not disappoint those who rely on You and believe in the primacy of Your love.
Nourish us, O Lord, with your bread.
Nourish us with those things that give meaning to our lives.
(Carlo M. Martini)

Silence and adoration…

- **LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD…**

From the Gospel according to Matthew (9,35-38)

«Jesus went about all the villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the values of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few! Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest! "»

Silence and meditation…

Guide: The key points of Jesus' ministry find profound resonance in the testimony of Blessed Irene Stefani.

- ✔ **<u>«Jesus went around all the villages...»</u>**

Guide: Jesus chooses the road, direct contact, the dust of the villages. Without waiting for people to come to Him, He sets out on a journey; similarly, Blessed Irene spent her life tirelessly moving from hut to hut, seeking out people where they lived so she could be close to each of them.

Of Blessed Irene Stefani it was said:

" *If anyone arrived in the mission, she was the first to welcome guests and passers-by. She had a deformity in her foot, they say, but that didn't stop her from walking and traveling; her boots made her suffer, and when they were wet, she would place them near the fire to dry them quickly; the heat would harden them* ."

***Refrain** : (missionary song)*

- ✔ **<u>«Preaching the values of the kingdom»</u>**

Guide: In Jesus, the preaching of the Kingdom is first and foremost a joyful message of hope and salvation for all. As an authentic disciple, Blessed Irene made the values of the Kingdom resonate through a lively, generous, and fully inculturated charity.

Of Blessed Irene Stefani it was said:

« *In the apostolate and in charity she was generous, spirit wise, she gave herself body and soul; when she spoke it was to give us good news, returning from the villages she greeted us effusively. She prayed a lot: I heard that on certain nights, when she had someone reluctant to convert, she would kneel behind the Tabernacle, and pray all night, kneeling on two bricks. I remember her as a living plant that gave and gave, keeping nothing for herself. She taught us the language, the local proverbs, the sayings, and their customs* » .

***Refrain** : (missionary song)*

- ✔ **"... <u>curing every disease and infirmity</u> "**

Guide: In Jesus' actions, the proclamation of the Word becomes a concrete, itinerant, and compassionate gesture. To care, in the original sense of the term, means to care for the person with affectionate and active attention, transforming every human suffering into a place where the Father's love is revealed.

Embodying the style of Jesus, Blessed Irene did not limit herself to providing healthcare, but welcomed human frailty in its entirety and, driven by an ardent evangelical charity, knew how to bend over the most painful realities with gestures of infinite tenderness.

It was said of Blessed Irene that…

She *was willing to rush to the sick at any hour, day or night. If they called her at night, she would get up and call some of the young men from the boarding school to come with her and light her path with their lamps. With the epidemic, the number of sick people scattered across the nearby hills and across the rivers grew. Sister Irene rushed there promptly, heedless of the dangers of wading through the rapidly rising rivers, to help the sick and win the souls of the dying for God.*

***Refrain** : (missionary song)*

- ✔ ***Seeing the crowd, he felt compassion for them, because they were tired and exhausted..."***

Guide: In Christ, compassion is a total commitment that translates into a gaze capable of seeing the deepest pain in humanity and a heart that is deeply moved. Blessed Irene echoed this love in her missionary work; so much so that the people recognized her as *Nyaatha* , the "Mother full of Mercy," a witness whose life spoke only of compassion.

It was said of Blessed Irene that…

She *had a maternal heart for all those she approached. The first few days were a great violence to her nature, to her delicate and sensitive heart, seeing so many sick people, so much suffering of every kind; the little help she could give them, seeing them moan, roll on the ground, etc. How many tears she shed out of compassion! And she ran to Jesus: "I'm going to tell Jesus to help those souls."*

***Refrain** : (missionary song)*

- ✔ ***The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few! Pray... that he send out laborers."***

Guide : The immense need of the world, in Jesus, becomes a call to co-responsibility: He does not act alone, but entrusts his work into the hands of his disciples and of each of us, inviting us to ask the Father for generous hearts, ready for missionary service.

Blessed Irene became a living answer to Jesus's prayer, offering her life entirely as a "harvest worker." From the joy of her vocation came a burning desire to involve others, as she heartily wrote to her family:

" *Allow me to repeat to you Jesus' lament: 'The workers are few and the harvest is plentiful.' Truly, what a beautiful expression of gratitude you can offer to Our Lady if you make a little effort to find some young women or men to devote themselves to the Consolata Missions. She will bless you abundantly if you take to heart the development of these vocations, and you have already secured the prayers of so many beautiful souls."*

***Refrain** : (missionary song)*

***Let's light the candle...** (a path is prepared as a symbolic element)*

Guide: In the sign of the journey, we contemplate the mission of the Lord Jesus, who walks our paths proclaiming the Gospel, granting healing, and turning a gaze of compassion to each person.

By lighting this candle, we transform our gesture into a prayer for all missionaries throughout the world. May the Lord inspire abundant vocations to serve his Kingdom, capable of reaching out to those who do not yet know his love.

While the candle is lit we sing…

Let us pray in two choirs: Psalm 67

May God have mercy on us and bless us,
and make his face shine upon us; that your way may be known on earth, and your salvation among all peoples.

Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you .
Let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you judge the peoples with righteousness and govern the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its fruit. May God, our God, bless us. May God bless us
and may all the ends of the earth fear him.

Guide *:* Let us prepare ourselves to receive the blessing, praying together with the words that the Master left us:

All *: Our Father…*

Cel : ***Let us pray.***

O God, who communicate to us the sweetness of your love in this sacrament of salvation, accept the prayer we address to you through the intercession of Blessed Irene Stefani and grant that, guided by her example of charity, we may live as true witnesses of Christ to share the joy of your eternal Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

Everyone : Amen

BLESSING

Reposition song…

Song to the Virgin Mary…