

MAY CONTEMPLATION

*Let us never tire of doing good works and procuring the salvation of souls,
for our own salvation depends upon our saving them.*

– St. Gaspar (*Letter #5*)

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church. May it encourage a more lively and fervent celebration of the Eucharist, leading to a Christian life transformed by love. May all of us rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for our daily lives in the world in the exercise of our respective professions. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader:

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father:

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially: that Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silent within ourselves that our hearts and ears may be open.

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: Jesus Christ, our Master, You are the Way and the Truth and the life. Grant that we may learn the sublime knowledge of Your charity in the Spirit of St. Paul the Apostle and of the Catholic Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of what You have preached. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (*John 14:20-27*)

In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

May 2017

Responsorial Psalm (*Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8a, 10,11*)

Response: Here am I Lord, I come to do your will.

He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ***R/.***

Happy are those who make the LORD their trust, who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods. ***R/.***

Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God." ***R/.***

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love
and your faithfulness from the great congregation. ***R/.***

Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever. ***R/.***

Glory be to the Father...

Prayer for Missionaries

All: Lord our God, loving Father, we humbly pray to You for our beloved missionaries, heralds of the Gospel. May our prayers reach their hearts that they may feel our love, our strength, and our faith that they continue the mission entrusted to them with Your zeal. May their presence in our community be a reminder of Your presence among us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Meditation: CHAPTER III - THE LIFE OF PRIESTS

As they direct and nourish the People of God, may they be aroused by the example of the Good Shepherd that they may give their life for their sheep,[cf. John 10:11] ready for the supreme sacrifice following the example of priests who, even in our own day, have not shrunk from giving their lives. As they are leaders in the faith and as they "enter the sanctuary with confidence, through the blood of Christ" (Heb. 10:19) they approach God "with sincere hearts in the full assurance of the faith" (Heb. 10 :22) they set up a sure hope for their faithful, [cf. 2 Cor. 1:7] that they may comfort those who are depressed by the same consolation wherewith God consoles them. [cf. 2 Cor. 1:4] As leaders of the community they cultivate an asceticism becoming to a shepherd of souls, renouncing their personal convenience, seeking not what is useful to themselves but to many, for their salvation,] always making further progress to do their pastoral work better and, where needful, prepared to enter into new pastoral ways under the direction of the Spirit of Love, which breathes where it will.[cf. John 3:8]
(*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #13*)

Silent Reflection

Prayer for Mothers

Leader: *Let us pray.*

Most gracious heavenly Father, we thank you for our mothers to whom you have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb. We ask your blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted motherhood. May your holy spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. Amen.

Intentions

Leader:

Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, you have loved us with an everlasting love, and have established your friendship with us. We desire to live as you live, following you as your disciples along the path of holiness. Help us to share the good news of your love and your salvation to many others on life's journey. Amen.

Our response will be: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, that following the example of Mary, it may be faithful to the vocation of virgin-mother, and in the fullness of the faith and the fruitfulness of the Spirit may always bring forth new children into new life, we pray. *R/.*

For the entire community of the Church, that following the example of Mary, it may listen with the spirit of faith to your Word so as to obey every sign of your will, we pray. *R/.*

For those who have received the inestimable gift of faith, that, gazing upon Mary, they may learn how to put themselves at your service and become a clear message to those who still do not know you, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Sharing in the mission of the Church to establish the kingdom of God we pray:

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray:*

All: Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist You make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion; sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn