

OCTOBER CONTEMPLATION

*To be even-minded in every circumstance, with every person, in every place, and at all times
is a sign of mature sanctity.
– St. Gaspar (Letter #18)*

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 all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

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: *(Luke 6:27-36)*

“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your coat, do not withhold your shirt from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back. Treat others the same way you want them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

October 2017

Responsorial Psalm (*Psalm 62:6, 7-8, 9, 11-12a*)

Response: *Only in God is my soul at rest.*

He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress where I will not be shaken. *R/.*

My victory and honor come from God alone.
He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. *R/.*

O my people, trust in him at all times.
Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge. *R/.*

Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.
If you weigh them on the scales, together they are lighter than a breath of air. *R/.*

God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times:
Power, O God, belongs to you; unfailing love, O Lord, is yours. *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: CONCLUSION AND EXHORTATION

The world which today is entrusted to the loving ministry of the pastors of the Church is that which God so loved that He would give His Only Son for it.[cf. John 16] Truly this world, indeed weighed down with many sins but also endowed with many talents, provides the Church with the living stones[cf. 1 Peter 2:5] which are built up into the dwelling place of God in the Spirit.[cf. Eph. 2:22] This same Holy Spirit, while impelling the Church to open new ways to go to the world of today, suggests and favors the growth of fitting adaptations in the ministry of priests.

Priests should remember that in performing their office they are never alone, but strengthened by the power of Almighty God, and believing in Christ who called them to share in His Priesthood, they should devote themselves to their ministry with complete trust, knowing that God can cause charity to grow in them.[cf. *Roman Pontificate on the Ordination of Priests*] Let them be mindful of their brothers in the priesthood as well, and also of the faithful of the entire world who are associated with them. For all priests cooperate in carrying out the saving plan of God,[cf. Eph. 3:9] that is, the Mystery of Christ, the sacrament hidden from the ages in God, which is only brought to fulfillment little by little through the collaboration of many ministries in building up the Body of Christ until it grows to the fullness of time. All this, hidden with Christ in God, [cf. Col. 3:3] can be uniquely perceived by faith... As for the rest, the Lord Jesus, who said: "Take courage, I have overcome the world," (John 16:33) did not by these words promise His Church a perfect victory in this world. (*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #22*)

Silent Reflection

A Prayer in Honor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo
(Feast is October 21st)

Leader: *Let us pray.*

Loving God, you made St. Gaspar del Bufalo a priest and outstanding apostle of the Precious Blood of your Son. Through his intercession grant that we may experience the abundant fruits of the price of our redemption. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. 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.*

Lord, like St. Gaspar we pray that the love of God excites us to think, to speak and to act and suffer for your great divine glory, we pray. **R/.**

God of peace, you have reconciled all things in Christ; grant your people a new vision of your forgiving love in repentance and reconciliation that leads to peace and mutual respect, we pray. **R/.**

For the church throughout the world, that we, together with all our brothers and sisters in Christ, may be effective agents of social transformation and reliable messengers of hope, 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