

# JANUARY CONTEMPLATION

*Let us pray and never cease promoting and spreading the most important devotion of the Divine Blood.  
– St. Gaspar (Letter #1398)*

## 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 Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.

### *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:** *(1 Corinthians 12:4-11)*

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** (*Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11*)

**Response: You are my inheritance, O Lord.**

Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.

You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

What a wonderful inheritance! **R/.**

I will bless the Lord who guides me;

even at night my heart instructs me. **R/.**

I know the Lord is always with me.

I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.

No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.

My body rests in safety. **R/.**

For you will not leave my soul among the dead

or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence

and the pleasures of living with you 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 I - THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

The Lord Jesus, "whom the Father has sent into the world" (John 10:36) has made His whole Mystical Body a sharer in the anointing of the Spirit with which He Himself is anointed. (cf. Matt. 3:16) In Him all the faithful are made a holy and royal priesthood; they offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ, and they proclaim the perfections of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. (cf. I Pet. 2:5) Therefore, there is no member who does not have a part in the mission of the whole Body; but each one ought to hallow Jesus in his heart, (cf. I Pet. 3:15) and in the spirit of prophecy bear witness to Jesus. (*Lumen Gentium*, 35)

The same Lord, however, has established ministers among His faithful to unite them together in one body in which, "not all the members have the same function" (Rom. 12:4). These ministers in the society of the faithful are able by the sacred power of orders to offer sacrifice and to forgive sins, and they perform their priestly office publicly for men in the name of Christ. Therefore, having sent the apostles just as He Himself had been sent by the Father, (*Lumen Gentium*, 22) Christ, through the apostles themselves, made their successors, the bishops, (*Lumen Gentium*, 22) sharers in His consecration and mission. The office of their ministry has been handed down, in a lesser degree indeed, to the priests. (ibid) Established in the order of the priesthood they can be co-workers of the episcopal order for the proper fulfillment of the apostolic mission entrusted to priests by Christ. (cf. Roman Pontifical "Ordination of a priest," preface) (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #2)

**Silent Reflection**

## **Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Leader:** *Let us pray.*

Lord our God, we thank you for the wisdom we gain from your scriptures. Grant us the courage to open our hearts and our minds to neighbors of other Christian confessions and of other faiths; the grace to overcome barriers of indifference, prejudice or hate; and a vision of the last days, when Christians might walk together towards that final feast, when tears and dissension will be overcome through 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 holy Church, that it may know how to put at the service of men and women the riches of the divine mercy, which flow from the baptismal font, we pray. *R/.*

For all the baptized, that they may joyously profess faith in God the Father who has created us, in the Son of God who has redeemed us, and in the Holy Spirit who has sanctified us, we pray. *R/.*

O God, you created us to your own image, you entrusted to us the whole universe and called us to fulfill our vocation in history; let everyone discover and live according to the call received by 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**