

APRIL CONTEMPLATION

BEATITUDES

*For the ministry of the Word we can draw inspiration
from the attitude with which Jesus dialogued with people
so as to reveal His mystery to all,
to fascinate ordinary people with lofty and demanding teachings.*
Pope Francis to Families of the Most Precious Blood, 30 June 2018

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.

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: (*Romans 10:5-11*)

Moses describes in this way the righteousness that is by the law: "The man who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the deep?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (*Psalm 119: 1-3, 9-10, 13-14*)

Response: How blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the LORD. **R/.**

How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
Who seek Him with all their heart.
They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways. *R/.*

How can a young man keep his way pure?
By keeping it according to Your word.
With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments. *R/.*

With my lips I have told of all the ordinances of Your mouth.
I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.
I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word. *R/.*

Glory be to the Father...

Reflection: * *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 63,64,66

There can be any number of theories about what constitutes holiness, with various explanations and distinctions. Such reflection may be useful, but nothing is more enlightening than turning to Jesus' words and seeing his way of teaching the truth. Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes (cf. *Mt* 5:3-12; *Lk* 6:20-23). The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. So if anyone asks: "What must one do to be a good Christian?", the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount.[66] In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives.¹

The word "happy" or "blessed" thus becomes a synonym for "holy." It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.²

Let us listen once more to Jesus, with all the love and respect that the Master deserves. Let us allow his words to unsettle us, to challenge us and to demand a real change in the way we live. Otherwise, holiness will remain no more than an empty word.³

¹ IN THE LIGHT OF THE MASTER, 63

² Ibid., 64

³ GOING AGAINST THE FLOW, 66

Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Easter Season

Jesus, you drank deeply of the cup of human suffering and death, reconciled all creation to your Eternal Father, and brought us to new life in You. Help me to shout the Good News of Your Resurrection by how I live, what I do, and how I love.

Heavenly Father, may we who have meditated on the death and resurrection of Jesus be filled with hope and joy. Confident of His presence among us and of His power to touch us, to teach us, to heal us, and to forgive us, may we have the strength and the power to bring His love and His peace to all the people we meet. May the Risen Lord be our Peace. Amen.

* This year the *Reflections* will be taken from *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis that presents a spirituality of holiness in everyday life clearly based on Catholic Tradition.

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 14

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

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:

For the Holy Father's intention: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others, we pray. *R/.*

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

In thanksgiving for Christ, the Anointed One of God, through whom all those anointed with the sacramental oils of the Church are raised to new life, 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. *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. *R/.*

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