

SEPTEMBER CONTEMPLATION

BOLDNESS AND PASSION

*Strive to be an image of a Church who walks the street among the people,
even running personal risks, sharing the joys and hardships of those you meet.*

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: *(1 Tim 4:1-8)*

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *(Psalm 86: 3-4,5-6,9-10)*

Response: All the nations shall worship you, O LORD!

Be merciful to me, O Lord,
for I am calling on you constantly. **R/.**

Give me happiness, O Lord,
for I give myself to you. **R/.**

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive,
so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. **R/.**

Listen closely to my prayer, O LORD;
hear my urgent cry. **R/.**

I will call to you whenever I'm in trouble,
and you will answer me. **R/.**

All the nations you made
will come and bow before you, Lord;
they will praise your holy name. **R/.**

For you are great and perform wonderful deeds.
You alone are God. **R/.**

Glory be to the Father...

Reflection:* *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 129,131

Holiness is also *parrhesía*: it is boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave a mark in this world. To allow us to do this, Jesus himself comes and tells us once more, serenely yet firmly: “Do not be afraid” (*Mk* 6:50). “I am with you always, to the end of the world” (*Mt* 28:20). These words enable us to go forth and serve with the same courage that the Holy Spirit stirred up in the Apostles, impelling them to proclaim Jesus Christ. Boldness, enthusiasm, the freedom to speak out, apostolic fervor, all these are included in the word *parrhesía*.¹

Look at Jesus. His deep compassion reached out to others. It did not make him hesitant, timid or self-conscious, as often happens with us. Quite the opposite. His compassion made him go out actively to preach and to send others on a mission of healing and liberation. Let us acknowledge our weakness, but allow Jesus to lay hold of it and send us too on mission. We are weak, yet we hold a treasure that can enlarge us and make those who receive it better and happier. Boldness and apostolic courage are an essential part of mission.²

¹ BOLDNESS AND PASSION, 129.

² *Ibid.*, 131.

Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Family

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

* 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: That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans, we pray. *R/.*

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

That the media may become a force to safeguard the common good, to uphold the truth, to protect individual human dignity and promote respect for the needs of the family, 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