

Exposition:
O Salutaris Hostia

O salutaris Hostia
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria;
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen.

Divine Praises:

Blessed be God.
Blessed be his holy name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be his most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, virgin and Mother.
Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.
Amen.

Benediction:
Tantum Ergo

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui;
Et Antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui;
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio.
Amen.

Priest: You have given them bread from heaven.

All: Having all sweetness within it.

Priest: Let us pray, Lord Jesus Christ, you gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of your suffering and death. May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood, help us to experience the salvation you won for us and the peace of the kingdom, where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Holy God, we praise thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before thee;
All on earth thy scepter claim;
All in heaven above adore thee.
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign!
Infinite thy vast domain,
Everlasting is thy reign!

Hark, the loud celestial hymn;
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and Seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
Fill the heavens with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord!

MAVCatholic

Spring Break Pilgrimage



And nothing would again
be casual and small
but everything with light invested



Bronx, NY
March 22-30, 2014



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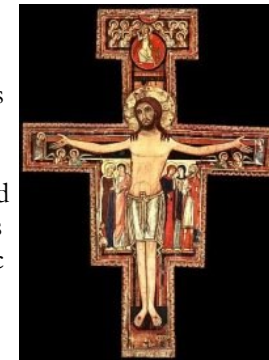
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Quote from I Sing of A Maiden by Rev. John Duffy, C.S.s.R.

Franciscan Friars of the Renewal

“First, our mission is to serve the materially poor, most especially the destitute and homeless. Friaries not primarily focused on formation should have one or more facilities to provide for the needs of the poor, for example, a shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry and/or clothing room. Each of these works must be directed by a friar to preserve the Catholic and Franciscan character. Every member of the community is to be personally and directly involved in “hands on” work with the poor. All service to the poor is given completely free of charge.

Second, our mission of evangelization in the Church is through preaching and teaching the Holy Gospel, and by sharing the rich treasures of our Catholic faith with all. This can take many forms so that every friar may assist in his own way. Some expressions of this apostolate are: providing missionary centers for the poor, street evangelization, parish missions, retreats, days of recollection, pilgrimages, spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, religious education and sacramental ministry” (CFR Constitutions, #107).



Apostolic Oblates are women who desire to respond to Jesus’ thirst for souls. Consecrated to the Redemptive Love of Christ, Apostolic Oblates spend their lives striving to the maximum, so that all people may know the infinite love of the Father.

The Institute of the Apostolic Oblates, founded by Bishop Giaquinta in Rome, Italy in 1950, is an international secular institute of pontifical right. Oblates are lay women who consecrate themselves to the Lord through vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and a promise of apostolate, in order to be fully available to spread the universal call to holiness and encourage people to deepen their interior life. Unlike religious orders whose charism includes being a visible reminder of God’s presence, secular institutes are called to be like leaven, hidden, transforming the world from within. Women discern with the Institute whether the Lord is calling them to live in community as internal Oblates or on their own as external Oblates. All Oblates are called to live the spirituality of redemptive love as hidden leaven in the world. Though their work is abundant and varied, the primary apostolate of the Apostolic Oblates is the Pro Sanctity Movement. The apostolate includes: retreats, summer camps for girls, college and young adult ministry, parish work, secular jobs, spiritual direction, and family formation.



The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary...

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary...

V. And the Word was made flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray: Pour forth, we beseech thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

As the Father has chosen you, O Mary, to be His Immaculate Child, Joseph's spouse, and the Mother of His beloved Son and of the whole Church, in full communion with the Holy Spirit, so we choose you this day as Mother and Queen of our whole family; and we consecrate to you our souls and our bodies, all that we do and all that we have, without exception. Envelop each one of us with your most maternal mercy. Teach us to love Jesus and the Father always more, and in and through them, to love one another in the Holy Spirit, discovering one another evermore profoundly in the light of Jesus, respecting one another, and choosing one another each day with a more divine and simple love. O Mary, grant that each of us fulfill the Father's will each day in a more personal gift of ourselves, so that our whole family may bear witness, in the midst of the world, to the love of Jesus victorious over evil. Amen.

Congregation of Saint John Laredo, Texas

March 22

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may be amazed by your providential love for me.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Feast Day: July 4

You ask me whether I am in good spirits. How could I not be, so long as my trust in God gives me strength. We must always be cheerful. Sadness should be banished from all Christian souls. For suffering is a far different thing from sadness, which is the worst disease of all. It is almost always caused by lack of Faith. But the purpose for which we



have been created shows us the path along which we should go, perhaps strewn with many thorns, but not a sad path. Even in the midst of intense suffering it is one of joy. The Faith given to me in baptism suggests to me surely: by yourself you will do nothing, but if you have God as the center of all your action, then you will reach the goal. To live without faith, without a patrimony to defend, without a steady struggle for truth, that is not living, but existing. With all the strength of my soul I urge you young people to approach the Communion table as often as you can. Feed on this bread of the angels whence you will draw all the energy you need to fight inner battles. Because true happiness, dear friends, does not consist in the pleasures of the world or in earthly things, but in peace of conscience, which we only have if we are pure in heart and mind.

Graces received:

March 23

Third Sunday of Lent

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may be aware of how You gaze upon me with love.

Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer, and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!” The Lord answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people, along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go, the staff with which you struck the river. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.” This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel. The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord in our midst or not?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;

let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

Act of Hope

O Lord God, I hope by your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because you have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope I intend to live and die. Amen.

Act of Charity

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Radiating Christ Prayer— Cardinal Newman

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others.

In light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be mine. It will be you, shining on others through me. Let me thus praise You the way You love best, by shining on those around me.

Let me preach You without preaching, not by words but by my example, by the catching for the sympathetic influence of what I do, the evident fullness of the love of my heart bears to You.

Tell Me, Lord— Bishop William Giaquinta

Tell me, my Lord, that you love me.
Speak to my heart once again.
Cry out to me ever stronger.
I am breathless when faced with your love.

Lord, I have nothing to offer.
To you I would bind myself forever.
You hear the Psalm of my heart, Lord:
“O, to live only for love.”

It is true I am nothing in your sight;
I have neither strength nor voice, Lord.
But when you let your gaze fall upon me,
I bloom beneath your grace and love.

Give me a heart that is burning.
Make mine a voice that shouts love,
ceaseless in telling all others,
how much you love me, my Lord,
how much you love us, dear Lord.

Suscipe— St. Ignatius of Loyola

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding, and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.
You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.
Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works.”

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, “How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” —For Jews use nothing in

common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?” Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.”

At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, “What are you looking for?” or “Why are you talking with her?” The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, “Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Christ?” They went out of the town and came to him. Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” So the disciples said to one

Litany of Humility

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**

From the desire of being esteemed,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved...

From the desire of being extolled ...

From the desire of being honored ...

From the desire of being praised ...

From the desire of being preferred to others...

From the desire of being consulted ...

From the desire of being approved ...

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes ...

From the fear of being calumniated ...

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

That others may be loved more than I,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I ...

That, in the opinion of the world,

others may increase and I may decrease ...

That others may be chosen and I set aside ...

That others may be praised and I unnoticed ...

That others may be preferred to me in everything...

That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should...

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;

Body Christ, save me;

Blood of Christ, inebriate me;

Water from the side of Christ, wash me;

Passion of Christ, strengthen me;

O good Jesus, hear me;

Within Thy wounds, hide me;

Suffer me not to be separated from thee;

From the malicious enemy, defend me;

At the hour of my death, call me;

And bid me to come to thee;

that with Thy saints I may praise Thee, forever and ever. Amen

Prayer of Identity of Mission

God has created me
to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some works to me
which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.
I may never know it in this life,
but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain,
a bond of connection between persons.
He has not created me for naught.
I shall do good; I shall do His work.
I shall be an angel of peace,
a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it
if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore I will trust Him,
whatever I am,
I can never be thrown away.
If I am in sickness,
my sickness may serve Him,
in my perplexity,
my perplexity may serve Him.
If I am in sorrow,
my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain.
He knows what He is about.
He may take away my friends.
He may throw me among strangers.
He may make me feel desolate,
make my spirits sink,
hide my future from me. Still,
He knows what He is about.

-Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman

another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."

Saint Therese of Lisieux Feast Day: October 1

From the moment I entered the sanctuary of souls, I saw at a glance that the task was beyond my strength. Throwing myself without delay into Our Lord's arms, I imitated those tiny children, who, when they are frightened, hide their faces on their father's shoulder, and I said:

Dear Lord, Thou seest that I am too small to feed these little ones, but if through me Thou wilt give to each what is suitable, then fill my hands, and without leaving the shelter of Thine Arms, or even turning away, I will distribute Thy treasures to the souls who come to me asking for food. Should they find it to their taste, I shall know that this is due not to me, but to Thee; and if, on the contrary, they find fault with its bitterness, I shall not be cast down, but try to persuade them that it



cometh from Thee, while taking good care to make no change in it.”
The knowledge that it was impossible to do anything of myself rendered my task easier. My one interior occupation was to unite myself more and more closely to God, knowing that the rest would be given to me over and above. And indeed my hope has never been deceived; I have always found my hands filled when sustenance was needed for the souls of my Sisters. But had I done otherwise, and relied on my own strength, I should very soon have been forced to abandon my task.

(Story of a Soul, St. Therese of Lisieux)

Graces received:

THE EXPLOSIVE GOSPEL

Bishop Giaquinta designed a specific method of *Lectio Divina* for the Pro Sanctity Movement. The goal is a meditation that leads to interiorization and the incarnation of God’s Word into our daily life. The Gospel must EXPLODE in our personal and community life. It is a Word capable of revolutionizing our way of feeling and thinking, living the faith and immersing ourselves in the reality where God has placed us.

1) A gaze of love – Meditation and Contemplation

This is the moment to contemplate and meditate on the text. We do this in order to gather the maximum love that God, through His Word, wants to give us. Look with love at the Word and the Word will look back at you with love! Ask God to reveal to you how He looks upon you with His infinite love.

2) A gaze of judgment and truth

We are confronted by the Word not only in love because this love enlightens us as to where we must grow or where there may be contradictions in our lives personally or in the community. Ask God to reveal to you where you have rejected His love and are living alone in sin. How does God want you to receive His mercy and forgiveness?

3) An apostolic response

We are invited in the third moment to future apostolic action. It is where we are invited to make a commitment to become prophets of the Gospel that revolutionizes our lives. Ask God, “How are You inviting me to witness Your love to others? How do you want me to share with others what I have received from You?”

Our Lady of Trust, Pray for us!



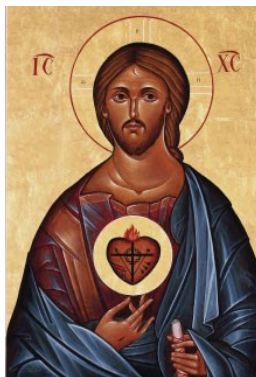
O Immaculate Heart of Mary,
true model of every holiness,
give us the trust to become saints.

The awareness of what transpires in our hearts throughout the day – in the eventful circumstances and the mundane – is the essential foundation for growing in interiority and, consequently, growing in holiness.

If we do not enter into relationship with the Lord regarding all that we find in our heart, however, we will run ourselves into a tizzy by relying on our own strength in striving for the perfection for which we were created (holiness) or collapse in a heap of despair, overwhelmed at the impossibility of the climb our heart is yearning for (holiness). Both extremes ultimately lead us to mediocrity: the numbness prescribed by the evil one to dull the pain of living apart from Christ.

To avoid such a disaster, we must simply *tell Jesus everything!* Nothing is too big or small to share with the infinite God Who became an infant. As we converse with the Lord, we will find new experiences in our heart to bring to Him; He will heal pain and sorrow; we will know His love and His life, and He will gently lead us more deeply into His Heart. From the depths of the Heart of Christ into which the Father's love gushes unceasingly and the Spirit bursts forth and in which we are drawn, new life will flow into us and flood out of us into the world, propelled in love by Love. This is reality; the one thing necessary (Lk 10:42). Let us choose the better part for the sake of our brothers and sisters!

Do not be afraid of failing. All we have to do is show up to pray, tell Jesus what is going on, and let Him do the rest!



ARRR explanation composed by Jessica Kary, A.O., adapted from materials from the Institute of Priestly Formation.

March 24

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may experience Your delight in me, Your beloved.

Collect

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and, since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the second Book of Kings

Naaman, the army commander of the king of Aram, was highly esteemed and respected by his master, for through him the Lord had brought victory to Aram. But valiant as he was, the man was a leper. Now the Arameans had captured in a raid on the land of Israel a little girl, who became the servant of Naaman's wife. "If only my master would present himself to the prophet in Samaria," she said to her mistress, "he would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went and told his lord just what the slave girl from the land of Israel had said. "Go," said the king of Aram. "I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman set out, taking along ten silver talents, six thousand gold pieces, and ten festal garments. To the king of Israel he brought the letter, which read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

When he read the letter, the king of Israel tore his garments and exclaimed: "Am I a god with power over life and death, that this man should send someone to me to be cured of leprosy? Take note! You can see he is only looking for a quarrel with me!" When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king: "Why have you torn your garments? Let him come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. The prophet sent him the message: "Go and wash

seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean.” But Naaman went away angry, saying, “I thought that he would surely come out and stand there to invoke the Lord his God, and would move his hand over the spot, and thus cure the leprosy. Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?” With this, he turned about in anger and left. But his servants came up and reasoned with him. “My father,” they said, “if the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All the more now, since he said to you, ‘Wash and be clean,’ should you do as he said.” So Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. He returned with his whole retinue to the man of God. On his arrival he stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

As the hind longs for the running waters,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

Send forth your light and your fidelity;
they shall lead me on

And bring me to your holy mountain,
to your dwelling-place.

R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.

When shall I go and behold the face of God?

Then will I go in to the altar of God,

Thus we share the *thoughts, feelings, and desires* in our heart as we become aware of them.

RECEIVE

Pope Benedict XVI, explained: “Prayer is pure receptivity to God's grace, love in action, communion with the Spirit who dwells within us, leading us, through Jesus, in the Church, to our heavenly Father. In the power of his Spirit, Jesus is always present in our hearts, quietly waiting for us to be still with him, to hear his voice, to abide in his love, and to receive ‘power from on high,’ enabling us to be salt and light for our world” (July 20, 2008). This is God’s work, not ours. We must ACKNOWLEDGE AND RELATE with the light of the Holy Spirit to dispose our heart to receive God, but it is not in our power to instigate the experience of God’s love and life in our heart. Instead, we must simply notice how our *thoughts, feelings, and desires* change and notice new *thoughts, feelings, and desires*. *Thoughts, feelings, and desires* that draw us to God ARE God.

RESPOND

We RESPOND to gifts we receive. Our heart’s natural RESPONSE to God’s love is gratitude. Receiving God impels us – with great ease and simplicity – to RESPOND. A RESPONSE flowing from the experience of the love of God is accompanied by joy and is immensely fruitful, contrasting the tedious and limited results of our exertion alone, however well-intentioned we may be. In our RESPONSE, we remain in the gift of God, receiving Him as we are propelled into an expression of love for our brothers and sisters. It is impossible to separate our authentic RESPONSE from the action of God’s love received in our heart.

What are the measures of prayer?

A relationship thrives when its participants are *honest* with one another and communicate on a *consistent* basis.

CONCLUSION

To ACKNOWLEDGE the realities (thoughts, feelings, and desires) in our heart, RELATE them to the Lord, RECEIVE His life in us, and RESPOND in gratitude and generosity with the maximum love we have received is to live the reality of our baptism.

Prayer

Why should we pray?

We have a natural desire for love, and therefore, for God who is love (1 Jn. 4:8). Prayer is seeking and responding to God who is with us at every moment. When we pause in God's presence, we become more aware of His love.

When should we pray?

Jesus has the best answer for this, ask Him! He desires to be with us even more than we do, so ask Him to help plan prayer time. It might not be the same time everyday, but once an appointment with Jesus is made, keep it. (Ask Him to help with this also!)

How should we pray?

In the morning, we should ask for the graces needed to grow in holiness, to love God, and to do His will. Nothing is impossible for God, so we should not limit our desires and requests.

At the end of the day, notice how we received this grace and how we can receive it even more. In doing this, our entire day becomes a prayer.

However, we also need time to be still with God and listen to Him tell us He loves us. Time spent in private prayer helps us to find God throughout the rest of our day.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Prayer is a relationship, a dialogue, between God and man. Since we are called to make a gift of our self (GS 24), it is necessary to first be in possession of our self, to know our self. To ACKNOWLEDGE is simply to be aware. The awareness that we need for our dialogue with God is specifically the awareness of our *thoughts, feelings, and desires*, especially those that directly impact our relationship with God. *What am I thinking? How do I feel? What do I desire?*

RELATE

Simply put, to RELATE is to *tell Jesus everything!* It's not too silly; it's not too unimportant; He already knows, but we need to tell Him. Even if we have told Him the same thing a million times, if we find it in our heart, we need to tell Him again.

Some things we take to the Father; others seem to be matter for the Holy Spirit; often we speak to Jesus about the *thoughts, feelings, and desires* of our heart; or Mary is constantly ready to receive all that we find in our heart.

the God of my gladness and joy;
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, my God!

**R. Athirst is my soul for the living God.
When shall I go and behold the face of God?**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth: "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

**Saint Joseph
Feast Day: March 19**



“Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home...” “your wife”—she is doubly his wife since she is chosen once by Joseph and once again by God when events seemed to have annulled their splendid plans. We can recognize in this an echo of Abraham's trial as regards his son Isaac:

God asks Abraham to offer up the work that he had accomplished up to that moment. God also asks Joseph to offer up the work that he had accomplished up to then, and to offer it up very radically,

not grinding his teeth or grumbling, but going right to the very end in his love for Mary and for his God. This is a very great facet of Joseph's holiness.

As a consequence of this new love he has for Mary, another new love is born in Joseph's heart: his love for the Child Jesus, the true son of her who is his wife. Mary loves this Child Who is given to her by the Father, and everything that belongs to Mary belongs to Joseph, in the light of her consecration to God. The Father receives Joseph's act of abandon, of total submission, and He wants him to cooperate in his own way in the work being accomplished in Mary through the Holy Spirit.

Every time we put everything into God's hands in this simple and absolute way, God always responds in an infinitely greater way, and His response comes to confirm and renew all that we give Him, by taking it infinitely further. We must ask Saint Joseph to help us to live this secret of our lives.

The Mystery of Joseph by Fr. Marie-Dominique Philippe, OP

Graces received:

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
Grant us peace.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tolis peccata mundi, Dona nobis pacem.

Invitation to Communion:

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away
the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

All: *Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.*

Invitation to Prayer:

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Preface Dialogue:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right and just.

Holy, Holy, Holy:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth

Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua

Hosanna in excelsis

Benedictus qui venit in nomine domine

Hosanna en excelsis

The Mystery of Faith:

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: ***We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.***

Mortem tuam annuntiamus, Domine,
et tuam resurrectionem confitemur, donec venias

March 25**Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord****Grace to pray for:**

Lord, that I may be amazed by Your goodness, certain of Your absolute love for me.

Collect

O God, who willed that your Word
should take on the reality of human flesh
in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

grant, we pray,

that we, who confess our Redeemer to be God and man,

may merit to become partakers even in his divine nature.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the Lord, your God; let it be deep as the nether world, or high as the sky! But Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Then Isaiah said: Listen, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to weary people, must you also weary my God? Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. **Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,

but ears open to obedience you gave me.

Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;

then said I, "Behold I come."

R. **Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.**

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,

To do your will, O my God, is my delight,

and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O Lord, know.

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Your justice I kept not hid within my heart;
your faithfulness and your salvation I have spoken of;
I have made no secret of your kindness and your truth
in the vast assembly.

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats take away sins. For this reason, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.’”

First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the Body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over

Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Mass Responses

Penitential Act:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation: March 25

Servant of God Fulton J Sheen

Date of Death: December 9

“Love is a choice.

Every act of love is an affirmation, a preferment, a decision. But it is also a negation. ‘I love you’ means that I do not love her. Because love is a choice, it means detachment from a previous mode of life, a breaking with old bonds. Hence the Old Testament law: ‘A man, therefore, will leave his father and mother and will cling to his wife’ (Gen 2:24). Along with detachment, there is also a deep sense of attachment to the beloved. The desire in one is met by a response on the part of the other. Courting love never asks why one is loved. The only question love asks is ‘How?’ Love is never free from difficulties: ‘How shall we live? How can we support ourselves?’ God loves man even in his sin. But He would not intrude upon human nature with His Love. So He woos one of the creatures to detach herself, by an act of her will, from sinful humanity and to attach herself to Him so intimately that she might give Him a human nature to begin the new humanity. The first woman made a choice that brought ruin; the New Woman is asked to make a choice for man’s restoration. But there was one difficulty standing in the way: ‘How shall this be, seeing I know not man?’ But since Divine Love is doing the courting, Divine Love shall also supply the means of embodying Itself: He that is born of her will be conceived



by the Spirit of God's Love.

Choice ends in identification with the beloved. All love craves unity, the supplying of the lack of the self at the store of the other. Once the will makes the choice, surrender follows, for freedom is ours only to give away. 'My will is mine to make it thine', is on the lips of every lover. Freedom exists for the sweet slavery of love. All love is passing from potency to act, from choice to possession, from desire to unity, from courtship to marriage. Since the very beginning, love was spoken of as making man and woman 'two in one flesh'. One soul passes into another soul, and the body follows the soul to such unity as it can achieve. The difference between prostitution and love is that in the former there is the offering of the body without the soul. True love demands that the will to love should precede the act of possession.

After God had courted the soul of a creature and asked her to supply Him with a human nature, and when all difficulties of how her virginity could be preserved were cleared away, there came the great act of surrender. Fiat. 'Be it done unto me . . .'—surrender, resignation, and the celebration of the Divine Nuptials. In another sense, there were now two in one flesh: the Divine and human natures of the Person of Christ lived in the womb of Mary, God and man made One. In no person in this world was there ever such unity of God and man as Mary experienced within her during the nine months in which she bore Him whom Heaven could not contain. Mary, who was already one with Him in mind, was now one with Him in body, as Love reached its peak in mothering the wandering Word. (*The World's First Love*, Fulton Sheen)

Graces received:

Graces received:

and without complaining, and if we reflect humbly and charitably that that porter really knows us and that God makes him speak against us, oh, Brother Leo, write that perfect joy is there!

“And if we continue to knock, and the porter comes out in anger, and drives us away with curses and hard blows like bothersome scoundrels, saying, 'Get away from here, you dirty thieves--go to the hospital! Who do you think you are? You certainly won't eat or sleep here'--and if we bear it patiently and take the insults with joy and love in our hearts, Oh, Brother Leo, write that that is perfect joy!

And if later, suffering intensely from hunger and the painful cold, with night falling, we still knock and call, and crying loudly beg them to open for us and let us come in for the love of God, and he grows still more angry and says: 'Those fellows are bold and shameless ruffians. I'll give them what they deserve.' And he comes out with a knotty club, and grasping us by the cowl throws us onto the ground, rolling us in the mud and snow, and beats us with that club so much that he covers our bodies with wounds--if we endure all those evils and insults and blows with joy and patience, reflecting that we must accept and bear the sufferings of the Blessed Christ patiently for love of Him, oh, Brother Leo, write: that is perfect joy!

“And now hear the conclusion, Brother Leo. Above all the graces and gifts of the Holy Spirit which Christ gives to His friends is that of conquering oneself and willingly enduring sufferings, insults, humiliations, and hardships for the love of Christ. For we cannot glory in all those other marvelous gifts of God, as they are not ours but God's, as the Apostle says: 'What have you that you have not received?' But we can glory in the cross of tribulations and afflictions, because that is ours, and so the Apostle says: 'I will not glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.'”

To whom be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.



(How St. Francis Taught Brother Leo That Perfect Joy Is Only in the Cross)

March 26

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may have a new capacity to trust in Your strength rather than my own.

Collect

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, schooled through Lenten observance
and nourished by your word,
through holy restraint
we may be devoted to you with all our heart
and be ever united in prayer.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people and said: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the Lord, my God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land you are entering to occupy. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.’ For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”

“However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen, nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live, but teach them to your children and to your children’s children.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you.

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

He sends forth his command to the earth;
swiftly runs his word!

He spreads snow like wool;
frost he strews like ashes.

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.

He has not done thus for any other nation;
his ordinances he has not made known to them.

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

Blessed Mother Teresa

Feast Day: September 5

My dearest children,

Jesus wants me to tell you again, how much is the love he has for each one of you—beyond all that you can imagine. I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus—one to one—you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in chapel—but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus—not from books, but from being with Him

bit ahead of him, and he said: "Brother Leo, even if the Friars Minor in every country give a great example of holiness and integrity and good edification, nevertheless write down and note carefully that perfect joy is not in that."

And when he had walked on a bit, St. Francis called him again, saying: "Brother Leo, even if a Friar Minor gives sight to the blind, heals the paralyzed, drives out devils, gives hearing back to the deaf, makes the lame walk, and restores speech to the dumb, and what is still more, brings back to life a man who has been dead four days, write that perfect joy is not in that."

And going on a bit, St. Francis cried out again in a strong voice: "Brother Leo, if a Friar Minor knew all languages and all sciences and Scripture, if he also knew how to prophesy and to reveal not only the future but also the secrets of the consciences and minds of others, write down and note carefully that perfect joy is not in that."

And as they walked on, after a while St. Francis called again forcefully: "Brother Leo, Little Lamb of God, even if a Friar minor could speak with the voice of an angel, and knew the courses of the stars and the powers of herbs, and knew all about the treasures in the earth, and if he knew the qualities of birds and fishes, animals, humans, roots, trees, rocks, and waters, write down and note carefully that true joy is not in that." And going on a bit farther, St. Francis called again strongly:

"Brother Leo, even if a Friar Minor could preach so well that he should convert all infidels to the faith of Christ, write that perfect joy is not there."

Now when he had been talking this way for a distance of two miles, Brother Leo in great amazement asked him: "Father, I beg you in God's name to tell me where perfect joy is."

And St. Francis replied, "When we come to St. Mary of the Angels, soaked by the rain and frozen by the cold, all soiled with mud and suffering from hunger, and we ring at the gate of the Place and the brother porter comes and says angrily: 'Who are you?' And we say: 'We are two of your brothers.' And he contradicts us, saying: 'You are not telling the truth. Rather you are two rascals who go around deceiving people and stealing what they give to the poor. Go away.' And he does not open for us, but makes us stand outside in the snow and rain, cold and hungry, until night falls—then if we endure all those insults and cruel rebuffs patiently, without being troubled

“He is of age; question him.”

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner.” He replied, “If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.” So they said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?” They ridiculed him and said, “You are that man’s disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from.” The man answered and said to them, “This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything.” They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

Saint Francis of Assisi **Feast Day: October 4**

One winter day St. Francis was coming to St. Mary of the Angels from Perugia with Brother Leo, and the bitter cold made them suffer keenly. St. Francis called to Brother Leo, who was walking a



in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you?

Ask for the grace, He is longing to give it. Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as a real living person—not just an idea.

How can we last even one day living our life

without hearing Jesus say —I love you—impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air. If not, prayer is dead—meditation is only thinking. Jesus wants you each to hear Him—speaking in the silence of your heart.

Be careful of all that can block that personal being in touch with the living Jesus. The hurts of life, and sometimes your own mistakes – [may] make you feel it is impossible that Jesus really loves you, is really clinging to you. This is a danger for all of you. And so sad, because it is completely opposite of what Jesus is really wanting, waiting to tell you.

Not only He loves you, even more—He longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don’t feel worthy. Even if you are not accepted by others, even by yourself sometimes—He is the one who always accepts you.

My children, you don’t have to be different for Jesus to love you. Only believe—You are precious to Him. Bring all you are suffering to His feet—only open your heart to be loved by Him as you are. He will do the rest.

You all know in your mind that Jesus loves you—but in this letter Mother wants to touch your heart instead. Jesus wants to stir up our hearts, so not to lose our early love...

Jesus’ words [I thirst] on the wall of every MC chapel, they are not from the past only, but alive here and now, spoken to you. Do you believe it? If so, you will hear, you will feel His presence. Let it

become as intimate for each of you, just as for Mother—this is the greatest joy you could give me.

Jesus Himself must be the one to say to you —I Thirst. Hear your own name. Not just once. Every day. If you listen with your heart, you will hear, you will understand.

Why does Jesus say —I Thirst? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain in words—if you remember anything from Mother’s letter, remember this—I Thirst is something much deeper than just Jesus saying —I love you. Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you – you can’t begin to know who He wants to be for you. Or who He wants you to be for Him.

Before it was Our Lady pleading with Mother; now it is Mother in her name pleading with you – listen to Jesus’ thirst.

How to approach the thirst of Jesus? Only one secret—the closer you come to Jesus, the better you will know His thirst. —Repent and believe, Jesus tells us. What are we to repent? Our indifference, or hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor—He knows your weakness, He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. He is not bound by time. Whenever we come close to Him—we become partners of Our Lady, St. John, Magdalene. Hear Him. Hear your own name. Make my joy and yours complete.

Graces received:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which means Sent—.So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He replied, “The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went there and washed and was able to see.” And they said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind?, How does he now see?” His parents answered and said, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said,

Responsorial Psalm

R/ **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

R/ **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

With your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

R/ **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

R/ **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

for years to come.

R/ **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

March 27

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may desire the conversion of heart that You wish to effect in my heart this day.

Collect

We implore your majesty most humbly, O Lord,

that, as the feast of our salvation draws ever closer,

so we may press forward all the more eagerly

towards the worthy celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord: This is what I commanded my people: Listen to my voice; then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Walk in all the ways that I command you, so that you may prosper.

But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their evil hearts and turned their backs, not their faces,

to me. From the day that your fathers left the land of Egypt even to this day, I have sent you untiringly all my servants the prophets.

Yet they have not obeyed me nor paid heed; they have stiffened their necks and done worse than their fathers. When you speak all these words to them, they will not listen to you either; when you call to them, they will not answer you. Say to them: This is the nation that does not listen to the voice of the Lord, its God, or take correction. Faithfulness has disappeared; the word itself is banished from their speech.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;

let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship;

let us kneel before the Lord who made us.

For he is our God,

and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:

“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as in the day of Massah in the desert,

Where your fathers tempted me;

they tested me though they had seen my works.”

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, “By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons.” Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.”

Servant of God, Bishop Giaquinta

Date of Death: June 15

All that I am and do must be a response of love, and must influence everyone in the city, so to speak, and in the nation. Everyone and everything is subject to this law of love that is received and reciprocated. Before we try to find organizational or practical ways to communicate the charism, it is necessary that we strive for a relational capacity; that is, strive for bonds of affection that are true and free and for a "charity that

March 30

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may experience a new joy and freedom in responding to Your love for me.

Collect

O God, who through your Word

reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,

grant, we pray,

that with prompt devotion and eager faith

the Christian people may hasten

toward the solemn celebrations to come.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the First Book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel: “Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lords anointed is here before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel: “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart.” In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any one of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.” Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The Lord said, “There—anoint him, for this is the one!” Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David.

The word of the Lord.

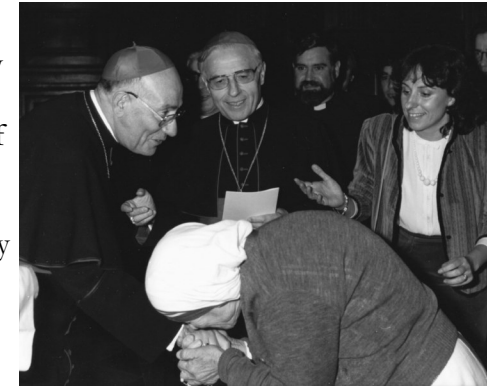
Thanks be to God.

distressed. Blessed is the one who truly loves him and always keeps him near. Whenever we think of Christ we should recall the love that led him to bestow on us so many graces and favors, and also the great love God showed in giving us in Christ a pledge of his love; for love calls for love in return. Let us strive to keep this always before our eyes and to rouse ourselves to love him. For if at some time the Lord should grant us the grace of impressing his love on our hearts, all will become easy for us and we shall accomplish great things quickly and without effort. - *Saint Teresa of Avila*



Graces received:

is patient and well disposed" (1 Cor. 13:4-7). For it is charity that makes us signs and witnesses, as well as carriers, of Christ's love into the world. We should be attractive signs of a charity that is nourished by a deep interior life. Such interior life should become exteriorly visible as the true face of our spirituality.



Jesus,
 May your thoughts be my light
 and your words my guide.
 May your eyes be upon me,
 and your ears hear my voice.
 May your arms outstretched on the Cross
 open me to universal love.

Jesus,
 May your crucified feet move me
 to give myself tirelessly
 to my brothers and sisters.
 May your pierced heart be
 a fount of grace for my journey,
 and my place of rest when I am weary.
 Amen.

Graces received:

March 28

Grace to pray for:

Lord, that I may be attentive to Your presence in my encounters with others this day.

Collect

Pour your grace into our hearts, we pray, O Lord, that we may be constantly drawn away from unruly desires and obey by your own gift the heavenly teaching you give us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea

Thus says the Lord: Return, O Israel, to the Lord, your God; you have collapsed through your guilt. Take with you words, and return to the Lord; Say to him, “Forgive all iniquity, and receive what is good, that we may render as offerings the bullocks from our stalls. Assyria will not save us, nor shall we have horses to mount; We shall say no more, ‘Our god,’ to the work of our hands; for in you the orphan finds compassion.”

I will heal their defection, says the Lord, I will love them freely; for my wrath is turned away from them. I will be like the dew for Israel: he shall blossom like the lily; He shall strike root like the Lebanon cedar, and put forth his shoots. His splendor shall be like the olive tree and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar. Again they shall dwell in his shade and raise grain; They shall blossom like the vine, and his fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

Ephraim! What more has he to do with idols? I have humbled him, but I will prosper him. “I am like a verdant cypress tree”— Because of me you bear fruit!

Let him who is wise understand these things; let him who is prudent know them. Straight are the paths of the Lord, in them the just walk, but sinners stumble in them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

For you are not pleased with sacrifices; should I offer a burnt offering, you would not accept it. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

Be bountiful, O Lord, to Zion in your kindness by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem; Then shall you be pleased with due sacrifices, burnt offerings and holocausts.

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. “Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity — greedy, dishonest, adulterous — or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’ But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Saint Teresa of Avila

Feast Day: October 15

If Christ Jesus dwells in a man as his friend and noble leader, that man can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us. He is a true friend. And I clearly see that if we expect to please him and receive an abundance of his graces, God desires that these graces must come to us from the hands of Christ, through his most sacred humanity, in which God takes delight. All blessings come to us through our Lord. He will teach us, for in beholding his life we find that he is the best example. What more do we desire from such a good friend at our side? Unlike our friends in the world, he will never abandon us when we are troubled or

March 29

Grace to pray for:

To sense the fire of Your infinite love calling me to radiate Your life of charity and service, Lord.

Collect

Rejoicing in this annual celebration
of our Lenten observance,
we pray, O Lord,
that, with our hearts set on the Paschal mysteries,
we may be gladdened by their full effects.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea

“Come, let us return to the Lord, it is he who has rent, but he will heal us; he has struck us, but he will bind our wounds. He will revive us after two days; on the third day he will raise us up, to live in his presence. Let us know, let us strive to know the Lord; as certain as the dawn is his coming, and his judgment shines forth like the light of day! He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth.”

What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your piety is like a morning cloud, like the dew that early passes away. For this reason I smote them through the prophets, I slew them by the words of my mouth; For it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. It is mercy I desire, and not sacrifice.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

Responsorial Psalm

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

An unfamiliar speech I hear:

“I relieved his shoulder of the burden;
his hands were freed from the basket.
In distress you called, and I rescued you.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“Unseen, I answered you in thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, my people, and I will admonish you;
O Israel, will you not hear me?”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“There shall be no strange god among you
nor shall you worship any alien god.

I, the LORD, am your God
who led you forth from the land of Egypt.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

“If only my people would hear me,
and Israel walk in my ways,
I would feed them with the best of wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would fill them.”

R. I am the Lord your God: hear my voice.

The reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him,

“Which is the first of all the commandments?”

Jesus replied, “The first is this:

Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God is Lord alone!

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.*

The second is this:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The scribe said to him, “Well said, teacher.

You are right in saying,

He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart,

with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.”

And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Blessed John Paul II

Feast day: October 22

At this point, my mind goes back to October 22, 1978, when Pope John Paul II began his ministry here in Saint Peter’s Square. His words on that occasion constantly echo in my ears: “Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ!” The Pope



was addressing the mighty, the powerful of this world, who feared that Christ might take away something of their power if they were to let him in, if they were to allow the faith to be free. Yes, he would certainly have taken something away from them: the dominion of corruption, the manipulation of law and the freedom to do as they pleased. But he would not have taken away anything that pertains to human freedom or dignity, or to the building of a just society. The Pope was also speaking to everyone, especially the young. Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? And once again the Pope said: No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in

this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, on the basis of long personal experience of life, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen.

Benedict XVI’s Inaugural Mass homily, April 24, 2005

Graces received:
