

Decalogue for the Sharing Group

1. Meetings are led by the Holy Spirit through Mary.
2. Purpose of the meeting:
 - To become aware of my weaknesses and the truth of being loved by God
 - To respond to the desire to deepen my faith
 - To be open to others (brothers and sisters) in the group
 - To share different experiences of my faith and how God is present in my life
3. When I go to the meeting, I will pray to God for others and myself.
 - Prayer of empty hands or that of the tax collector is recommended.
4. I will remember that I am God's child who has the right to trust and await miracles.
5. As a participant in our meeting I will:
 - Serve others and not count my own merits
 - Create the atmosphere of calm, focus/concentration and openness
 - Not impose on others my ways of thinking, reacting and perceiving
 - Avoid giving advice or solving others' problems
 - Speak from my personal "I" rather than use such terms as "you, we, us, people, we should, others do this."
 - Avoid discussion and criticism
6. By keeping what is shared in the meeting confidential, I will preserve each participant's freedom to share openly and protect their dignity as a child of God.
7. I will not be afraid of moments of silence, since I or somebody else may need time to reflect. Moments of silence provide us with unique opportunities for prayer and entrustment to God.
8. I will remember to attentively listen to what my brother or sister is saying in order to help them in the process of sharing.
9. When I give a witness talk or share my faith, God's grace is not only given to me but it is being multiplied and given to others.
10. Above all, God expects from me humility and openness. Even one person who is humble and open to God can create an appropriate climate during a given meeting that will spread to all participants. The most important and desirable goal is not the format of the meeting, but it is to be open to God's grace and presence.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 981, footnotes 526: Lk 24:47; 527: 2 Cor 5:18; 528: St. Augustine, Sermo 214, 11: PL 38, 1071-1072; No.1120, footnotes 38: Cf. LG 10 § 2; 39: Cf. Jn 20:21-23; Lk 24:47; Mt 28:18.

www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism

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André Daigneault, *The Way of Imperfection* (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary

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Families of Nazareth Movement – www.familiesofnazareth.us

APRIL 11, 2021 ~ SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ YEAR B
SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY
SPIRITUAL REFLECTION ON SUNDAY'S READINGS

PREPARED BY:
FAMILIES OF NAZARETH MOVEMENT USA
COMMUNION OF LIFE WITH CHRIST THROUGH MARY

Opening Prayer
Read Decalogue
Read Scripture
Read Reflection

Reading I Acts 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Reading II 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

Opening or Closing Prayer

Dearest Father, Your Son tells us, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." I long to be Your smallest child. Help me to rediscover You as the One Who delights in me, Who calls me as His own.

My Jesus, You say to us, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." You are the way to heaven. Thank You for saving me and giving me Yourself in the Holy Eucharist. Reactivate the call of my Baptism to serve the Church in childlike humility, "boasting only in God."

Holy Spirit, reveal to me my weaknesses that I may seek Jesus' strength. Reveal to me my nothingness, that I may await all things from Him. Convince me of Jesus' words, "What is impossible for human beings is possible for God."

Blessed Mother, I entrust my prideful doubt, fear, discouragement and ingratitude to your intercession so that I will believe, as God's beloved child and yours, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

*Families of Nazareth USA
Summer retreat 2010*

Spiritual Reflection

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you" ... "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Jn 20:19,22-23

Do we believe in the power of prayer and the fruitfulness of the cross? Saint Augustine affirmed:

All good in the Church and even through pastors is accomplished by the secret movement of the praying and suffering souls throughout the earth.

Yes, the prayer of many souls who are begging and offering themselves in order to have holy priests will be granted. The pressing supplication of Marthe Robin, who in her great passion for priests begged Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort to give the Church these priests on fire for the Reign of Jesus and the Reign of Mary, will be granted. And when Marthe Robin was plunged into the throes of the Passion, one could hear her say: "I drown iniquity, hatred, and impurity in the bottomless abyss of mercy, forgiveness and love in the heart of Jesus . . . I bring all priests and future priests to these mansions reserved for them alone" (June 4, 1937). And later: "My Jesus, multiply saints among your priests so that, through them, saints will also multiply in the world." And at the beginning of the foundation of the Foyer of Charity, the Lord confided in her: "I desire to bring my priests to the original holiness of my Apostles. . . I would like to realize the conversion of priests."

What can be said of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus? One day she told her sister Céline: "I feel that Jesus is asking us to quench his thirst by giving Him souls, particularly souls of priests. . . Yes, let us pray for priests, that our entire life may be consecrated to them." On the eve of her Profession she declared: "I came to Carmel to save souls and pray for priests."

In each era, when the priesthood has suffered a crisis, the Holy Spirit has created saints who founded new communities, and courageous spiritual bishops who gave new vocations to the Church. With a *new* outlook, the Holy Spirit can still give us more such as Grignion de Montfort, the Curé of Ars, and Monsieur Olier for our times.

God can still give us holy priests and holy bishops, true "fathers" who will practice their paternity with simplicity and courage. For a "new evangelization," we need "new evangelizers," new vocations to the priesthood.

When I think of these future priests, I believe that it will be through their weakness that God will manifest his power. They will be evangelizers by their wounded hearts and their poverty, because their evangelization will be affected *not by means*

of the world – communication techniques and perfected tools – *but by their empty hands, having only for a weapon the naked Word*, transfigured by love, and through the *vulnerability* of their defenseless humanity. This *new* generation of priests will be like the mischievous winking of the *God-child* to our serious and technical world. One will be unable to label them; they will be a surprise of the Holy Spirit who always creates anew.

André Daigneault, *The Way of Imperfection*, pp.111-113

References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

981 After his Resurrection, Christ sent his apostles "so that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached in his name to all nations."⁵²⁶ The apostles and their successors carry out this "ministry of reconciliation," not only by announcing to men God's forgiveness merited for us by Christ, and calling them to conversion and faith; but also by communicating to them the forgiveness of sins in Baptism, and reconciling them with God and with the Church through the power of the keys, received from Christ:⁵²⁷ [The Church] has received the keys of the Kingdom of heaven so that, in her, sins may be forgiven through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit's action. In this Church, the soul dead through sin comes back to life in order to live with Christ, whose grace has saved us.⁵²⁸

1120 The ordained ministry or *ministerial* priesthood is at the service of the baptismal priesthood.³⁸ The ordained priesthood guarantees that it really is Christ who acts in the sacraments through the Holy Spirit for the Church. The saving mission entrusted by the Father to his incarnate Son was committed to the apostles and through them to their successors: they receive the Spirit of Jesus to act in his name and in his person.³⁹ The ordained minister is the sacramental bond that ties the liturgical action to what the apostles said and did and, through them, to the words and actions of Christ, the source and foundation of the sacraments.

Questions for Reflection

1. How does my daily life reflect my belief in the power of prayer and the fruitfulness of the cross?
2. In what ways do I manifest my responsibility for the holiness God desires of our priests when I witness the *vulnerability* of their defenseless humanity?
3. How can the humility of our Blessed Mother with the Holy Spirit lead us to forgiveness and Divine Mercy?

Prayer after Sharing

Thank you, God, for allowing me to see the truth about my weaknesses and how it calls upon the abyss of your merciful Love.