

## 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 "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. 1286, footnotes 91:* Cf. *Isa* 11:2; 61:1; *Lk* 4:16-22; **92:** Cf. *Mt* 3:13-17; *Jn* 1:33-34; **93** *Jn* 3:34; **No. 940.**

[www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism)

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Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, 4th ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary

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MAY 23, 2021 ~ PENTECOST SUNDAY ~ YEAR B  
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 2:1-11

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

**Reading II** 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

**Gospel** Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

### Opening or Closing Prayer

**Lord, send forth Your Holy Spirit**, renew the face of the earth, and renew me in Truth.

**Come Holy Spirit**, my Consoler, Sacred Bond of the Father and the Son, please dwell in me. Open me fully to the gift of Redemption.

**Come Holy Spirit**, pour Your light into my heart, my soul, and my mind. In abandoning myself to You, convince me of my sin and lead me to repentance. In the midst of this world where evil is called good and sin is called freedom, allow me to know the truth. For only in You, can I find my true identity.

**Come Holy Spirit**, capture my heart and free me, that I may live in Your eternal embrace, for Your love casts out all my fears, fills me with joy, and enables me to receive everything as a grace.

**Come Holy Spirit**, that Your fruits within me may be reflected through service to the Church and concern for all the Mystical Body of Christ.

**Come Holy Spirit**, enlighten the world and deliver me from sin. Through the intercession of Your Spouse, my Mother, come!

**I ask this through 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 2009*

### Spiritual Reflection

*“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.” Jn 16:13*

Love of Christ that deepens through faith begets the desire to be a witness of Christ. **Your call to sanctity and your love for the Church are also closely connected to the call to apostleship.** Reminding Christians of their obligation to witness for Christ, Pope John Paul II said, “Only profound love for the Church can support the fervor in giving witness. Faithfulness to Christ cannot be separated from faithfulness to the Church.” The Second Vatican Council stresses that:

...One engages in the apostolate through the faith, hope and charity which the Holy Spirit diffuses in the hearts of all the members of the Church. Indeed, by the precept of charity, which is the Lord’s greatest commandment, all the faithful are impelled to promote the glory of God through the coming of His kingdom and to obtain eternal life for all men. (Second Vatican Council, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity), no. 3 [Proclaimed by Pope Paul VI, November 18, 1965])

Therefore everything that you do should serve to build and expand the kingdom of God.

You have received a treasure and an extraordinary gift that you cannot keep just for yourself. This would be burying the treasure. You are to pass on this priceless treasure and share it with others. You should witness about what has been bestowed on you, what you have found, about what you love, and what the Holy Spirit has brought about in you. The more you surrender to the Holy Spirit, the more He will be able to form the image of Christ in you. The Holy Spirit, having deepened the love for the Church in your heart, will cause you to be faithful to your call to the apostolate. John Paul II once asked France, “Are you faithful to the grace of your Baptism?” This question is also directed to you: Are you faithful to the grace of holy Baptism? Are you faithful to the graces of Confirmation? Are you growing in your sense of responsibility for the image and life of your Church, diocese, and parish?...

...You are to give witness to the One who died for you and was resurrected. He also died and was resurrected for those to whom you give witness about Him. Your apostleship should be an attitude of service to others strengthened by the Holy Spirit. You should also pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace of fortitude, which is so necessary to defend faith and to undertake the difficulties of apostleship...

During his first pilgrimage to his homeland, on the eve of the Feast of Pentecost, John Paul II called out:

*Let Your Spirit descend!  
Let Your Spirit descend!  
And renew the face of the earth.  
This earth!*

You will not see the Holy Spirit with your physical eyes, but He exists. Only through faith can you see and accept His redeeming actions. If you do not have faith, if you do not try to listen to Him, or if you actually drown out or stifle his usually quiet voice, then you “grieve the Holy Spirit of God” (Eph 4:30). An attitude such as this, if adopted by you, would be the source of His torment, the source of His abasement through His contact with you. He, who is the Spirit of Jesus sent to you, the Love of the Father and Son, continually reminds you of the words of Jesus, speaking sometimes with the force of a windstorm, but most often with the gentleness of a tiny whispering breeze. It is so easy to drown out His voice and, through your own fault, waste this extraordinary gift that is bestowed upon you in the sacrament of Confirmation.

Faith, which is a necessary condition for the work of the Holy Spirit in the soul of the confirmed, is an authentic encounter of two persons. The Holy Spirit desires to continuously deepen this encounter and, through this, to lead the soul to greater unity with Christ and to contemplation and sanctity in the service of the **beloved** Church.

Fr. Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp.198-201

### References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

**1287** This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah's, but was to be communicated to *the whole messianic people*.<sup>94</sup> On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit,<sup>95</sup> a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost.<sup>96</sup> Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim "the mighty works of God," and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age.<sup>97</sup> Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn.<sup>98</sup>

**940** “The characteristic of the lay state being a life led in the midst of the world and of secular affairs, lay people are called by God to make of their apostolate, through the vigor of their Christian spirit, a leaven in the world” (AA 2 § 2).

### Questions for Reflection

1. In what situations this week have I had an opportunity to witness to my love of God in His Church and how did I respond?
2. Christ usually speaks to me through His Holy Spirit in a tiny whisper. In what way may I have grieved him by stifling or not listening to His desire for a personal encounter with me?
3. How have I entrusted myself to Mary with the Holy Spirit, asking for her faith to lead me to greater sanctity and unity with Christ in service to the Church?

### 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.*