

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. 51, footnote 2: DV 2; cf. Eph 1:9; 2:18; 2 Pet 1:4; No. 2826, footnotes 108: Rom 12:2; cf. Eph 5:17; cf. Heb 10:36; 109: Mt 7:21; No. 2827, footnotes 110: Jn 9:31; cf. 1 Jn 5:14; 111: Cf. Lk 1:38,49.

www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism

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S. C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*. (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary

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June 29, 2022 ~ Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year C 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	1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
Reading II	Gal 5:1, 13-18
Gospel	Lk 9:51-62

Opening or Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

The world of temporality constantly pulls on my heart, although I want to seek only God's will for my life.

Thank you for giving me your Mother who teaches me, first of all, how to discover Your Love, and then how to trust in Pure Love.

Transform me with the power of the Eucharist, giving me your Divine Light to penetrate my heart and reveal its deepest truths.

Through Mary, give me hope and lead me to contrition. May my contrition give birth to gratitude for Your constant bestowals, given to me because You Love me just as I am ~ a sinner.

Let every act of gratitude multiply in my heart into new acts of gratitude as Blessed Mother carries me securely under Her mantle toward You, my Redeemer.

I beg for these graces through You, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Families of Nazareth USA
Summer Retreat 2006

Spiritual Reflection

“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” Lk 9:62

If a true hunger for God’s will existed in us, then we would receive His will with joy and longing. More precisely the plans and designs of each one of us would be secondary. In this way, would we not avoid many painful moments that come when we are so anxiously preoccupied with clinging to our own plans, even though God clearly calls these plans into question? In other words the less we are attached to our own designs and conceptions the more we become free to fulfill God’s will. Consequently, it is easier for us to renounce everything that is not in accordance with His will.

The poverty of a person’s own desires opens his heart to fulfilling God’s desires. Such an attitude is salvific. It frees us from excessive self-preoccupation and fear about the future. If we truly believe that God desires that we assume precisely this attitude, then is there anything to fear? Can our merciful Father desire anything other than what is good for His beloved children?

It is necessary for you to hunger for everything that God wants to give you, regardless of whether it is joy, suffering or death. Even if God wants to give you success or difficulties, or praise or unjust accusations, human friendship or loneliness and misunderstanding, you should hunger for it, because if these gains or losses in life are according to His will, then they are salvific...

What happens if someone lacks the hunger for God’s will? Well, if we stop experiencing physical hunger for many days, then we forget that we have to eat. We could become seriously ill or even die as a result of malnutrition. Likewise, if a person has no spiritual hunger and is not nourished by God’s will then his soul deprived of food is as good as dead. Even though such a person might have been greatly successful and obtained everything that the world has to offer, he is dead. Only those who are unceasingly fed by the will of God live because they feel the hunger for God’s will.

When you desire and await the will of God, as you might desire and long for a glass of water in the desert, then everything else will be less significant. You will cease being attached to the riches of your own designs and plans. You will become poor and, therefore, freer than ever. This kind of poverty opens the borders of your own will’s egoistic kingdom widely to God, the one who comes to you in order to

reveal His promptings and plans. God desires to express His infinite love in this way...

Among all people, Mary most fully lived with a hunger for God’s will. She was constantly hungry for God’s will. This was her singular desire, the only program of her life. She longs to teach this attitude to every one of her children. She desires that you, too, hunger for God’s will as she hungers for it...

To love God means to love His will. The will of God is revealed to us in its splendor as the highest value for which to live. Jesus was able to fill Mary’s soul in the most amazing way because her soul was free and empty for His love, and because Mary had ardently fallen in love with His will.

S. C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*, pp 148-151

References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

51 "It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature."²

2826 By prayer we can discern "what is the will of God" and obtain the endurance to do it.¹⁰⁸ Jesus teaches us that one enters the kingdom of heaven not by speaking words, but by doing "the will of my Father in heaven."¹⁰⁹

2827 "If anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him."¹¹⁰ Such is the power of the Church's prayer in the name of her Lord, above all in the Eucharist. Her prayer is also a communion of intercession with the all-holy Mother of God¹¹¹ and all the saints who have been pleasing to the Lord because they willed his will alone.

Questions for Reflection

1. What is my usual reaction and/or response to gains or losses in life? Why do I or do I not consider it a gift from God?
2. How can I perceive God’s love and mercy in these circumstances?
3. How does Mary, who stood at the foot of the cross, lead me to a deeper desire to receive God and His will so that He may become my everything?

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.