

## 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. 1831, footnote 109: Cf. *Isa 11:1-2*; No. 1832, footnote 112: *Gal 5:22-23* (Vulg.) No. 1285, footnote 90: *LG 11*; Cf. *OC*, Introduction 2. [www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism)  
*New American Bible* © USCCB. All rights reserved. <https://bible.usccb.org/readings>  
Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, 4th ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary Foundation, 2020). All rights reserved. – [www.inthearmsofmary.org](http://www.inthearmsofmary.org)  
Families of Nazareth Movement – [www.familiesofnazareth.us](http://www.familiesofnazareth.us)

## May 28, 2023~ Pentecost Sunday ~ Year A 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

<b>Reading I</b>	Acts 2:1-11
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
<b>Reading II</b>	1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13
<b>Gospel</b>	Jn 20:19-23

### 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

*“Peace be with you.*

*As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”*

Jn 20:22

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 with the call to apostleship.** Reminding Christians of their obligation to witness for Christ, [Saint] 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:

Incorporated into Christ’s Mystical Body through Baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, [Christians] are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord Himself...One engages in the apostolate through the faith, hope, and charity which the Holy Spirit diffuses in the hearts of all 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 VI on 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. [Saint] 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 grace of Confirmation? Are you growing in your sense of responsibility for the image and life of your Church, diocese, and parish?

The rite of Confirmation refers to concrete forms of witnessing about Christ, which should always flow from faith and love. 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.

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp. 198-199

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

- 1831** The seven *gifts* of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David.<sup>109</sup> They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.
- 1832** The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity."<sup>112</sup>
- 1285** For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence, they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."<sup>90</sup>

## Questions for Reflection

1. How can I relate my call to sanctity with my call to apostleship in my life today?
2. Does my attitude toward others reflect giving witness to Christ? How can I experience the Holy Spirit in my discoveries? How can I surrender to Him?
3. Being aware that, when I entrust myself to the Blessed Mother, I am entrusting myself to Her who is full of grace and full of the Holy Spirit, how do I experience this gift in my life and especially in these times?

## 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.*