

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 my 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.152, footnotes 22: I Cor 12:3, 23: I Cor 2:10-11; No. 153, footnotes 24: Mt 16:17; cf. Gal 1:15; Mt 11:25, 25: DV 5; cf. DS. 377; 3010. <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: IAMF, 2012), . All rights reserved. – www.inthearmsofmary.org
Families of Nazareth Movement – www.familiesofnazareth.us*

MAY 19, 2024~ 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 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

*"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now.
But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. John 16:12*

If you are self-confident—if up until now you have not yet discovered your own sinfulness and are self-sufficient in everything—then, in reality, you do not need the Holy Spirit. Your attitude of self-confidence and your lack of humility close your heart to His descent upon you. If you do not feel that you are a sinner, you will not desire the redeeming action of the Holy Spirit in your life, and then you will not receive the graces of the sacrament of Confirmation. **Humility and faith**, the fundamental gifts of the Holy Spirit, **open us ever more fully to His descent upon us and to acceptance of the Holy Spirit Himself as a gift.**

The graces of a sacrament do not work automatically. Confirmation does not erase the faults in your character, does not eliminate inadequacies in your temperament, and will not substitute for your own efforts. After its reception, you could still remain miserable, fearful, lukewarm in your faith, and a slave to the consideration of what other people think about you. The strength given to you by the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation is initially only proposed to you so that you may freely accept it through faith. You can reject this grace and disregard it. The Holy Spirit comes to a person very gently, without imposing Himself, in the silence of the heart that is hungry for His coming. He will come only when you are hungry for Him, when you yearn to hear every word of His and desire His work within your life. The Holy Spirit will come to you depending on the extent of your hunger for His presence and your yearning for His works in your heart.

The path toward maturity of faith is not a regular movement in a straight line. It is usually marked with many ups and downs. In order to reach maturity of faith, you must often experience the faults of your own immaturity. First you must become humble; then you can grow in faith. Growth in humility, which is truth, will enable you to open yourself all the more to the graces of Confirmation and to grow in these graces. After receiving Confirmation, you may consider that you have completed a certain stage in your religious life while, in reality, it is the beginning of your journey toward fullness in the life of faith. It is a sacrament that requires your cooperation. Confirmation initiates something extraordinarily important in your life. It initiates a new process of your cooperation with the Holy Spirit who has come to you and is waiting. He is waiting so that, through the growth of your humility and faith, your heart will be completely open to His descent upon you.

Before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, during the renewal of the baptismal profession of faith, the Church asks you a question, “Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, whom you are to receive today in the sacrament of Confirmation just as the apostles received Him on the day of Pentecost?” In order to answer this question once again, you must stand in the truth before God. When looking at your life in the spirit of humility, which is to remain in the truth, should you not question your faith? How little faith there must be in you if you do not live by the graces of Baptism and by the graces of Confirmation. What has changed in your life since you accepted the fullness of the Holy Spirit?

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp.185-187.

References from the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- 152** One cannot believe in Jesus Christ without sharing in his Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to men who Jesus is. For "no one can say "Jesus is Lord", except by the Holy Spirit",²² who "searches everything, even the depths of God... No one comprehends the thoughts of God, except the Spirit of God."²³ Only God knows God completely: we believe in the Holy Spirit because he is our God. *The Church never ceases to proclaim her faith in one only God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- 153** When St. Peter confessed that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus declared to him that this revelation did not come "from flesh and blood", but from "my Father who is in heaven".²⁴ *Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him.* "Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior helps of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth.'" ²⁵

Questions for Reflection

1. What has spoken to me in this reflection? How does this apply to my life?
2. What have I done with the gifts of the Holy Spirit? How have I been open to the Holy Spirit Himself whom I received as an inexpressible gift?
3. How do I see the relationship of Mary with the Holy Spirit as a guide for me?

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.