

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, 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. 2822, footnote 95 *1 Tim* 2:3-4, **96** *2 Pet* 3:9; cf. *Mt* 18:14, **97** *Jn* 13:34; cf. *1 Jn* 3; 4; *Lk* 10:25-37.; **No. 2825, footnotes 104** *Heb* 5:8, **105** Cf. *Jn* 8:29; **No. 673, footnotes 565** Cf. *Rev* 22:20, **566** *Acts* 1:7; Cf. *Mk* 13:32, **567** Cf. *Mt* 24:44; *1 Thess* 5:2; *2 Thess* 2:3-12

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism/index.cfm>

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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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Families of Nazareth Movement – www.familiesofnazareth.us

November 17, 2024 ~ 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B Spiritual Reflection on Sunday's Readings Year of Eucharistic Revival

Prepared by:
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Communion of Life with Christ through Mary

Opening Prayer
Read Decalogue
Read Scripture
Read Reflection

Reading I	Dn 12:1-3
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Reading II	Heb 10:11-14, 18
Gospel	Mk 13:24-32

Opening or Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

You give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb.

Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.

Jesus living the Eucharist, come and live in me.

Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.

Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.

Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me.

Jesus loving in the eucharist, come and love in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass,

pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world.

Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life.

You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

God forever and ever.

FNM Summer Retreat Prayer
2024 USCCB – euchristicrevival.org

Spiritual Reflection

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
But of that day or hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."
Mk 13: 31-32*

We have to take advantage of everything in a **worthy way, according to God's will**. Everything that God gives us is only a means to serve the end of becoming more deeply united with Him. The fragility and lack of stability of everything in the world should remind us that, apart from God, everything is nothing. Our relationship to everything should be that of a traveler as he makes his way toward God. Our bodies are also fragile and subject to the law of passing away. In a practical way, aging convinces us of this; as we grow older, we lose our strength and physical fitness. Even when we take the greatest care of our health, which is the right thing to do, we cannot stop the slow process of dying. This process is not easy to accept. When we see that our bodies are similar to everything else by which we pass on the path, it provides a great opportunity for us to grow in the attitude of spiritual poverty and the sense of being totally dependent on God. Thanks to our physical weaknesses, we can experience more fully the meaning of the words, "Without me you can do nothing" (Jn. 15:5) As a consequence, we will be able to cling more strongly to God.

When you believe in your own strength, you live as if God does not exist. Also, you behave as if the law of passing away does not exist, as if you will live on earth forever. A person who does not accept his status as a pilgrim and ignores the law of passing away is similar to someone who builds a large castle out of snow and does not realize that, when spring arrives, his great snow castle will melt to a mere puddle. Even if someone considers himself wealthy because he owns a beautiful castle, he is really only a pitiful beggar. Only the attitude of spiritual poverty gives us freedom from illusions because in due time, all illusions have to melt away in God's light of truth. . .

Our days are numbered. We do not know how many more days we have left to live. Consequently, it is better to live one day at a time. We must approach everything with great involvement and with the love that God expects from us. At the same time, we must do everything as if tomorrow we will have to move on and leave it all behind. Our hearts are created for God and only for Him. It is not worthwhile to surrender our hearts to the things

and matters that you pass by as you walk along the path. **A person who is poor in spirit always remembers that everything he does is only a means to union with the Lord.** Everything is but a step on the path that leads to fulfillment.

S.C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*, pp.159-158, 161

References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- 2822** Our Father "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."⁹⁵ He "is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish."⁹⁶ His commandment is "that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another."⁹⁷
- 2825** "Although he was a Son, [Jesus] learned obedience through what he suffered."¹⁰⁴ How much more reason have we sinful creatures to learn obedience - we who in him have become children of adoption. We ask our Father to unite our will to his Son's, in order to fulfill his will, his plan of salvation for the life of the world. We are radically incapable of this, but united with Jesus and with the power of his Holy Spirit, we can surrender our will to him and decide to choose what his Son has always chosen: to do what is pleasing to the Father.¹⁰⁵
- 673** Since the Ascension Christ's coming in glory has been imminent,⁵⁶⁵ even though "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority."⁵⁶⁶ This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are "delayed".⁵⁶⁷

Questions for Reflection

1. How do I value my possessions – my achievements – my relationships? Am I conscious that everything is dust or am I focused on acquiring, getting more involved, or taking things for granted?
2. How do I react when I become aware that everything will eventually pass away? Where do I find God's love in what I experience?
3. Pondering Blessed Mother's life of dedication and trust, how can I learn to focus more on eternal things while not neglecting God's will in my day to day life?

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.