

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. 51, footnote 2: DV 2; cf. Eph 1:9; 2:18; 2 Pt 1:4; No. 148, footnotes 12: Lk 1:37-38; cf. Gen 18:14; 13: Lk 1:45; 14: Cf. Lk 1:48; No. 2546, footnotes 338: Mt 5:3, 339: Cf. Lk 6:20, 340: St. Gregory of Nyssa, De beatitudinibus 1: PG 44, 1200D; cf. 2 Cor 8:9. www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/catechism

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JANUARY 19, 2025 ~ 2ND 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	Isaiah 62:1-5
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
Reading II	1 Corinthians 12:4-11
Gospel	John 2:1-11

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

*His mother said to the servers,
"Do whatever he tells you. John 2: 1-11*

The fragments in the Gospel that speak about Mary present her to us as poor in spirit. The words in the "Magnificat" say that God "has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness" (Lk 1:48).

Mary, standing before God in the truth, recognizes her "lowliness," her being very poor.

*To put oneself in the truth
is to recognize
that without the support of God in us, we could be capable
of committing every possible sin.*

Mary was free from every evil not only by the grace of God but also by her cooperation with grace. Her cooperation consisted, above all, in remaining humble. . .

We observe that Mary submits herself in everything to the will and to the action of God. She, who always says "yes" to her Lord, the one who calls herself a slave of the Lord, fulfills the will of God in a perfect way. She is like a grain that always submits to some process in accord with the plans of the Creator.

*And so, it also has to be your attitude in everything that God has
planned for you.*

You should be like a grain –
*so submissive and absolutely obedient to His will
that you may die and grow exactly like He wants.
Your will should be submitted totally to the Creator.
You will want to die to yourself to the extent
that you will want to be like her, the 'slave' of the Lord.
It is only then that the process of your dying and the growth of new
life – God's life in you – will be realized in the optimal way.*

*And then you will be an instrument through which God
can be served for the realization of His plans
in your neighborhood,*

*in your city,
in your country,
in the whole world.*

Such is the plan of God for each one of us.

S.C. Biela, *In the Arms of Mary*, pp.150-152.

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
- 148** "Blessed is she who believed" The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that "with God nothing will be impossible" and so giving her assent: "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word."¹² Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."¹³ It is for this faith that all generations have called Mary blessed.¹⁴
- 2546** "Blessed are the poor in spirit."³³⁸ The Beatitudes reveal an order of happiness and grace, of beauty and peace. Jesus celebrates the joy of the poor, to whom the Kingdom already belongs:³³⁹
- The Word speaks of voluntary humility as "poverty in spirit"; the Apostle gives an example of God's poverty when he says: "For your sakes he became poor."³⁴⁰

Questions for Reflection

1. In this week's events where have I seen the Lord inviting me to love Him through obedience?
2. In this week's events where have I seen the Lord inviting me to love Him through humility?
3. Which of Mary's attributes do I find hard to imitate – Humility or Obedience – and what does that propose to 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.