

## 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 listen attentively 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. 215, footnotes 30 Ps 119:160; 31 2 Sam 7:28; 32 Cf. Deut 7:9; No. 654, footnotes 525 Rom 6:4; cf. 4:25; 526 Cf. Eph 2:4-5; 1 Pt 1:3; 527 Mt 28:10; Jn 20:17. [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)

## April 20, 2025 ~ Easter Sunday ~ 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** Acts 10:34a, 37-43

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

**Reading II** 2 Col 3:1-4

**Gospel** Jn 20:1-9

### Opening or Closing Prayer

**Mary, Virgin and Mother,**  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life in the depths of your humble faith –

as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,  
help us to say our own "yes" to the urgent call,  
as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

**Obtain for us now a new ardor  
born of the resurrection,**  
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life  
which triumphs over death.

Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,  
that the gift of unfading beauty  
may reach every man and woman.

**Mother of the living Gospel,**  
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,  
pray for us.  
Amen.

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 288 [Abridged]  
*Families of Nazareth USA*  
*Summer Retreat 2014*

## Spiritual Reflection

*If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.  
Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.  
For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ your life appears,  
then you too will appear with him in glory.  
2 Colossians 3:1-4*

If we are not free from sin, then we cannot be free from that which stems from it: anxiety, fear, and the feeling of being threatened. We are also tempted by these seeds of distrust. If this distrust is toward God, then we feel as if we are locked in a cage, and life in a “cage of threat” becomes something terrible. A person is destroyed by sin also on account of the fear that accompanies sin. The feeling of being threatened becomes the final blow to us since one of the most basic emotional needs for a person is the need for security. From this we can conclude that the fear we do not fight against is our fault.

The redeeming works of Christ continue. Through faith we are incorporated into Redemption, which includes not only our sin but everything that pertains to it. Therefore fear, as well as the feeling of being threatened, become a part of the Redemption. Jesus, dying on the Cross, redeemed us from fear and from the feeling of being threatened, just as He redeemed us from sin. All our lives should be oriented toward an increasingly greater openness toward the redeeming action of Christ. Grace flows continuously from the Cross so that we may be saved from sin as well as from fear.

How are you to fight this fear that surrounds you? If you fight it directly, it will end in a fiasco. There is only one unfailing way: **open yourself up to the redeeming action of Christ through faith like that of an evangelical child.** You must believe that Jesus redeemed you from everything that threatens you, that you are truly free. You should say to yourself: There is no threat since He has redeemed me and has freed me from everything. I need only to accept this. **Faith is acceptance – the process of accepting the redeeming action of Christ.**

It is difficult to believe, but it is even harder not to believe. Try to realize as often as possible that you are not alone. Christ, who has redeemed you, is with you. With a childlike feeling of your own helplessness, try to oppose those fears that depress you. Say to Jesus, *I know that you want to cleanse me from this leprosy; I know that You have already redeemed me from it.* Do you know that you could be the witness to a miracle? . . .

You are called to freedom and peace through faith that opens you to Christ's Redemption. Therefore, you must continually be converted to this faith because faith is a continuous process. This process deepens itself through continuing acts of faith, arising most often in the face of a threat. **Then in every situation, by stirring acts of faith within yourself, you will entrust yourself like a child into the arms of the loving Father.**

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp 59-62

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

**215** "The sum of your word is truth; and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever."<sup>30</sup> "And now, O LORD God, you are God, and your words are true";<sup>31</sup> this is why God's promises always come true.<sup>32</sup> God is Truth itself, whose words cannot deceive. This is why one can abandon oneself in full trust to the truth and faithfulness of his word in all things. The beginning of sin and of man's fall was due to a lie of the tempter who induced doubt of God's word, kindness and faithfulness.

**654** The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. This new life is above all justification that reinstates us in God's grace, "so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."<sup>525</sup> Justification consists in both victory over the death caused by sin and a new participation in grace.<sup>526</sup> It brings about filial adoption so that men become Christ's brethren, as Jesus himself called his disciples after his Resurrection: "Go and tell my brethren."<sup>527</sup> We are brethren not by nature, but by the gift of grace, because that adoptive filiation gains us a real share in the life of the only Son, which was fully revealed in his Resurrection.

## Questions for Reflection

1. In the daily events of my life, what are my fears? In the light of my faith, how do I fight these fears?
2. How does the redeeming action of Christ I celebrate on Easter open me up to a new way of living?
3. How can the Blessed Mother help me stir up acts of faith within myself, and entrust myself like a child into the arms of my loving Father?

## 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.*