

OCTOBER CONTEMPLATION

IN COMMUNITY

*It is important to be brave people,
build courageous communities that are not afraid to stand up
to affirm the values of the Gospel and the truth about the world and man.*

Pope Francis to Families of the Most Precious Blood, 30 June 2018

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church. May it encourage a more lively and fervent celebration of the Eucharist, leading to a Christian life transformed by love. May all of us rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for our daily lives in the world in the exercise of our respective professions. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silent within ourselves that our hearts and ears may be open.

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: Jesus Christ, our Master, You are the Way and the Truth and the life. Grant that we may learn the sublime knowledge of Your charity in the Spirit of St. Paul the Apostle and of the Catholic Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of what You have preached. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (2 Tim 2:1-10)

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 34:3-5,8-11)

Response: *I will praise the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.*

Glorify the LORD with me;

let us exalt his name together. **R/.**

I sought the LORD, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears. *R/.*

Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame. *R/.*

Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. *R/.*

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing. *R/.*

The lions may grow weak and hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. *R/.*

Come, my children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD. *R/.*

Glory be to the Father...

Reflection:* *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 15, 141,142,143,146

In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gifts of scripture, the sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints and a multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God's love, "like a bride bedecked with jewels." (*Is* 61:10)¹

Growth in holiness is a journey in community, side by side with others. ² 142. Each community is called to create a "God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the risen Lord".^[105] Sharing the word and celebrating the Eucharist together fosters fraternity and makes us a holy and missionary community.³

The common life, whether in the family, the parish, the religious community or any other, is made up of small everyday things. This was true of the holy community formed by Jesus, Mary and Joseph, which reflected in an exemplary way the beauty of the Trinitarian communion. It was also true of the life that Jesus shared with his disciples and with ordinary people.⁴ Contrary to the growing consumerist individualism that tends to isolate us in a quest for well-being apart from others, our path to holiness can only make us identify all the more with Jesus' prayer "that all may be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you," (*Jn* 17:21)⁵

1 FOR YOU TOO, 15.

2 IN COMMUNITY, 141.

3 Ibid., 142

4 Ibid., 143.

5 Ibid., 146

Silent Reflection

* This year the *Reflections* will be taken from *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis that presents a spirituality of holiness in everyday life clearly based on Catholic Tradition.

"We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves." *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 14

A Prayer in Honor of St. Gaspar del Bufalo

(Feast is October 21st)

Loving God, you made St. Gaspar del Bufalo a priest and outstanding apostle of the Precious Blood of your Son. Through his intercession grant that we may experience the abundant fruits of the price of our redemption. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's intention: That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the church, we pray. *R/.*

Our response will be: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Lord, like St. Gaspar we pray that the love of God excites us to think, to speak and to act and suffer for your great divine glory, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray. *R/.*

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray:*

All: Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist You make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion; sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn