

OCTOBER CONTEMPLATION

Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God, have mercy on us.

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.

Silent Reflection

We pray that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord.

Prayer for the Year of Mercy

All:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy. May your church, with renewed enthusiasm, bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

(Hebrews 10:1-7,10)

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God'." And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

(Psalm 103:1-2, 17-

22)

Response: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits; **R/.**

But the loving kindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear Him,

And His righteousness to children's children,

To those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them. **R/.**

The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,

And His sovereignty rules over all.

Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word,

Obeying the voice of His word! *R/*.

Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, doing His will.

Bless the LORD, all you works of His, in all places of His dominion;
Bless the LORD, O my soul! *R/*.

Glory Be...

Reflection

(Catechism, #1468)

"The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God's grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship." (*Roman Catechism*, II, V, 18) Reconciliation with God is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament. For those who receive the sacrament of Penance with contrite heart and religious disposition, reconciliation "is usually followed by peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation." (Council of Trent, 1551: DS 1674) Indeed the sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true "spiritual resurrection," restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God. (Lk 15:32)

Prayer to be Merciful to Others

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 163)

All: O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into Your mercy and to be Your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of Your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

If I cannot carry out a work of mercy, I will assist by my words. May Your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silence before God – silent within ourselves – that our hearts and ears may be open.

Gospel

(Matt. 5:1-2, 8-11)

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying...

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditation

John Paul II, *Dives in Misericordia*, 9

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

Mother of Mercy

Mary is also the one who obtained mercy in a particular and exceptional way, as no other person has. At the same time, still in an exceptional way, she made possible with the sacrifice of her heart her own sharing in revealing God's mercy. This sacrifice is intimately linked with the cross of her Son, at the foot of which she was to stand on Calvary. Her sacrifice is a unique sharing in the revelation of mercy, that is, a sharing in the absolute fidelity of God to His own love, to the covenant that He willed from eternity and that He entered into in time with man, with the people, with humanity; it is a sharing in that revelation that was definitively fulfilled through the cross. No one has experienced, to the same degree as the Mother of the crucified One, the mystery of the

cross, the overwhelming encounter of divine transcendent justice with love: that “kiss” given by mercy to justice. (cf. *Ps. 85:11*) No one has received into his heart, as much as Mary did, that mystery, that truly divine dimension of the redemption effected on Calvary by means of the death of the Son, together with the sacrifice of her maternal heart, together with her definitive “fiat.”

Intentions

Leader:

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

R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

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 **Universal Intention:** That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics, we pray. *R/.*

For the Holy Father’s **Intention for Evangelization:** That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it, we pray. *R/.*

That our country more fully embrace the culture of life, recognizing in each person the image of God Himself, 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/.*

That the sweetness of the Blessed Mother’s countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God’s tenderness, we pray. *R/.*

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/.*

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

All:

Eternal God, in Whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn