

## 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 (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. 2546, footnotes 338: Mt 5:3; 254: Mt 5:3; 339: Cf. Lk 6:20; 340: St. Gregory of Nyssa, *De beatitudinibus* 1: PG 44, 1200 D; cf. 2 Cor 8:9; **No.2547, footnotes 341: Lk 6:24; 342:St. Augustine, *De serm. Dom. In monte* 1, 1, 3: PL 34, 1232; 343: Cf. Mt 6:25-34; **No. 305, footnote 167: Mt 6:31-33; cf. 10:29-31.******

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Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary Foundation, 2012). All rights reserved. – [www.inthearmsofmary.org](http://www.inthearmsofmary.org)

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## October 6th, 2019 ~ Twenty-Seventh 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** Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

**Reading II** 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

**Gospel** Lk 17:5-10

### Opening or Closing Prayer

**Dearest Father**, Your Son tells us, "Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." I long to be Your smallest child. Help me to rediscover You as the One Who delights in me, Who calls me as His own.

**My Jesus**, You say to us, "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." You are the way to heaven. Thank You for saving me and giving me Yourself in the Holy Eucharist. Reactivate the call of my Baptism to serve the Church in childlike humility, "boasting only in God."

**Holy Spirit**, reveal to me my weaknesses that I may seek Jesus' strength. Reveal to me my nothingness, that I may await all things from Him. Convince me of Jesus' words, "What is impossible for human beings is possible for God."

**Blessed Mother**, I entrust my prideful doubt, fear, discouragement and ingratitude to your intercession so that I will believe, as God's beloved child and yours, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

**We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord** who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

*Families of Nazareth USA*  
*Summer Retreat 2010*

## Spiritual Reflection

*The Apostles said to the Lord,  
"Increase our faith." Lk 17:5*

**You have faith to the extent of your being poor in spirit.** The word "poor" in the biblical sense does not necessarily mean poverty in the material sense. For example, King David, a man at the top of the social scale, was poor in spirit. A person poor in spirit is one who is stripped of self-confidence. He is one who knows that he cannot count on himself or on his own strength. This kind of person is oriented toward awaiting everything from God and is not rooted in temporal things.

If you feel that you are strong in the sense that you possess natural abilities, your faith cannot develop and deepen. That is why you have to experience your weakness; you have to realize that there are things you cannot do. This will be the call to faith. Your weakness, inability, and helplessness will become a crack through which the grace of faith will squeeze into your heart. **Through your woundedness, God gives you the grace of deepening your faith...**

The so-called self-righteous adults are impenetrable to grace.

Perhaps in your life, there is a terrible unhealed wound, maybe an unforgotten torment, a resentment that you have not been able to get over, some kind of hidden bitterness that accompanies so many things in this life, maybe some kind of disaster. You then think that this is the end, but this is not so. These can be your channel for grace. **God must allow so many wounds, so many hard moments, so that you feel weak and, through this, open to grace.** When you feel very painfully touched, remember that this is a blessed pain that makes room for grace to penetrate your armor of maturity and self-righteousness. All of this is a chance for you to deepen your faith. Through faith your weakness lets the might of God dwell in you. When coming closer to you, God must make you weaker so that you will need Him – so that, as your faith and trust in Him increase, you will seek support from Him. You have to be humbled because you are too great – and wounding humbles. Hence, every wounding gives you a chance to become more and more like an evangelical child. **Sometimes it will take many wounds to become a child so that you will walk "the little way."**

God, getting closer to man, weakens him. He does just the opposite of what we would expect. You may believe that it is you who are approaching Him, and that, under those conditions, you should become increasingly stronger and increasingly more able to get along by yourself. However, it is He who is coming closer to you, and His approach makes you weaker – physically, mentally, or spiritually. He does

this in order to dwell in you with His might, **since it is your weakness that makes room for His might.** When you are weak, you cannot trust in yourself, you cannot believe in yourself; and then the opportunity comes for you to turn to Him and to desire to rely on Him.

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp.48-51

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

**2546** "Blessed are the poor in spirit."<sup>338</sup> 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.<sup>339</sup>

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."<sup>340</sup>

**2547** The Lord grieves over the rich, because they find their consolation in the abundance of goods.<sup>341</sup> "Let the proud seek and love earthly kingdoms, but blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."<sup>342</sup> Abandonment to the providence of the Father in heaven frees us from anxiety about tomorrow.<sup>343</sup> Trust in God is a preparation for the blessedness of the poor. They shall see God.

**305** Jesus asks for childlike abandonment to the providence of our heavenly Father who takes care of his children's smallest needs: "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?". . . Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."<sup>167</sup>

### Questions for Reflection

1. In my daily life, what does "poor in spirit" mean to me? How is it manifested?
2. What is my usual reaction when God allows hard moments or difficult situations in my life? How is God's love present in these situations?
3. How can I obtain from Mary, the lowly Handmaid of the Lord, the grace to become more childlike and deepen my faith?

### 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.*