

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. 1360, No. 2097, footnote 14: Cf. *Lk* 1:46-49;

No. 2781, footnote 33: Cf. *1Jn* 1:3.

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S. C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*, (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary

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Families of Nazareth Movement – www.familiesofnazareth.us

October 13th, 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 2 Kgs 5:14-17

Responsorial Psalm Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

Reading II 2 Tm 2:8-13

Gospel Lk 17:11-19

Opening or Closing Prayer

My Lord Jesus,

Thank you for Your gift of the Eucharist in which You desire to meet with me, accept me, and love me just as I am.

Forgive me for constantly submerging myself in the world, seeking its innumerable temporal treasures, proving that You are not my one true treasure.

O my Lord, during Holy Mass, and during every moment of this day, I entrust to You all my affairs, fears, uncertainties and distractions, and I beg You to...

Open my soul to ever deeper contrition for wasting so many graces, and to gratefulness for Your constant bestowals.

Help me to have the attitude of a helpless child and a contrite sinner in need of Your Mercy.

Heal me of my spiritual leprosy.

Help me to discover You in the Eucharist and to desire You as my only true treasure – my only Love.

Transform me that I may decrease and You may increase.

Unite me to You, my Eucharistic Savior.

May our Blessed Mother await and receive in me and through me Your kenosis – Eucharist – and may she always be grateful within me for Your Sacrament of Love.

I ask this through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Families of Nazareth USA
Summer Retreat 2007

Spiritual Reflection

And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and he thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Lk17:15

A person who is poor in spirit is like a beggar because he knows he is completely dependent upon alms, and that he cannot survive without them. As a result, he is not resentful under any conditions and is grateful for whatever is given to him. We should have a similar attitude in our relationship with God.

Why is it so difficult to admit that on our own we have nothing and that on our own we are only beggars before the Lord? If someone asserts that he is not a beggar and simultaneously claims that, because of the graces of Holy Baptism, he is heir to a heavenly inheritance, then he must look at what he has done to the white garment he received at Baptism...

How do we behave before the Father who continuously bestows graces upon us, even though we are constantly unfaithful to him? Quite often we place conditions on the Father. We are quick to see things that we do not like and are frequently dissatisfied...

...Even if we don't complain outright, our lack of gratitude is in itself a specific way of placing pretentious claims and demands on the Father. An ungrateful person resembles a beggar who is convinced that everyone is obliged to give generously to him, support him, and show special respect to him. Such a beggar does not open the door to God, who is knocking. Such a beggar does not accept God's alms, but acts as if he were to say, "Come back later and bring me something else."

In His love for us, God is as if blind to our behavior. He continuously waits for the time when we will receive His "knocking" light which penetrates our souls, and for the time when we will stand before Him in truth, as beggars. If we don't do so here on earth, then we will have to admit to our true condition of being beggars in purgatory.

...How often do we think that the gift of the Holy Eucharist and the grace of Reconciliation are due to us? Whenever we think that we deserve these gifts, or whenever we think that they are due to us, this clearly shows our lack of gratitude. Gratitude is the best testimony to the fact that we see the abyss of our own nothingness. Sprawled on the thrones of our own kingdom we fail to see the need to open the doors to the only true "King" who knocks on the doors of our hearts like a beggar.

S.C. Biela, *Open Wide The Door To Christ* pp. 44-46

References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

1360 The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all "thanksgiving."

2097 To adore God is to acknowledge, in respect and absolute submission, the "nothingness of the creature" who would not exist but for God. To adore God is to praise and exalt him and to humble oneself, as Mary did in the Magnificat, confessing with gratitude that he has done great things and holy is his name.¹⁴ The worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world.

2781 When we pray to the Father, we are *in communion with him* and with his Son, Jesus Christ.³³ Then we know and recognize him with an ever new sense of wonder. The first phrase of the Our Father is a blessing of adoration before it is a supplication. For it is the glory of God that we should recognize him as "Father," the true God. We give him thanks for having revealed his name to us, for the gift of believing in it, and for the indwelling of his Presence in us.

Questions for Reflection

1. In my daily life, how often do I walk away from the "gift" I receive in whatever form it may take, from a mere smile to an overwhelming blessing? How constant is my thanksgiving?
2. What is my reaction when discovering untold missed opportunities for God's love to fill me with the graces He wants to bestow on me?
3. What is the role of Mary in my life? How can I envision her at my side saying the Magnificat together? Do I pray for this grace?

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.