

### 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. 1822; No. 1823, footnotes 96:* Cf. *Jn* 13:34; **97:** *Jn* 13:1; **98:** *Jn* 15:9,12; **No. 1825, footnotes 100:** *Rom* 5:10; **101:** Cf. *Mk* 5:44; *Lk* 10:27-37; *Mk* 9:37; *Mt* 25:40,45.

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

Families of Nazareth Movement – [www.familiesofnazareth.us](http://www.familiesofnazareth.us)

## November 4, 2018 ~ 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ Year B 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

<b>Reading I</b>	Dt 6:2-6
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
<b>Reading II</b>	Heb 7:23-28
<b>Gospel</b>	Mk 12:28B-34

### Opening or Closing Prayer

**Dear Father**, great is Your Mercy.

My true vocation is intimacy with You in the Kingdom of Heaven. May the new model of righteousness Your Son has given me, "as I have done, you should also do," open me more to Your mercy and transform me into Your divine likeness.

**Dear Jesus**, holy is Your Name.

May your prayer, "that they may be one as you, Father, and I are one," become my own desire. Teach me how to build up the unity of Your Mystical Body by embracing and living out my vocation to authentic holiness and happiness.

**Dear Holy Spirit**, amazing is Your Grace.

Grant me your gifts in order to "always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks" the reason for my hope. Thank you that, through You, I can encounter Jesus daily in the Eucharist, the source of my hope, even in the situations of my life that are most difficult to understand.

**Dear Mother Mary**, source of my joy.

"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." As a vessel of the Holy Spirit, teach me to live the Beatitudes of your Son. Wrap me in your mantle, where I can believe in His mercy and fulfill my vocation to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

**I 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 2011*

## Spiritual Reflection

*Jesus replied "The first is this:*

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!*

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,*

*with all your soul,*

*with all your mind,*

*and with all your strength.*

*The second is this:*

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Mk12:29-31*

### You Cannot Love People If You Do Not Love God

The truth that Christ loves another person through you implies that you cannot love a person without loving God. You alone are unable to love. It is Christ who loves in you. By loving Christ and becoming open to Him – becoming open to the divine agape that descends upon you – you allow Him to love you and to love others through you. Opening yourself to the descent of Christ, whether it is through the Holy Sacraments or in prayer, allows you to love others. **You can give Christ to the others to the extent that you accept Him and to the extent that you allow Him to encompass you.** To love another person means to impart Christ to him. You cannot impart that which you do not have. The more you love God and accept Him in this love by allowing Him to live and act in you, the more capable you are of loving others.

To love means to give oneself, to impart good to others. However, it is not sufficient to give only material goods; in the light of faith, spiritual goods are more important. If you do not give them to those close to you, then a specific spiritual “theft”, a specific spiritual “harm” takes place. Surely they have a right for you to become a pure channel of grace for them as you grow in sanctifying grace and in striving toward sanctity. Your growth in sanctity becomes, in the light of faith, the most precious gift for those close to you. You have to question your love, you have to stand in the truth and ask yourself whether you really love. You are most certainly convinced that you love your child because, not only are you concerned about temporal matters, but you also pray for him. Yet the value and efficacy of your prayer depends not on feelings, but on the greatness of sanctifying grace, on the greatness of your faith and love of God. If there is no spiritual life in you, if there is a lack of growth in faith and in God’s love, then, in the spiritual sense, you become a “thief” to those around you.

A mother who is a “lukewarm” Christian and has not adhered to Christ through faith should realize that, because she has not come to love Christ, she does not fully love her child. In not receiving Holy Communion, she also deprives her child, who is precious to her, of special graces. Not being aware of it, she is stealing the graces that he would receive thanks to her Holy Communion. This is because every participation in the Eucharist and in the sacrament of Penance, every time you receive one of the other sacraments, and every one of your prayers are always the giving of good to others due to the “system of connected vessels.” These connected vessels are a system of our tight mutual bonds within the Mystical Body of Christ.

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp252-254

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

- 1822** Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.
- 1823** Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*.<sup>96</sup> By loving his own "to the end,"<sup>97</sup> he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." And again: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."<sup>98</sup>
- 1825** Christ died out of love for us, while we were still "enemies."<sup>100</sup> The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our *enemies*, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself.<sup>101</sup>

### Questions for Reflection

1. In my daily life, how do I perceive the connection between loving God and loving others?
2. How is God present when/if I discover that I am not a pure channel of grace?
3. Mary poured her life into Christ and He poured Himself into hers. How can the example of her life be a model for me in order to become - in a deeper way - a system of connected vessels?

### 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.*