

## 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. 396, footnotes 276: Gen 2:17; 277: Gen 2:17; No. 397, footnote 278: Cf. Gen 3:1-11; Rom 5:19; No. 1048, footnote 641: GS 39 S1.*  
*New American Bible* © USCCB. All rights reserved.  
<http://www.usccb.org/nab/index.shtml>  
S.C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ* (Ventura, CA: In the Arms of Mary Foundation, 2005). All rights reserved.- [www.inthearmsofmary.org](http://www.inthearmsofmary.org)  
Families of Nazareth Movement – [www.familiesofnazareth.us](http://www.familiesofnazareth.us)

NOVEMBER 18, 2018 ~ 33<sup>RD</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

**Reading I** Dn 12:1-3  
**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11  
**Reading II** Heb 10:11-14, 18  
**Gospel** Mk 13:24-32

### 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

*“Heaven and earth will pass away,  
But my words will not pass away”* Mk 13:31

It is unwise if we look at everything that we have acquired in our lives without the consciousness that everything *is dust, and to dust it will return*. Constantly thinking about the law of passing away, without being open to God, can result in discouragement, apathy, or even severe depression. In the end, is it worthwhile to be so preoccupied with everything that we acquire, since these things are only dust, ashes, which we will have to leave behind in order to advance along our pilgrimage?

God wants us to obtain this dust in order to fulfill His will. Because God expects this from us, we have to participate in certain activities. We are not supposed to do this to feed our egoism and pride. Instead, we do this only because of Him. Moreover, God wants us to continue building castles from snow. He does not want us to place our hope in them, however. We must remember that one day all of our castles will melt away without a trace. If everything that we do does not pertain to eternal things, then everything will pass away

Our days are numbered. We do not know how many more days we have left to live. Consequently, it is better to live one day at a time. We must approach everything with great involvement and with the love that God expects from us. At the same time, we must do everything as if tomorrow we will have to move on and leave it all behind. Our hearts are created for God and only for Him. It is not worthwhile to surrender our hearts to the things and matters that you pass by as you walk along the path. **A person who is poor in spirit always remembers that everything he does is only a means to union with the Lord.** Everything is but a step on the path that leads to fulfillment. . .

If it is God’s will that you build something out of snow, it is not worth it to consider whether you are doing something that will last or not. For the person who is poor in spirit, the only thing that matters is that he builds for Christ and His glory. Mary teaches us such an attitude. She was able to see God in every created thing. At the same time, she remained detached from these things. She knew that everything that surrounded her was only dust and to dust it would return. The law of passing away was very deeply impressed upon her heart. . .

Mary is our role model of the attitude of spiritual poverty. She participated in everything just as God desired because she knew that any other attitude would be an unacceptable offense to God – it would be like living as if He did not exist. If you have formed excessive attachments to anything in place of God, then you offend God and bring suffering upon yourself. You Mother, however, wants to

protect you from such attachments. Mary is always with you. Therefore, you can ask her to be detached for you and on your behalf from everything that you do so that you can maintain freedom of heart. If you are open like a child to the graces that God wants to give you through Mary, then you can and will be prevented from forming excessive attachments

S. C. Biela, *Open Wide the Door to Christ*, pp.160-163

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

- 396** God created man in his image and established him in his friendship. A spiritual creature, man can live this friendship only in free submission to God. The prohibition against eating "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" spells this out: "for in the day that you eat of it, you shall die."<sup>276</sup> The "tree of the knowledge of good and evil"<sup>277</sup> symbolically evokes the insurmountable limits that man, being a creature, must freely recognize and respect with trust. Man is dependent on his Creator, and subject to the laws of creation and to the moral norms that govern the use of freedom.
- 397** Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of.<sup>278</sup> All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness.
- 1048** "*We know neither the moment of the consummation of the earth and of man, nor the way in which the universe will be transformed. The form of this world, distorted by sin, is passing away, and we are taught that God is preparing a new dwelling and a new earth in which righteousness dwells, in which happiness will fill and surpass all the desires of peace arising in the hearts of men.*"<sup>641</sup>

## Questions for Reflection

1. A person who is poor in spirit always remembers that everything she does is only a means to union with God. In my daily life, what “dust” does God want for me in order to fulfill his will of union with Him? To what “dust” am I attached that hinders this goal?
2. How is God present in my findings?
3. In what areas of my life can I ask Mary to be detached in everything for me so that I may obtain freedom of heart?

## 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.*