

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. 2305, footnotes 100: *Isa* 9:5; 101: *Eph* 2:16 J.B; cf. *Col* 1:20-22; 102: *Eph* 2:14; 103 *Mt* 5:9; No. 2317; No. 2015, footnote 68: Cf. 2 *Tim* 4. *New American Bible* © USCCB. All rights reserved. www.usccb.org/nab/index.shtml
Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, 3rd ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary Foundation, 2012). All rights reserved. – www.inthearmsofmary.org
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May 26, 2019 ~ Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ 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

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Reading I | Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 |
| Responsorial Psalm | Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 |
| Reading II | Rev 21:10-14, 22-23 |
| Gospel | Jn 14:23-29 |

Opening or Closing Prayer

Lord, send forth Your Holy Spirit, renew the face of the earth, and renew me in Truth.

Come Holy Spirit, my Consoler, Sacred Bond of the Father and the Son, please dwell in me. Open me fully to the gift of Redemption.

Come Holy Spirit, pour Your light into my heart, my soul, and my mind. In abandoning myself to You, convince me of my sin and lead me to repentance. In the midst of this world where evil is called good and sin is called freedom, allow me to know the truth. For only in You, can I find my true identity.

Come Holy Spirit, capture my heart and free me, that I may live in Your eternal embrace, for Your love casts out all my fears, fills me with joy, and enables me to receive everything as a grace.

Come Holy Spirit, that Your fruits within me may be reflected through service to the Church and concern for all the Mystical Body of Christ.

Come Holy Spirit, enlighten the world and deliver me from sin. Through the intercession of Your Spouse, my Mother, come!

I ask this through 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 2009

Spiritual Reflection

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” Jn 14:27

True peace is the fruit of spiritual life, the fruit of faith deepened as a result of trials. We receive this peace not at the start, but at the finish. True peace is not so much the evidence of achievement, but the result of a choice. If there are idols in your life – attachments and enslavements that hamper you – there will be no peace. **When something or someone stands between you and God, you cannot fully adhere to God through faith.** Moreover, there will be no peace in you. It would be a pity for you to succumb to the suffering flowing from this.

The peace of Christ comes as a result of your choosing Him. This basic choice, which is called the fundamental option, is the most important one. Is Christ really of the greatest value to you? He redeemed you on the Cross and was raised, giving you the opportunity to gain true peace and true happiness. This kind of peace evoking permanent joy is within your grasp, thanks to the sacrifice on the Cross and the Resurrection. You, however, must make a choice. You have to choose Christ with His peace by taking advantage of the fruits of the Cross and the Resurrection. This should be a process of your acceptance of Christ. You cannot choose peace and happiness if you have not chosen Christ. However, He Himself helps you with this choice by taking away whatever hampers and enslaves you. He overthrows your idols. When you accept that, then this will be your choice – your declaration for peace, happiness, and freedom. It will be the choice made by your faith.

If you are a neurotic person and perhaps getting worse, then it may mean that there is still not enough spiritual life in you, your choice of Christ is not complete. It may mean that you are still not choosing your Heavenly Friend, and there is still not enough faith that begets peace in you. You have to learn acceptance, which is to continually choose Christ. By accepting His will, you choose and accept His love.

In the end, the most important thing, the foundation of this choice, is **believing in love.** What does Jesus expect from me, what does He want? He wants you, by loving His will, to want what is best for you. Christ does not need anything for Himself. If He does want something from you, then it is always that which is best for you. He wants to love you and wants you to accept His desire, which is His love. You are like a small child that does not know what is good for him. A small child needs to be persuaded to study, to eat, to get dressed, because a child does not know how to love himself. It is the mom and dad who love him and care for him. A child is unable to love himself and care for himself. It is the same way with us. We

do not know what is good for us; we are unable to truly love ourselves. We love ourselves in a pure and unselfish way when we love His will, His love, and His concern for us.

Christ is someone who expects something from you. Primarily He is the Will that reveals Itself to us. **To believe and love Christ is to love what He wants, that is, to love His will.** We are to choose Him in this very way: loving what He loves. Only loving Christ’s will, confirmed by our choices during trials of faith, will bring us peace and true happiness that no one can take away from us.

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp.131-133

References from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

2305 Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the *peace of Christ*, the messianic "Prince of Peace."¹⁰⁰ By the blood of his Cross, "in his own person he killed the hostility,"¹⁰¹ he reconciled men with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God. "He is our peace."¹⁰² He has declared: "Blessed are the peacemakers."¹⁰³

2317 Injustice, excessive economic or social inequalities, envy, distrust, and pride raging among men and nations constantly threaten peace and cause wars. Everything done to overcome these disorders contributes to building up peace and avoiding war.

2015 The way of perfection passes by way of the Cross. There is no holiness without renunciation and spiritual battle.⁶⁸ Spiritual progress entails the asceticism and mortification that gradually lead to living in the peace and joy of the Beatitudes...

Questions for Reflection

1. In my daily life, what is my experience of peace and happiness; where or in what do I most often seek it?
2. What helps me to realize that I have not chosen Christ completely, and how does this affect me spiritually; how can I benefit from His suffering on the Cross and His Resurrection?
3. One of Mary’s titles is *Queen of Peace*. In what ways can she lead me to open the door of my heart to Jesus’ love?

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.