

## 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.

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Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, 3rd ed. (Ft. Collins, CO: In the Arms of Mary

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## June 9, 2019 ~ Pentecost Sunday ~ 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

<b>Reading I</b>	Acts 2:1-11
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b>	Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
<b>Reading II</b>	1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 OR Rom 8:8-17
<b>Gospel</b>	Jn 20:19-23 OR Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

### 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

*Brothers and Sisters:*

*Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*But you are not in the flesh;*

*On the contrary, you are in the spirit,  
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Rom 8:8*

During the Last Supper Jesus said to the apostles, "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth" (Jn 16:12-13). On the day before Christ died, the apostles were still unable to accept all of His teachings, since the Holy Spirit had not yet descended on them. Why did the Holy Spirit not descend upon them immediately, at the beginning when they first met Jesus and followed Him? If this had happened, they would have then fully understood His teachings, whereas up to that point they understood little of what Jesus told them. The Holy Spirit, however, could not descend upon the apostles at the beginning because they did not possess the necessary disposition. They were not yet denuded, they did not have true humility, and they also lacked an authentic faith – a faith that would enable them to remain helpless and to await everything from God...

The graces of a sacrament do not work automatically. Confirmation does not work automatically. Confirmation does not erase the faults in your character, does not eliminate inadequacies in your temperament, and will not substitute for your own efforts...The Holy Spirit comes to a person very gently, without imposing Himself, in the silence of the heart that is hungry for Him, when you yearn to hear every word of His and desire His work within your life. The Holy Spirit will come to you depending on the extent of your hunger for His presence and your yearning for His works in your heart.

The path toward maturity of faith is not a regular movement in a straight line. It is usually marked with many ups and downs. In order to reach maturity of faith, you must often experience the faults of your own immaturity. First you must become humble; then you can grow in faith. Growth in humility, which is truth, will enable you to open yourself all the more to the graces of Confirmation and to grow in these graces. After receiving Confirmation you may consider that you have completed a certain stage in your religious life while, in reality, it is the beginning of your journey toward fullness in the life of faith. It is a sacrament that requires your cooperation. Confirmation initiates something extraordinarily important in your life. It initiates a new process of your cooperation with the Holy Spirit who has come to you and is waiting. He is waiting so that, through the growth of your humility and faith, your heart will be completely opened to His descent upon you...

...When looking at your life in the spirit of humility, which is to remain in the truth, should you not question your faith? How little faith there must be in you if you do not live by the graces of Baptism and by the graces of Confirmation...

...While trying to remain in the truth, frequently pose the following questions to yourself: *What have I done with the gifts of the Holy Spirit? What have I done with the Holy Spirit Himself whom I received as an inexpressible gift?*

Tadeusz Dajczer, *The Gift of Faith*, pp.189; 186-188

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

**1152** *Sacramental signs.* Since Pentecost, it is through the sacramental signs of his Church that the Holy Spirit carries on the work of sanctification. The sacraments of the Church do not abolish but purify and integrate all the richness of the signs and symbols of the cosmos and of social life. Further, they fulfill the types and figures of the Old Covenant, signify and make actively present the salvation wrought by Christ, and prefigure and anticipate the glory of heaven

**1091** In the liturgy the Holy Spirit is teacher of the faith of the People of God and artisan of "God's masterpieces," the sacraments of the New Covenant. The desire and work of the Spirit in the heart of the Church is that we may live from the life of the risen Christ. When the Spirit encounters in us the response of faith which he has aroused in us, he brings about genuine cooperation. Through it, the liturgy becomes the common work of the Holy Spirit and the Church.

**1101** The Holy Spirit gives a spiritual understanding of the Word of God to those who read or hear it, according to the dispositions of their hearts. By means of the words, actions, and symbols that form the structure of a celebration, the Spirit puts both the faithful and the ministers into a living relationship with Christ, the Word and Image of the Father, so that they can live out the meaning of what they hear, contemplate, and do in the celebration.

## Questions for Reflection

1. How do I reply to the final two questions in this text and does that help me realize that my faith is not yet mature?
2. In my daily life, how do I recognize and respond to God's presence in my experiences?
3. How can Mary, whose faith never faltered, assure me of her accompaniment in awaiting anew the descent of the Holy Spirit this coming Pentecost?

## 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.*