

DECEMBER CONTEMPLATION

Spread and promote evermore the devotion to the Divine Blood and you will find peace and tranquility.
– St. Gaspar (Letter #2137)

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be a precious opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ has entrusted to his Church. May it encourage a more lively and fervent celebration of the Eucharist, leading to a Christian life transformed by love. May all of us rediscover the gift of the Eucharist as light and strength for our daily lives in the world in the exercise of our respective professions. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader:

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father:

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially: that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Silent Reflection

Let us keep silent within ourselves that our hearts and ears may be open.

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Leader: *Let us pray.*

All: Jesus Christ, our Master, You are the Way and the Truth and the life. Grant that we may learn the sublime knowledge of Your charity in the Spirit of St. Paul the Apostle and of the Catholic Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to teach us and remind us of what You have preached. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Reading: (1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, 19-20)

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God...

After all, it is you—you, no less than others!—who are our hope, our joy, and our reason for boasting of our victory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes. Indeed, you are our pride and our joy!

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (*Psalm 145:1-7*)

Response: *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

I will exalt you, my God and King, and praise your name forever and ever.

I will praise you every day; yes, I will praise you forever. **R/.**

Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!

No one can measure his greatness. **R/.**

Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts;

let them proclaim your power. **R/.**

I will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles. **R/.**

Your awe-inspiring deeds will be on every tongue; I will proclaim your greatness. **R/.**

Everyone will share the story of your wonderful goodness;

they will sing with joy about your righteousness. **R/.**

Glory be to the Father...

Prayer for Missionaries

All: Lord our God, loving Father, we humbly pray to You for our beloved missionaries, heralds of the Gospel. May our prayers reach their hearts that they may feel our love, our strength, and our faith that they continue the mission entrusted to them with Your zeal. May their presence in our community be a reminder of Your presence among us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Meditation: CHAPTER III - THE LIFE OF PRIESTS

Christ, whom the Father sanctified, consecrated and sent into the world [John 10:36] "gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and cleanse for Himself an acceptable people, pursuing good works" (Titus 2:14), and thus through suffering entered into His glory.[Luke 24:26] In like fashion, priests consecrated by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and sent by Christ must mortify the works of the flesh in themselves and give themselves entirely to the service of men. It is in this way that they can go forward in that holiness with which Christ endows them to perfect man.[cf. Eph. 4:14]

Hence, those who exercise the ministry of the spirit and of justice [cf 2 Cor. 3:8-9] will be confirmed in the life of the spirit, so long as they are open to the Spirit of Christ, who gives them life and direction.

By the sacred actions which are theirs daily as well as by their entire ministry which they share with the bishop and their fellow priests, they are directed to perfection in their lives. Holiness does much for priests in carrying on a fruitful ministry. Although divine grace could use unworthy ministers to effect the work of salvation, yet for the most part God chooses, to show forth His wonders, those who are more open to the power and direction of the Holy Spirit, and who can by reason of their close union with Christ and their holiness of life say with St. Paul: "And yet I am alive; or rather, not I; it is Christ that lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

Hence, this holy council, to fulfill its pastoral desires of an internal renewal of the Church, of the spread of the Gospel in every land and of a dialogue with the world of today, strongly urges all priests that they strive always for that growth in holiness by which they will become consistently better instruments in the service of the whole People of God, using for this purpose those means which the Church has approved.[*Sacerdoti Nostri*, John XXIII, #545ff]

(*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests*, #12)

Silent Reflection

A Christmas Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray.*

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intentions

Leader:

Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, you have loved us with an everlasting love, and have established your friendship with us. We desire to live as you live, following you as your disciples along the path of holiness. Help us to share the good news of your love and your salvation to many others on life's journey. Amen.

Our response will be: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

O God, by the power of your forgiveness you made us "new creatures" again, let us always walk in conformity to your Word and your will, toward the masterpiece of love you have prepared for us, let us pray. *R/.*

O God, you call the Church to be a sign of salvation and the light of the world, grant her courage and strength to announce your gospel of peace and justice with enthusiasm, we pray. *R/.*

For all who hear and read God's word with faith, that the Spirit may touch their hearts with joy, we pray. *R/.*

Lord, You have promised to be with your Church always, may the Holy Spirit inspire many more vocations to the priesthood and religious life, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

For those who've asked the help of our prayers, for those who have no one to pray for them, and for the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray to the Lord. *R/.*

Sharing in the mission of the Church to establish the kingdom of God we pray:

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray:*

All: Lord Jesus, in the Eucharist You make your dwelling among us and become our traveling companion; sustain our Christian communities so that they may be ever more open to listening and accepting your Word. May they draw from the Eucharist a renewed commitment to spreading in society, by the proclamation of your Gospel, the signs and deeds of an attentive and active charity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn