

APRIL CONTEMPLATION

Let us cultivate ourselves deeply in humility and prayer and we shall do great good.

– St. Gaspar (*Letter #402*)

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 young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

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: (*John 19-23, 30-31*)

So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

In his disciple's presence Jesus performed many other miracles which have not been written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (*Psalm 98:1-3*)

***Response: Sing a new song to the Lord.
He has done wonderful things.***

Sing a new song to the Lord.

He has done wonderful things. ***R/:***

By the power of his right hand and his holy arm

he has saved his people. ***R/:***

The Lord has made known his power to save.

He has shown the nations that he does what is right. ***R/:***

He has shown his faithful love

to the people of Israel. ***R/:***

People from one end of the earth to the other

have seen that our God has saved us. ***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

Priests act especially in the person of Christ as ministers of holy things, particularly in the Sacrifice of the Mass, the sacrifice of Christ who gave Himself for the sanctification of men. Hence, they are asked to take example from that with which they deal, and inasmuch as they celebrate the mystery of the Lord's death they should keep their bodies free of wantonness and lusts.[Cf. Roman Pontifical on the ordination of priests] In the mystery of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, in which priests fulfill their greatest task, the work of our redemption is being constantly carried on; and hence the daily celebration of Mass is strongly urged, since even if there cannot be present a number of the faithful, it is still an act of Christ and of the Church.[Cf. Second Vatican Council, *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 26 and 27] Thus when priests join in the act of Christ the Priest, they offer themselves entirely to God, and when they are nourished with the Body of Christ they profoundly share in the love of Him who gives Himself as food to the faithful. In like fashion they are united with the intention and love of Christ when they administer the sacraments. This is true in a special way when in the performance of their duty in the Sacrament of Penance they show themselves altogether and always ready whenever the sacrament is reasonably sought by the faithful. In the recitation of the Divine Office, they offer the voice of the Church which perseveres in prayer in the name of the whole human race, together with Christ who "lives on still to make intercession on our behalf." (*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests*, #13)

Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Easter Season

Leader: *Let us pray.*

Jesus, you drank deeply of the cup of human suffering and death, reconciled all creation to your Eternal Father, and brought us to new life in You. Help me to shout the Good News of Your Resurrection by how I live, what I do, and how I love.

Heavenly Father, may we who have meditated on the death and resurrection of Jesus be filled with hope and joy. Confident of His presence among us and of His power to touch us, to teach us, to heal us, and to forgive us, may we have the strength and the power to bring His love and His peace to all the people we meet. May the Risen Lord be our Peace. 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.*

God of love, you have freed us from sin; grant us conversion of heart to always choose what is good and to reject violence and intolerance, we pray. *R/:*

In thanksgiving for Christ, the Anointed One of God, through whom all those anointed with the sacramental oils of the Church are raised to new life, we pray. *R/.*

For the entire human race, that it may spread throughout the world the joyful news that in Christ peace is made between human beings and God, between all people, and between all who are our brothers and sisters, 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