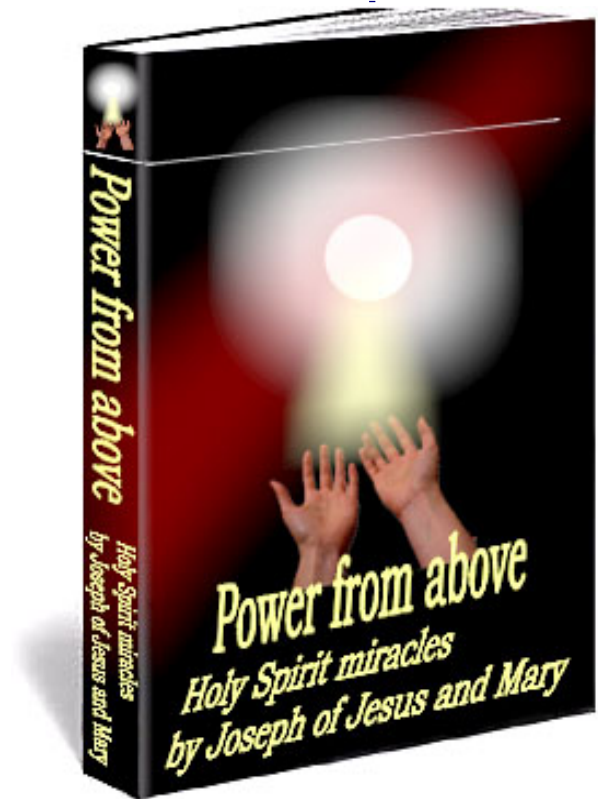


Power from above - Holy Spirit miracles

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The Work of God

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Foreword

A great power from above is ready to descend upon us. This power is the power of God that is ready to transform our lives and the lives of others.

Like a hidden treasure, the power that God is offering us is mostly ignored. It is because of our limited knowledge of God that we may spend our lives in misery, we may lack things, we may want to see people being healed but it never happens, we may need our own healing but we don't seem to get any answers. In order to have that divine power acting on our behalf, we need to activate it otherwise it will be wasted.

We are pure spirits hidden by our intellects; we are immortal children of God hidden in our human nature. We are very powerful beings, whose power is annihilated by our lack of faith.

The power that God sends is not restricted to any human being. It does not depend on our age or education. God gives this power to everyone, conditions applied of course.

God has revealed His Word to us in the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus has given us all this knowledge of God His Father so that through our faith in Him we can become God's children.

As God's children, the treasures of Heaven are open to us even while we are here on earth; they are like a reward to those who are willing to follow Jesus.

Matthew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

As we become disciples of Jesus, we receive His instructions on how to do the Will of the Father and we are given the power to act as his instruments.

The writings we are about to read are a lived testimony attesting to the power of God being manifested through prayer. Miracles have proven the reality of the following lines, so for your sake, for the sake of others and for the Glory of God, please open your heart and share the power from above.

The knowledge of this book is really a treasure that has made spiritually rich all the saints, it is a beautiful guide that will inspire you to know, love and serve God as never before. The result will be the supernatural power of God being released in ways never imagined.

Words simply don't describe the joy that is encountered living in communion with the Spirit of God. The gift is not like any earthly gift that perishes, the gift from above is God Himself.

About the author

The author of this book *Power from above*, is also the author of "Messages from Jesus, Mary and the God the Father" and "The Holy Gospels explained by Jesus."

He is a Catholic person who went through the process of a re-conversion into the Catholic faith. The experiences with the Holy Spirit began in 1993, many of them are related in the book of messages, the author is still receiving messages, mostly before or after Holy Communion, not in the way of apparitions but through interior locutions.

As a result of his conversion, this father of three children, residing in Sydney Australia assumed the name Joseph of Jesus and Mary in thanksgiving to God for his gifts.

These spiritual experiences lived by Joseph have been submitted to a spiritual director for analysis, and they have been found to be free from doctrinal errors. They echo the teachings of the Holy Scriptures and confirm the teachings of the Catholic Church. They disclose the spiritual reality of every person, the closeness we have to God.

The Lord himself wants this work to be published and known, it is available to anyone of any religion or faith who wants to know God in an intimate way. Pray to the Holy Spirit for discernment and guidance.

This work is a simple path to a deeper conversion and to a life in Christ. The messages received by the author changed completely his life, they have also touched many people in the Work of God Apostolate, including persons who received miracles from Our Lord as a result of prayers of intercession.

More works by the same author include prayers of inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the Treasury of Prayers. Available at the website.

Let us allow God to work in our lives, since this is really "The Work of God"

Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Disclaimer

The Work of God Apostolate is not responsible for any misinterpretation of these writings. These writings are the voice of God to a privileged soul, they are not a substitute for the teachings of the Catholic Church.

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Joseph Andrews

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The Work of God Apostolate

Power from above

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

So what is that power that we will receive when the Holy Spirit comes?

To have power is a very tempting invitation. Jesus invited the apostles and everyone who believes in Him to receive the power from above, the power of the Holy Spirit.

The power from above is not as any earthly limited power, it happens to be the same power of God which is the creative power that sustains the universe.

The dynamic power of God has the ability to transform a simple human being Into a perfect child of God who is capable of doing the will of God and of becoming His instrument to carry out His work and to even participate in the execution of miracles.

The world provides us with lots of temptations to have pleasures, riches and power. All these things may be good for us at first, but in the long run overcome the soul and dissipate our spirituality. The power of the world is very dangerous because it gets mixed with pride and the result is to destroy the spirituality of man, therefore robbing him the ability to receive the power from above. Once we receive that power we have more options in our life. (2 Timothy 1:7) for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

I am writing these lines as a witness of this power of God which is present in the Holy Spirit. I never imagined that without being a saint I would be able to witness that holy power perform miracles of healing and respond to my humble prayers. I have received messages from God teaching me how to acquire this power, I never boast about it; on the contrary this is a reason for me to humble myself even more before the presence of God. The power of God cannot be misused because it carries a holy purpose. Either we use it for good or it does not occur. The power of the Holy Spirit is only carried out when our will is in accordance with the will of God.

Many people attempt to obtain power to change physical laws; they seek to find knowledge of the occult for their purpose. They end up taking the road of perdition because they are defying

the Will of God.

The Acts of the Apostles tell us about a case of a magician

Acts 8:9-11

9 Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great.

10 All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great."

11 And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Acts 8:18-24

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money!

21 You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God.

22 Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness."

The power of God has nothing to do with magic, it is a gift of faith and it is very pure.

It is my desire to share these findings so that we can all glorify God and become his faithful instruments. The power of God is very real, miracles are happening today as in the time of Jesus. The source is open; all we need to do is to learn how to come to the gates and we also need a key.

We have been created to share the power of God because we are His children. All we need to do is to become aware of the reality of the gifts of God and to merit them by becoming his friends.

All the gifts of God can be obtained if we change our worldly spirit for the Holy Spirit of God. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, we must empty our temples of the spirit of the world and allow the Holy Spirit to manifest, think, will and act through us. This is not an impossible task; we are going to discover how to achieve that.

Sharing God's power

It may seem ambitious to conceive such an idea in our minds, but this is precisely what this subject is all about. God is absolute, all powerful, all loving, all merciful and all kind. He has made us in his image; therefore we are his children, with the potential of becoming like Him.

If we find ourselves in a miserable state before Him it is because we have chosen to do so, He has given us the way to become his beloved children and if we listen to his voice and learn, we may enjoy the good things that He has prepared for us in this world and the world to come.

Although this book has many religious connotations, it is intended to show us that we don't have to be saints to enjoy the good things that God has provided for us. It will be an awakening to the probabilities of success that can be found if we ally ourselves with God and follow his own directions to accomplish what is humanly impossible.

The power of God is something beyond our minds. God has the power to materialize any desire whether physical or spiritual. He created the world for us his children, and he created us so that we would know Him, love Him and serve Him. Somehow he created us so that we could be his temples, his house, and that is the concept that we must be very familiar with.

To please God and fulfill His desires for us is precisely the key to a life full of success and happiness, since our Father God created us to be happy and to enjoy His creation.

When we truly know God as He wants us to know Him, we will discover that He has been hiding only in our indifference and that He will reveal Himself to us in the same proportion that we open up to Him.

When we start truly loving God by corresponding to His own love then we will start receiving lavishly in the same way that any son receives from his rich and good earthly father.

We have been created also for the purpose of serving God. And when we truly serve Him, by obeying his commands and by loving our brothers then we will start fulfilling our function as true sons of God.

So by following these three principles of knowing, loving and serving God, we actually become his beloved children, who can ask and will receive because this is divine law.

We will dedicate more time to these three principles in order to be more acquainted with God so that we can experience his love to the full and that we may learn to live by His divine will.

Understanding who we are

We all come to the world with a cloud of ignorance, we have to learn everything in a process that starts in our mother's womb and concludes at the moment in which we expire.

Our first knowledge comes from our parents who teach us basically that they are our protectors and benefactors and we learn also a few things about God.

At the age of reason we start to form our own perceptions of God. From then on it depends greatly on our faith to accept God as our Heavenly Father and live that principle or to simply keep God as a concept that is far away from reality.

If we stall at our intellectual level and decide to make our own understanding of ourselves, then we will be confined to an existence similar to that of animals and other creatures that simply are born, grow, exist for some time and then die.

Unless we are taught by God, we will not truly understand our spiritual reality. Whether it is through the teachings that have been entrusted to the Catholic Church or whether we understand the Holy Bible without distortion or whether we receive inspirations from the Holy

Spirit.

We are pure spirits hidden by our intellects; we are immortal children of God hidden in our human nature. We are very powerful beings, whose power is annihilated by our lack of faith.

The intellect must be overcome by faith in God which begins with the teachings of our parents and grows as we learn about God in the Holy Scriptures.

Faith is like a beautiful floral plant that has to be planted and cultivated if we desire to see beautiful flowers some day. Of course not all of us are interested in beautiful plants, not all of us are interested in cultivating faith especially as we live in these times of hedonism, materialism and lack of spiritual insight.

To be able to move mountains we have to have great faith says the Lord (Matthew 17:20) He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." This implies tremendous power from above, and this is exactly what God is offering, his own power at the tip of our faith.

When we intend to move something physically we have to spend energy in proportion to the thing to be moved. When we decide to alter any physical law by praying for a miracle, we must use faith energy which is precious in the eyes of God.

Here comes the test. If we need a big favor from God, do we have enough faith to ask? Do we deserve to receive what we are asking for? Are we really sons of God to ask for miracles or are merely strangers to Him trying to be smart?

It depends on what we believe if our prayers may be answered or rejected. It also depends on our state of humility before God and the position of God's will in respect of the situation we are asking for. Therefore we really have to know God, or have a mind thinking with God's thoughts, since He even complains because we don't (Isaiah 55:8-9)

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

This is not impossible to achieve since God has revealed his love for us and has made available anything that we need. The question is how to learn to tap on that heavenly power that is our gift.

How should we see ourselves in the eyes of God?

When I look at myself in the eyes of God, I must see myself as nothing.

We are really nothing compared to the whole universe if we simply think in physical terms, because the universe is infinite and God created it. So we may conclude that God is greater than the universe. But it does not stop there, God is master of time and space, therefore our understanding of His might is very limited, we will never fully understand the power of God.

We are spirits created by God who is the Father of all spirits, (Hebrews 12:9) Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

And yet we do not even discern our own spirit, we fall prey to evil spirits and we fail to fully understand the power of the spirit that transcends matter and time.

But God sent Jesus his son to the world so that we might believe in Him and had the power to become God's children. (John 1:12) But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

If we know Jesus, we also know the Father (John 14:7)

John 14:7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

When we then think of being God's children, we understand that we are not really everything we know about ourselves but something greater in the eyes of God who has his own designs for our spiritual present and future life.

At some stage of our lives we will have these questions:

Who am I?

Where do I come from?

Where am I going?

What is my purpose in life?

The answers are:

I am a child of God.

I come from God.

I am going to God.

I am here to know God, to love Him and to serve Him.

Simple as that! But we must overcome the barriers of our intellects and accept the vision of the spirit that is calling us to be children of God.

Once we accept that we are part of God's family, we will be in a position to behave like children of God, to assume our responsibilities and to enjoy the benefits of our relationship.

Knowing God

One of the greatest pleasures of life is to know people and to have friends. Knowing God and having His friendship derives the greatest joy that any human being can have.

Many of the ancient civilizations believed that the sun was a God, but God is far superior to any of His creatures, as a matter of fact the sun being as big as it is, is only like a speck of dust in this huge material universe that we know.

Without the sun the earth could not exist, since it must turn around it and receive its light and

warmth.

We don't have to look at sun to know that it is there, we can feel its warmth, we are able to see because it illuminates the things we see. When it is dark we can see nothing. All creatures are aware of the sun. As human beings we have the option to look up and acknowledge that the sun is a great part of creation.

The sun plays a very important role in our existence, but going further into the spiritual part of our existence we begin to know that God is at the highest level above creation, we must admit that without Him we would be nothing.

In a similar way that the earth depends on the sun, we depend on God. We must turn around Him; He must be the centre of our lives. We must receive His light and warmth to exist. Without God we could not exist, creation as we know it could not exist, since creation comes from God and nothing exists that has not been created by God.

We don't have to wonder where God is, since we know that he is all around us; in fact, in Him we live, we move and have our beings. (Acts 17:28)

We live because he has given us life; we move because we have the gift of movement, we have our being in Him which is a true miracle. Who can create life but God?

Then we have the option to know that God who created us if we look up spiritually acknowledging the greatness of His being.

The material man does not look up; he belongs to the world, he only looks down to the world. He lives for material things; riches, honours, power and pleasures, things that only are available during our short material existence. In his pride he does not need to look up to anyone nor to God.

But how can we know God? We start knowing God by acknowledging that He exists, by accepting that He is our creator, by informing ourselves through the Holy Scriptures, by having faith in Him and responding to His benevolence with our prayers and good works.

The best way to acquire something is first to have an ardent desire for it, in the same way we must desire to know God. Desire is like a fire that burns within, if we stimulate that fire with our interest in God, with spiritual reading, with prayers to the Holy Spirit, God will respond to our desire and we will experience the joy of knowing Him.

God responds to our desire to know Him by sending us His Holy Spirit to teach us about Him and about ourselves. This holy knowledge of God is the first thing in the plan of God for us, so that knowing Him we learn to love Him and serve Him.

A common thing in all the saints is that they knew God in a very special way. It is written in the Holy Bible that Enoch walked with God. (Genesis 5:22) Moses talked to God and God talked to Him, they had a beautiful relationship.

All the prophets throughout the Holy Scriptures had a very deep knowledge of God, they listened to His voice, they feared and respected Him and they also presented to Him their petitions and prayers. On this desire to know God and to possess Him we must have the

attitude of John the Baptist (John 3:30) He must increase, but I must decrease. Or in the words of Saint Paul, it is not I who lives but Christ who lives in me (Galatians 2:20)

But God is not only for the saints. A lot of people fail to know God well because they place Him far away from themselves. They forget that He made us temples of His Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 3:16) They forget that Jesus came to teach us to become like Him who is God. His desire is that we abide in Him so that He can abide in us, and we may be united (John 15:4-6) He has taught us that He is the way to the Father; He has confirmed that He is the truth and He has taught us that He is our life. (John 14:6)

Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures is knowledge of God. Knowledge of Jesus is knowledge of God.

The Heavens were open and the voice of the Heavenly Father was heard saying: This is my Son, my beloved, in whom I am well pleased, listen to Him. (Matthew 17:5)

By listening to Jesus, by following his teachings we start a beautiful relationship with God, we know Him the way He wants us to know Him, through His beloved Son.

Before his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, Jesus promised that He would not leave us orphans. He left us His mother to be our Heavenly Mother and He sent us the Holy Spirit to be our helper and our teacher.

When we know God and establish a solid relationship with Him, we can trust Him and we can easily ask what we need with the assurance that He will respond to our prayers.

Loving God

The first commandment says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength. (Matthew 22:37)

If we truly loved God as He commands, we would all be saints. We would not have to be in this world of suffering and human misery, we could all be in paradise because our perfect love of God would cause a change in the way the world is right now. Of course this is impossible because no one has loved God perfectly, except for the Blessed Virgin Mary. She loved God so much that because of Her the world changed and started a new phase. God came into the world because of Her, and the Holy Scriptures began a new phase called the New Testament. This was the time when our world started the present calendar over two thousand years ago.

The Blessed Virgin Mary loved God the Father so much that He heard her prayers and sent the saviour into the world.

The Blessed Virgin Mary loved Jesus God the son, her son so much that we could never match her love for Him.

The Blessed Virgin Mary loved God the Holy Spirit so much that she became the spouse of the Holy Spirit and by that union came the Son of man into the world.

The Blessed Virgin Mary gives us the perfect example of how to love God perfectly, she was a

sinless creature and she was able to prove that love for God. We are sinners but we can still try our best to grow in love with God. If our love is sincere, we can change the world, we have the testimony of the saints to attest to that.

How can we love with all our hearts? If we could love God with all our hearts, it means that we should love Him with every beat of our hearts.

When we are young and fall in love with another human being, we love with all our hearts. When we wake up we think about the other person, we desire to call them or to write to them or to be with them in person. Love becomes a desire to be with the other person. The love of man and woman taken to the highest stage which is holy matrimony is very similar to the union between God and man. The apocalypse speaks about the wedding of the Lamb and the bride. Christ is the Lamb and the Church is the bride. (Revelation 19:7)

Just as the couple get united and become one, man has been created to be united with God and become one through the love of Jesus. (John 6:56) This must be the summit of the relationship between man and God.

Lovers have the greatest intentions to please each other as much as possible. Our relationship with God must be the same and it should be even more since God has so much more to offer us than a human lover.

The heart is the centre of our emotions, the highest and noblest emotion of man is love, therefore we must try to love God with every beat of our hearts.

When we think of our heartbeats we should think that every heartbeat is like a statement from God saying I love you. He never stops loving us so we must respond to this great love.

How can we love with all our minds? Very simple, ask a young man or woman who is in love. Ask a mother.

The person who loves keeps the other person in his or her mind most of the time, they are very concerned about the beloved and that is a constant thought.

Young men or women who are in love will think of the other person constantly, sometimes they get so distracted that they do silly things because they experience love in their hearts. Mothers are prepared to exchange their lives in order to save their children. Jesus gave His life in exchange for our freedom from sin. He paid with his life for the price of our Salvation.

The thought of God or our blessed mother or the Holy Eucharist was enough for Saint Joseph of Cupertino to enter into ecstasy. He would start floating and he had to be tied down because his deep love for God placed him beyond his senses.

Let us imagine how strong was that desire of God that with a mere thought could cause Saint Joseph of Cupertino to enjoy the gift of the presence of God.

Our purpose to know God takes us to a state of thinking about Him more often. We must begin to imagine Him to be with us at all times and in all our activities. We must live through Him, with Him, in Him and for Him. We must become like little children and ask Jesus or the Holy Spirit to accompany us in all our activities. Yes. Let us invite God to be with us, to work with us, to help

us, to teach us, to forgive us, to enlighten us. God must act in us, will in us and fill us completely since we are temples of His Holy Spirit.

Serving God

To fulfill our purpose in the plan of God besides knowing Him and loving Him, we must serve Him as well. And how can we serve God?

We know that God has everything that He needs, He can easily command His angels to execute any order and His command will be executed immediately. He can create anything He wants anytime; He does not really need creatures like us who offend Him so often to serve Him. But He has commanded that we love one another as He has loved us. (John 13:34)

God has taught us the golden rule “do to others as you would like them to do to you”. (Matthew 7:12) He will not judge us according to our sins but according to our good works on behalf of our brothers. (Matthew 25:34-40) He will ask us the same question He asked Cain after he killed his brother Abel: “where is your brother” (Genesis 4:9)

The easiest way to serve God is becoming his servant. Jesus came to serve God and His brothers (Matthew 20:28) he taught us to learn from Him.

To serve God, we must become His instruments. By allowing God to live in us, to act in us, to will in us and to work in us, we become perfect instruments of God.

We must become His eyes to look around and see the needs of others. We must become His feet to go where God is needed. We must become His hands to do His work. We must become His ears to listen to the cry of the poor and the needy. We must become His heart to be merciful and kind and to respond to those who need Him. We must become His feet to go and preach His good news and to be His example. We must become His generosity, kindness, friendship, understanding and love that so many people need in this world.

In other words, the all powerful God takes delight in being with us and manifest his power, wisdom and love through our service to humanity.

The power of God flows into the world through merciful hearts. God’s instruments carry the power of the Holy Spirit and bring healing, peace, love and joy to the world.

We are all called to become channels of the Holy Spirit. Like a switch that is turned on and brings light into a room or gets a machine working, we become powerful instruments of God when we make ourselves available to Him and serve Him.

Service to God must be done with humility and without any interest of reward. If we help someone and receive payment, we already had our reward. When we serve through charity, the payment is a treasure in Heaven that keeps growing with interest. God will repay us some in this life and the rest in the other. (Matthew 19:29)

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life.

The Lord says in Luke 6:38 give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Opening the gates of power

Jesus says in Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.

This is very true, however millions of prayers are not answered; many faithful pray in desperation for the things they need and seem to have no response.

What is the secret?

Well, I would simply answer with the words of Jesus: Give and it shall be given to you.

We must give. It means that we have to be full with charity; we must love our neighbour and love God. We must give not simply because we want to open the gates of divine power; we must give without reserve for the sake of loving our neighbour in whose needs we can see the call of God to love.

We must give also to God. Jesus says "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar's and to God what belongs to God" Understanding this sentence may provide the key we need to unlock the gates of Heaven.

What belongs to God? What must be given to God?

We can quote the Apocalypse (4:11) You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

To God all praise, power, thanksgiving, honour, glory, magnificence, divinity and eternal adoration. This is what we must give to God.

If we can give God what belongs to Him, then as Jesus promises "give and it shall be given to you", God will give us what we ask.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:9-11

9 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?

10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake?

11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

How must we enter the gates of heaven?

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

We must praise God constantly because He deserves praise and adoration for everything He

has done. We must thank God constantly for all the good things He has given us. We must bless God constantly because He is holy and our blessing returns to us with His blessing. We must adore God constantly because only God is worthy of adoration, without Him we are nothing.

When we come into the presence of God we must come with a humble and contrite heart.

Humility is required because we are really nothing in the presence of God, then to have the privilege of being with Him requires that we diminish so that He may increase. We must have a contrite heart because we have offended God with our sins and we must pray for his forgiveness and for our guilt to be removed.

Our prayers must not be petitions only. We must first come to Him with prayers of adoration, praise and thanksgiving. Then we can bring our petitions to Him.

The greatest thing that any person can have in the world is the Holy Spirit, because this is the presence of God within us that will guide us in the darkness of this world. We must pray for the Holy Spirit to come into our lives; to act, think and will.

The Holy Spirit is God Himself in the third person of the Holy Trinity. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, therefore by enthroning the Spirit of God within us and living a life worthy of the presence of God, we will be in a position to ask and God will respond.

Importance of being in God's presence

We are always in God's presence whether we appreciate that consciously or not. In Him we move, live and have our being. But what is to be in the presence of God consciously?

The name of God is very powerful and holy. No wonder the Israelites were afraid to call God's name, they were afraid of being exposed to Him. The name Yahweh is an English translation of the name of God without vowels in the Hebrew language. The Israelites didn't want to pronounce the complete name of God, because they had holy fear of God.

We all know that He will view us naked, with our souls exposed showing our sinfulness, reading all our thoughts. When someone is doing something wrong he will try to avoid the offended person to stay away from conflict.

When we call someone the person must be within range otherwise we waste our time. However the smallest thought about God is enough to put us in contact with Him. For this reason His name is holy, for this reason if we love God we only have to call His name and He will be there.

This gives us a very powerful way to be in the presence of God. All we have to do is to think about Him and He is there. This powerful gift makes our lives being capable of sustaining a continuous relationship with God, and we may pray constantly as advised by Saint Paul (1 Thessalonians 5:17) pray without ceasing.

When we read the Holy Scriptures we read the Word of God because His Word was given to those who lived in His presence.

David was always in the presence of God, he spoke to Him constantly and he was always talking about God. He was completely saturated with God; this is a good example of someone who lived in the presence of God. If we start reading the psalms constantly we will learn a lot about God and about being in His presence.

We must become like little children (Matthew 18:3) Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

With the pure and innocent mind of a little child we should come into the presence of God, we really have to use our imagination because the spiritual world is concealed by the veil of our humanity. Once we overcome our intellectual pride we can invite Jesus to be in our hearts, to direct our lives, to comfort us, to admonish us, to help us, to accompany us in every small thing that we do. We then learn to share with Jesus all our experiences, we talk to Him and eventually we start receiving his conversation.

The soul that comes to this stage is very privileged because at this point, the Holy Spirit will start communicating through His promptings. Somehow we learn to know the will of God about different situations; we receive feelings in our hearts telling us what to do, we receive the call to pray for others, we invoke the power of God to do things, we pray in adoration, praise and thanksgiving, our relationship with God becomes something natural.

We feel extreme joy and peace by loving God and feeling loved by Him; we stop living for ourselves and start living for God. It no longer matters what situation we may find ourselves in, because we know that God is with us. (Psalm 23:1) A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Probably the biggest advantage of being in God's presence is becoming like Him. This will happen because we are made in God's image and He is very happy to reproduce the image of Christ in every one of us. Our immersion in God will saturate us with Him.

Another advantage is that we will have the courage to speak to Him confidently, so when the time comes we can ask and we will receive.

1 John 3:21-22

21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;
22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

Importance of accepting God's will

It is very important to control our emotions and feelings; otherwise they may end up controlling us. In the spiritual life in order to accept God's will, we need to have self control; we must start by changing our attitudes.

First of all we must change our concept about the things we don't like. Yes. We have to start either liking displeasing things or simply ignoring them or accepting them.

We complain about noise for example, but the problem is bigger when we consciously think

about the noise or get offended by the person or thing making it. If we make the noise ourselves or a person we love, the noise may not be so offensive.

We complain about the weather when it is cold, and then we complain when it is hot. We complain about something too sweet or something too bitter. We feel uncomfortable if it is too dark and then if there is too much light and it's bright. We complain if we are too busy, but we also feel bad if we have nothing to do.

Small attitudes make the big difference when it comes to accept the will of God. If it is hot, we should praise God; imagine a very icy world...

If it is windy, we should praise and thank God, if there was no wind the air would be very heavy and polluted.

If it is cold or it is raining we must praise God because this is important and is part of the weather.

If someone offends us, we must forgive right away. Resentments create a barrier between God and us; they are in many cases the reason why people cannot have a good relationship with God.

When Jesus was crucified, there were two criminals crucified with Him. (Luke 23:39-42)

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

We can see that the attitude of the good thief was completely different to that of the other man. While the good one died peacefully for understanding the situation and doing the will of God accepting his condemnation, the other suffered bitterly and did not get any reward from God.

When we have a headache or any other pain or suffering, we are being put to the test. We have the choice of doing the will of God and accept our misfortune or we can become irritated and frustrated. If we accept everything that is uncomfortable as coming from God, we can actually do the will of God and our misery is not as bad.

We must understand that this world is made of contrasts; we swing from one side to the other. We always want the perfect situation but that is not what we always get. Our lives could change greatly if we learned to accept those things that are uncomfortable and become more conscious of accepting the will of God.

The Will of God is unbreakable, we cannot change it, we may influence God's will with our prayers, but we must accept God's power as being stronger than our own power. So, what's the use in complaining, it only makes things worse, therefore we must accept the will of God.

I have a very interesting testimony about accepting the will of God. The result was a miracle.

I used to have a tick in my right eye, it would come anytime of day or night and I had it for more than two years. One day I started praying about it because it was really annoying me too much. I prayed daily for several months and got no answer. I went to the doctor, he gave some tablets to make me relax but it didn't work.

One morning I was working at my desk and suddenly my other eye started ticking. For a moment I thought, after all the prayers I have made, is this the result? I then thought perhaps I have something bad behind my eyes, maybe a cancer in my brain or something like that. I was frightened; my two eyes had the same problem.

So I knelt down and I prayed like this: Lord, I have been praying for this problem for a long time and you didn't answer. It seems now that the problem is bigger and I have nothing else to do. So, I accept the problem now, I may become blind in the near future, I regret not being able to continue my apostolate, I won't be able to serve you as before, but not my will, let your will be done.

Instantly I got a response. The ticking stopped. I was cured. The problem never came back.

Praise God and his holy will. By accepting His will I was cured.

In the same way, when we do our prayers, when we ask God for anything we must do the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Importance of the Sacraments

Every Sacrament is an encounter with God. As Catholics we have a wonderful opportunity to find God in the seven sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Matrimony, Holy Unction and Holy Orders or Priesthood.

Baptism opens the way to Christ, in this sacrament we are placed in the body of Christ, normally when we are infants. This is our initiation in the life of Christ.

Confirmation is a sacrament that renews our commitment with Christ having reached the age of reason. We receive the Holy Spirit from the Bishop through the laying of his hands. This sacrament is similar to the baptism of the Spirit which happens later on in life when we are committed to Christ and someone full of the Holy Spirit prays over us, normally in a charismatic prayer meeting or during a prayer of healing.

The Sacrament of Penance or Confession is one of the greatest sacraments. We confess our sins and receive absolution from the priest. It is necessary to be humble and confess our sins to a priest, he is anointed to have this power to forgive sins and that comes directly from Jesus who instituted the Priesthood on Holy Thursday at the last Supper, He also instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance on the evening of His Resurrection when He appeared to the Apostles and gave them power to forgive sins. (Also to priests).

Jn 20:21-23

21 He said therefore to them again: Peace be to you. As the Father hath sent me, I also send you.

22 When he had said this, he breathed on them; and he said to them: Receive ye the Holy Ghost.

23 Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.

When people are very sick, they should call a priest to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Unction; many healings have taken place after this sacrament. This sacrament combines the forgiveness of sins, the laying of the hands and the anointing with holy oil consecrated on Holy Thursday during a special mass.

And the last of the sacraments is the sacrament of matrimony. Nowadays people are neglecting this sacrament, they are more interested in a legal document than being in the presence of God to commit their union and make this a holy union that will last.

Having faith

Jesus came to teach us that faith is necessary if we are to receive something in prayer, especially when requesting a miracle. Matthew 17:20 For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

Jesus is explaining that the supernatural can be available to us if we have faith, and it only has to be as a grain of mustard seed. But how little must our faith be? If it was only as small as a grain of mustard seed we could have great power. So Jesus is advising us to have faith and lots of it. He says that nothing will be impossible to us if we have faith and never doubt. Therefore He is giving us guarantee of the power of faith. Matthew 21:22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

These passages of the Holy Scriptures show us how much Jesus values faith: Matthew 9:27-29

27 And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

Another example is about a woman who suffered with an incurable haemorrhage for twelve years: Luke 8:43-48

43 And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and could not be healed by any one,

44 came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased.

45 And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!"

46 But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me."

47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down

before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.

48 And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

There are many more examples in the gospels that show how the power of God was always with Jesus and He was able to perform so many miracles.

He left that power to the apostles when He said to them: Luke 24:49 And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

This power is the power from above that God is sending to all who appreciate His gift through faith.

When we ask God something in prayer we must ask with faith and complete confidence. If we doubt we are compromising God's response since he can read any shadow of mistrust that we may have. Not to trust God is an insult. That is enough to stop us receiving our gift.

We must put all our trust in God when we pray, we must believe that He can do it, we must be certain that He will respond positively. And let me tell you: He will.

Petitions and miracles

By means of our petitions we address God with all our needs. There are many situations in our life when we decide to do things our way and we normally proceed without asking God for permission or without submitting our plans to His Divine Will. This is why many of our personal projects are bound to fail.

We must include Jesus in all our actions, petitions, prayers and desires. Having God as our companion, nothing will fail.

Everything must be done through Him, with Him, in Him and for Him. John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Whether we pray for our desires, problems, anxieties or any particular situations, or if we are really interested in a miracle, we must bring everything before the Lord with humility and expect that things will only happen by His power. We must thank Him in advance, visualizing the results for all the things we request. At the same time we must pray without selfishness, realizing that the result of our prayer depends very much on the will of God. We must understand beforehand the reasons why our prayer could not be answered and accept God's decision as perfect.

A very important condition for our petitions to be answered is that we obey God's commandments. We can not disobey God and pretend to ask for anything expecting results.

We must therefore be confident that we are good friends of God, that we are His beloved

children, who will obtain anything in prayer because we give God what He has given us: Love. Love to God is only proven when we learn to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

1 John 3:21-22

21 Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God;

22 and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

1 John 5:14-15

14 And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him.

When God responds to any prayer, He does it not only affecting us, but affecting others. For example: We pray for a better job. This implies that we will leave the job we have, which may have an impact on the company we work for. Another person may be in need of our present job. At the same time the vacancy for our new job may not exist, it must be either created or a person has to leave or lose his job so that we can have it. God knows all these conditions and if our prayer is accepted, He will be in control of all the logistics involved in a way that will favour not just one person but many.

We may be praying for a miracle, for example someone has cancer and is dying. We may not know why that person is sick, perhaps God wants that person to repent, perhaps He wants a family being reconciled, or people being merciful to assist the sick person. Maybe God loves that person so much that allows his suffering replace the long sufferings of purgatory. It could be that the Lord wants people coming back to the faith and the sick person becomes an instrument of his will. We don't really know the mind of God.

Our purpose is to convince God to change His Divine Will and grant the miraculous healing or any particular miracle. Therefore we must be very careful in the language we use to pray for our needs. Some people give a lot of instructions to God when they pray, well, God knows better, that may not work. Others pray with doubts and miracles never happen.

Miracles do not happen every time we pray for them. The power of God is ours to be merciful as He is merciful, to be holy as He is Holy, to be loving with a fatherly love. So when we pray for a miracle we practically must have the mind and the heart of God. This is what the Holy Spirit can do within us, with that power of love within us we become the loving heart of God. We can pray with confidence that our prayers will be answered if they are done within the Will of God.

If we live for God, if we delight in His presence, we will please Him. If we please God, we can pray confidently for all the things we need.

To have God in our lives will become a permanent blessing, His grace will fill us completely and He will reveal His will to us in every situation. Our confidence in God will grow constantly and miracles will abound in our life.

Psalms 37:3-5

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

- 4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

I did not believe in miracles before. It was after God transformed me and filled me with the Holy Spirit that I had the courage to pray confidently for a miracle.

To the Glory of God I have obtained many miracles in over fifteen years since my comeback to the Lord. I have seen the power of God working after I finished my prayers.

Several miracles occurred on people who were due to have operations. Medical records indicated the necessity of urgent surgery, but after the prayers for a miracle, doctors would see that the x rays or scans would show a complete recovery of the medical conditions. They could not explain it, but those who have been cured and I knew exactly what had happened.

God is very real. Jesus is alive. Mother Mary's intercession never fails. We can also have recourse to the saints when we pray for a miracle.

With this trustworthy evidence, let us take courage and call the power of God into our lives. Let us fill ourselves with God by learning about the Holy Trinity, let us learn very especially about the Holy Spirit and somehow let us partake of God's nature. The Spirit of God desires to live within us for His own Glory.

Praying for miracles

Some miracles to give glory to God

Miracles are very real, but we must pray with great faith in order to obtain them. We must visualize that our prayers are already answered before we finish them, this is why we should thank the Heavenly Father before we ask for anything. When something is very important, we pray for a miracle.

Jesus looked up to Heaven and thanked the Heavenly Father before He asked for the miracle of the loaves [Matthew 15:36], He also thanked the Heavenly Father before the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus [John 11:41-42].

Miracles occur when we proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven and then we pray with thanksgiving, this to confirm the words of our Lord " And going, preach, saying: The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils: freely have you received, freely give. " [Matthew 10:7-8]

[Mark 16:16-20]

16 He that believes and is baptised, shall be saved: but he that believes not shall be condemned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they shall cast out devils: they shall speak with new tongues.

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay their hands upon the sick, and they shall recover.

19 And the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and was seated at the right hand of God.

20 But they going forth preached every where: the Lord working withal, and confirming the word with signs that followed.

Miracles have occurred since the time of the resurrection of Our Lord when we ask God the Father in the name of Jesus. [John 15:16] or when we ask Jesus in His Holy Name too [John 14:13-14].

Many saints have prayed and miracles have occurred by the power of God. No one has power to perform miracles because all power comes from God, of course we live in the confusing times of the Anti Christ when the enemy is causing false miracles to deceive many who refuse to love the truth about Jesus Christ, who is the Son of the Living God [2 Thessalonians 2:9-10].

We receive our healing only through the wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ who took upon Himself the punishment due for our sins, He bore our sicknesses [1 Peter 2:24]. We should always ask for a miracle by the power of His holy wounds, by his sufferings and pain and by the merits of His Holy Passion and death, likewise we can ask our petitions through the merits of the holy tears of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

to venerate the passion of Our Lord Jesus is the holiest of devotions , which we can offer to God the Father in the Holy Mass, we can also meditate on the Passion of Our Lord separately and on His Divine Mercy, we can also venerate Our Lady in her sorrows.

All these devotions honor the Love of God for us, and they contribute to our thanksgiving to God who will answer our prayers.

Mary the Holy Mother of God has caused many miracles at the sites of her apparitions, there are more than 64 documented miracles about Our Lady of Lourdes, many miracles at Fatima and others.

Through the Blessed Virgin Mary's intercession we can pray for miracles, with the assurance that the mother of God will intercede as Mediatrix of all Graces and that our prayers will be answered just as She interceded for the first miracle of Our Lord in Cana. [John 2:1-11] We can also ask through the intercession of the saints since many miracles have occurred that way too.

We are encouraged to pray for miracles because this is the ultimate test of our faith, miracles come as testimonies of the power of God through prayers of intercession.

The Work of God Apostolate has been favoured with several miracles since 1998. We have a section of prayers and petitions.

Our Apostolate continues through prayer groups, where we have prayed and received healings of leukemia, cancer, asthma, depression, back problems, brain tumours, ear problems, eye problems, etc.

As well as these miracles the Lord has brought many people back to the Sacraments, some have received healings of their relationships and there are many more miracles than we are not aware of, since the Lord is very happy to answer prayers from the heart.

It is very sad to see that not everyone gives Glory to God when they are healed. When we receive an answer to our prayers, we must bow down in adoration and thanksgiving, we must not be like the ungrateful nine lepers who were healed and did not come back to thank the Lord

Some miracles to give Glory to God

These miracles have taken place as a testimony of the great power of God. To Him all the praise, the honor and the glory.

Most of the time I (Joseph of Jesus and Mary) like to pray in the company of more people, normally my wife, I ask people to agree on the prayers for healing, since the Lord says (Matthew 18:20) For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them. I also ask them to agree about the petitions being made (Matthew 18:19) Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

I always give a short testimony about some miracles that the Lord has done for us in order to increase the faith of those who listen, I always refer to some passages of the gospels to remind people that the miracles come from Jesus, I always pray through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I like to spend some time with the person asking for a miracle and have a talk about miracles before proceeding, then I like to anoint them with oil before asking for a miracle. But many miracles have occurred after prayers done over the phone. Some miracles have been about physical healing, others have been about conversions or spiritual healings, others about deliverance from evil spirits, others about petitions for jobs, court cases or any other problems.

The list is long, but I am only documenting a few of them. The Lord has been truly present with his power. Glory to God.

A man aged 53, with Leukemia

In the company of my wife I went to a Hospital to pray for this dying man whose name is Guillermo, he was having more than two dialysis treatments every week, the body was not accepting the new blood transfusions, his platelets were down, his skin was breaking up, the doctors gave him a week to live.

We prayed over him, anointed him with blessed oil and gave him a green scapular. Three days later he began to recover, within a week he left hospital and went home. Two weeks later he called me up and said that he felt very good, he was taking some medicine but the doctors were amazed at his unusual recovery. He had been very weak, but now he was going to take his sister around Sydney in his car. She had come to Australia because he was going to die and she actually came for the funeral.

Praise God! This was a wonderful miracle, the first of many to come.

A woman who was supposed to have a bypass

This woman, whose name is María, from East Timor came to me during mass and asked me to pray for her. She was due to have bypass surgery, she was only 42 and had several children. We started praying for her, I laid my hands on her, later I placed my right hand on her chest over the heart. She started boiling, she felt a lot of heat and so did I. She went home very

happy about the prayer.

Two weeks later she went to the hospital to have the operation, but on examination she was found to be perfectly okay. The doctor said that she had a very strong heart, he didn't know how she had recovered. She told him about the prayers.

Later on she came to us, very grateful for the miracle that had taken place.

Praise God. The power from above visited us.

A boy aged 9 with a brain tumor

His name was Dillon, his grandmother used to attend our Cenacle prayer group on Monday nights. One day she came to tell me that Dillon who was now living in Queensland was very sick. He was playing at school and collapsed, he was taken to the Hospital where they diagnosed him with a brain tumor. She asked me to pray for Him because he was going to have an operation the following week and the doctors had warned of the consequences. He could have brain damage that could give him a paralysis or something very bad.

We prayed over Mrs. Cooley for Dillon her grandson. The following week we were preparing ourselves for the prayer meeting in the Church when she came in screaming and very excited, she said It's a miracle Joseph.

The doctors took Dillon to the operating room, but after some scans and tests they discovered that the tumor had disappeared. It was a miracle!

Praise God, even the local priest who didn't believe in miracles admitted the miracle and published it in the local bulletin.

Praise God!

A lady aged 74 who suffered asthma

Mrs. Carruana used to come to our prayer meetings. Suddenly she stopped coming. One Sunday morning after mass, I saw her as we were leaving the Church at the end of the Holy Mass. She told me that she regretted not to come to the cenacles anymore because she was suffering from asthma. I embraced her and held her hand while I was praying for a miracle. People were going out of the Church, my prayer lasted not more than two minutes.

The following Monday night she came to the prayer meeting and told me that she was cured, the asthma symptoms had disappeared and she was feeling fantastic. Another miracle to the Glory of God!

A man with ringing sound in his ear

This Chinese man rang me up on Monday night and said that a nun that I knew had given him my phone number. He was desperate with this ringing in his ear and sometimes he could not concentrate. He had the problem for several years and wanted a prayer.

I told him that I would like to pray over him on the weekend because I was very busy that week. I told him that I would like to lay my hands on him personally and anoint him with oil. I told him that in the meantime I would say a short prayer for him anyway.

Three days later I received a call from Sister Anne, who told me that the fellow had been cured, that he had called her very happy about the miracle.

Praise God! Another miracle, and there was no body contact, I simply extended my hands over him while I was talking on the phone.

A lady with painful shingles

Her name was María Erneda, she was a friend of the family and occasionally she came to our Spanish prayer group. She told us that she had this disease called shingles, which lasts over several months in some cases and it is very painful, we went to see her the same day and prayed over her. Her shingles dried up the same week and she reported to continue in good health.

Praise the Lord, another miracle!

My wife was cured before my eyes

My wife Ofelia had very bad eyesight, she had to wear glasses to read and to drive, she had distorted vision in one eye and the other one didn't see well. When she looked at the stars she would see a lot of lines in the sky. We had prayed several times for her vision to be healed.

One evening, we had come back from a pilgrimage to Our Lady on the first Saturday of the month, she asked me once more to pray for her problem. She asked me to pray through the intercession of Padre Pío, now Saint Pio. I agreed to pray and laid my hands on her, I asked her to have great faith, I prayed for about five minutes.

At the end of the prayer she opened her eyes and exclaimed, This room seems to be bigger and brighter, the colors are clearer to me now. Then we went to the balcony and she looked at the stars, she could see them clearly.

We knelt down, we praised and thank God for such a miracle. It actually happened as I prayed.

Praise God!

A lady with pain cured over the phone

Besides my healing ministry where I pray and lay hands on people, I also learned physiotherapy and chiropractic by revelation of the Lord. I used to visit an old lady who had lumps all over her body, they were very painful. I would go sometimes and pray for her and give her a massage to relieve her pain.

One day she rang me up at one o'clock and said, Joseph please come urgently, I am in pain, I need a massage and some prayers. I told her that I was about to leave to a prayer group on that Saturday afternoon, I said, I will come tonight, but in the meantime I will say a short prayer over the phone.

I said my prayer and told her to wait patiently until the evening. When I arrived at 7 p.m., she jokingly opened the door and said, you'd better go back home, I don't need you anymore. After you hang up the phone the pain left me and I am feeling perfectly all right.

We thanked God. Miracles happen so quickly when we have faith.

My uncle is cured of shingles over the phone

I called my family overseas, they told me that my uncle Abelardo had a severe case of shingles and was in a lot of pain. I spoke to him and he agreed to have a prayer over the phone, I prayed for a few minutes.

The following week I called the family again and they told me that my uncle had recovered completely, the shingles had dried up and he had no more pain.

Glory to God! Thank you Lord for allowing the power from above manifest down here. You are worthy of praise and thanksgiving constantly by all your creation.

A lady accused of theft does not go to jail

This lady was a widow, she had a daughter in high school and had to do cleaning jobs to make a living. She was having many financial problems so she made a false declaration to the government in order to get welfare money.

After several years the Australian government found out that the lady was working and was illegally claiming welfare benefits. They were going to charge her for stealing money from the government, she could go to prison or pay all the money back.

She called us crying and explained the situation. We prayed for her and asked the Lord to have mercy on the poor widow, to be the judge on her trial.

She went finally to court and explained the reasons why she had to ask for welfare money she was not entitled to. Well, the Lord must have been the judge, because she was totally exonerated and only had to pay a fine of \$ 80 dollars.

She put all her trust in God and the result was a miracle. Thank you Lord for listening to our prayers. Miracles of all kinds come to us from the mercy of God. Praise the Lord!

An unbeliever lady, has a miracle for her daughter

I used to go on Saturday afternoons to different houses to take part in a prayer group called Maria Rosa Mystica. This group was mainly a Phillipino prayer group.

I noticed that whenever we prayed, one lady would go outside and miss the prayers, she would go to the backyard to smoke, but she always came back at the end when they served dinner.

So we went to this house one day and it was raining, that lady had to stay indoors. During the prayers I gave testimony of the miracles that the Lord could give us if we had faith. At the end, the Lady came to me and asked me to pray for her daughter who was aged 3, she said that the little girl had been suffering from asthma since she was a baby, she always had to use a hand held inhaler to give her relief.

I explained to her that she had to have faith, that it would be good if she could take part in the prayer meetings and then I prayed over the little girl.

A few days later, I learned through a common friend that the little girl was cured, she didn't have to use the inhaler anymore and the mother was very pleased.

Glory to God!

A girl aged 15 cured of a heart problem

We had a friend who had a granddaughter suffering from a heart problem, the doctors said she

had a hole in the heart and needed urgent surgery. We promised to go personally and do the prayers for her granddaughter, but we never organized a date for a visit. So a few days before the operation, Gloria the mother of the girl contacted us and asked for prayers because her daughter was going to be hospitalized the following day for the required surgery. We prayed over the phone.

My wife and I started to pray for the girl, we gave testimony of the power of God and asked her to have faith. We did the prayers and left her in the hands of God.

A week later the mother rang and told us that when the girl went to have the operation, the doctor was upset believing that he had the wrong records for that patient, he declared that the girl was in perfect heart health, opposite to what the x rays and scans were saying.

Gloria the mother rang us up to give testimony of the miracle that had occurred. She showed everyone the results of the examinations before and after the miracle.

We all rejoiced about the power of God that is present when we have faith. Praise God!

Filling ourselves with God

The great secret of the saints is to be filled with God. This is the best way to allow the Spirit of God to move through us and change the world.

To be filled with God we may think of different examples. Let us think of a sponge, it can absorb so much water that it reaches saturation point when it is full. This is how we want to be, saturated with God.

If we put our hands in water they get wet, if we place our hands in fire they get hot and may burn. If we are in darkness we don't see, but if we come to the light we are able to see.

To every action there is a reaction. This is also true in the spiritual world.

There is no word, movement or sigh that is addressed to God that goes unnoticed. God sees everything and is attentive to our relationship with Him.

If we place ourselves in the presence of God, there will be a response from God. Moses came down from the mountain with his face shining because he was in the presence of God who is light. When Saint Stephen was being stoned to death for being a witness of Jesus, he was seen with his face shining. The saints have been depicted with a crown of light, because the light of God filled them and they were seen with shining faces and light around them.

God is spirit, God is power, God is light, God is wisdom, God is peace, God is Joy, God is grace, God is love, God is mercy, God is everything. God in all his beautiful attributes can be reproduced in anyone who desires to become like Him and comes into His presence to know Him, love Him and serve Him.

God is our heavenly bread truly present in the Holy Eucharist. We have a saying you are what you eat. Well if we eat the bread of Heaven and do it worthily and with frequency, we begin to fill ourselves to a point in which we are very similar to Christ. We can say with Saint Paul, it is not I who lives but Christ who lives in me.

The Holy Eucharist is such an important meal for our souls, that it has been proved by many

saints. They were able to live on the Holy Eucharist alone and did not take any other food for their sustenance.

These supernatural miracles, a result of being in the presence of God, they are the natural essence of the spirit. They are too wonderful for us but not for God.

Knowledge of the Holy Trinity

In order to have a deeper knowledge of God, we need to broaden our concepts, we need to study the Holy Scriptures, we need to nurture our faith with spiritual reading and we must practice our faith.

To have a better understanding of God, we must know the Holy Trinity. God is only one but He may be known by the three different persons that form the Holy Trinity.

God the Father is the head person of the Holy Trinity, to Him is attributed the great power of God; He is the author and creator of everything that exists. Everything depends on His Holy Will. The testimony of God the Father is easily seen in His creation.

Whatever has been created has been spoken by God through His Word and command which became flesh and dwelt among us, through our Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God. He came to teach us to believe in Him because He came from heaven and is the Son of God the Father.

The testimony of Jesus was left in the holy gospels; his teachings are the way, the truth and the life. He came to give us also testimony of the third person of the Holy Trinity, God the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity and personalizes the love of God the Father and God the son for us. It is the continuous dynamic power that sustains the universe. It is the wisdom of God that has come to the world to fill everyone of us who are His temples. It is only through the action of the Holy Spirit that we can understand God and love Him.

God the Father

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. These are the first words of our Creed.

This great gift of believing in God without seeing Him is the gift [Hebrews 11:1] of our Faith, it has been given by God Himself because all gifts come from Him. God is the source of all things, in fact in Him we move, we live and we have our being.[Acts 17:28]

God is One, but He is also three persons. God the Father is the uncreated Spirit, infinite source of existence, eternal being with no beginning or end, the causeless cause. He lives in Heaven surrounded by His Majesty and perfections, He is clothed with unreachable light. He is the Almighty, all knowing and all loving God. He is Father of all, the Omnipotent.

God has spoken through the person of His Son, Who is the Word of God, emanated or eternally generated from the Father and yet united to Him in such intimate Love that they are always One and they are always together.

Jesus, the Son of God, the only begotten of the Father is also God even though He clothed Himself with our humanity and appeared before us as a man [John 1:14], through Him all things were made and nothing exists unless created by Him.

Jesus is the Son of the Living God, also the son of Mary, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity Who became man in order to save us from eternal damnation.

The third person of the Holy Trinity is the Holy Spirit Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, He is equally God in infinite perfections and immutability, He is One with the Father and the Son, as a person of the Holy Trinity we understand Him to be the eternally generated Love of God the Father and God the Son, He is the sanctifying Spirit that fills the temples of our beings. The Holy Spirit permeates creation with His binding Love in His eternal Omnipresence.

God is not separated or divided because He is One, He merely appears as different persons in order to express His infinite fullness which is incomprehensible by finite creatures. Just as a man can not divide his body from his mind, soul and spirit; God is not divided. His works are perfect, His thoughts and ways are above those of all His creatures, His Majesty and power is unequalled, His infinite merciful Love is unfathomable and it is the gift by which we are saved.

God is omnipresent, because God is Spirit; God the Father has loved the world so much that He has given it His only begotten Son, so that anyone who believes in Him can be saved [John 3:16].

Coming down to the things of our world, God has created us in His image, so that we can be His sons and daughters. God created Adam and Eve in His own image, He granted them immortality and He filled them with His riches. However sin entered the world and they lost their inheritance and their immortality. God placed a curse on them: "you are dust and to dust shall you return." We are sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, therefore we have inherited not only original sin which provoked the anger of God but we have been given a frail nature, subject to temptation, suffering, disease, pain and death.

God in His Infinite Love seeing the misery of His creatures, has condescended to redeem us from this curse and in the Person of His Son has taken upon Himself the punishment due for our sins [Galatians 3:13], in order to save us, He has offered His works, His body, His sufferings and His life as a sacrifice in atonement for our sins so that in Him we can find eternal Life.

God the Son

Son of God - Son of Mary

God spoke through the prophets and foretold of liberation for all His people, He promised a new way of life, something similar to the first liberation of the Israelites from the slavery of the Egyptians.

When the time had arrived according to the Divine Providence the awaited Messiah came into the world, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary and conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit.

He did not come in the splendour and greatness that we would assume such an

unprecedented event should merit, He came unannounced except to Mary and Joseph, He was not welcome then, just as He is not welcome now. The Virgin with child and St. Joseph looked everywhere for accommodation, they knocked on many doors but they were rejected.

This holy virgin specially gifted with the Grace of God and this child of Mary who happens to be God, continue to be rejected by so many even now.

He was born in a cold cave which resembles the hearts of men cold in the faith, He was born in total poverty which He expects of those in whom He is born spiritually, meaning detachment from materialism and all the things of the world. He was born in a silent night, unknown to everyone except to some humble shepherds and three wise men from other cultures who were given the knowledge of this event.

Jesus God the Son has come to save the humble, the poor, those who accept His Wisdom not that of the world, He has come to those who accept that they are sick and need his healing, He has come silently to those who reject the world and decide to come to Him, He has come to those who accept His humanity as well as His Divinity, therefore He comes very lovingly to those who accept Mary with the dignity of the Mother of God and also as their mother.

He came proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven, asking everyone to repent, to turn away from evil and to come to God through Him. [Matthew 4:17] He said: no one can come to the Father except through me. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. [John 14:6] As a great teacher, He taught us how to live for Him and how to love God by loving others.

He finally died for our sins, suffering the most horrible death, experiencing the most cruel pains and He did all this out of His infinite Love for us sinners. He resurrected on the third day having His victory over sin and death.

He founded HIS Church on one of His Apostles, Peter the rock. He gave the apostles and His Church the Power to forgive sins, He instituted the Sacraments as our encounters with Him.

Baptism is the Sacrament of initiation, through it we enter into Jesus Christ God the Son and die in His resurrection, Confession is the Sacrament of healing and by order of the risen Christ [John 20:23] we confess our sins and obtain absolution, The Eucharist is a memorial of His death by which we announce His death and proclaim His Resurrection. As we receive the Holy Eucharist or Holy Communion, we eat the true body of Christ and drink His true blood. [John 6:53]

We also encounter the Lord in the Sacrament of Confirmation which is the laying of the hands of the Bishop on one's head to confirm our faith and to receive the Holy Spirit in a special way, there is also the Sacrament of Holy Orders to officially accept new priests into the Church, the Sacrament of Matrimony to unite a man and a woman sacramentally in marriage and also the anointing of the sick.

Jesus is our Lord, our God, our Saviour, The Messiah, the Redeemer, The King of Kings, The Alpha and the Omega, the Good Shepherd and much more. Jesus is God, Jesus reigns, Jesus is Alive.

He did not leave us orphans in fact He left us His mother to be our mother [John 19:27], He also sent the Holy Spirit Who is His Spirit and the Spirit of the Father to stay with us teaching

us, consoling us and making us cry Abba which means Father.

We could write many books about Jesus, but the purpose of this work is to teach us mainly about His gift to us, the Holy Spirit.

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, it is God, it is His powerful action that permeates creation with Love and Life. It is existence itself. We know Him also as the third person of the Holy Trinity.

As we look at the attributes of God, who is One, we may say that God the Father is the Absolute Power and Will, God the Son is His Word and command, God the Holy Spirit is the action of God which is Love.

The Holy Spirit is a fire of Divine Love that comes to touch us and refine us in an ardent desire to possess God. It gives us a passion for God, it destroys all the earthly affections because it opens our spiritual eyes to see how precious God is.

The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) is the Spirit of God the Father and of God the Son, so it moves us to cry Abba which means "daddy" and as children of God we come to trust God more than we have known to trust Him before, it also moves us to accept Christ in our lives as our model, way, truth and life.

The fire of the Holy Spirit enkindles the little flame of Love that is in every heart, it raises the soul to soar in the freedom of God, it feeds the soul with food from Heaven, it gives courage to overcome all human weaknesses, it grants complete trust in God so that we can say with St. Paul, it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me.

The Holy Spirit is not visible to our eyes, but we can feel His Presence within us, He grants Peace, Love and Joy to our hearts and by His action we learn to recognise Him.

No one can say that Jesus is Lord unless He is moved by the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 12:3]. So this Spirit abides in every one who acknowledges that Jesus is Lord, but this doesn't guarantee that that person is holy, it merely activates his faith by that conviction, so we still need a continuous guidance of the Holy Spirit to attain holiness. We must be born of the Spirit to become spirit, and we must let Him come like a gentle breeze and bend our wills to His holy inspirations [John 3:8].

What is born of the flesh is flesh, but what is born of the Spirit is Spirit [John 3:6], so in baptism we are born of the Spirit and we are challenged to prove that we are Spirit.

As temples of the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 3:16] we must behave with the due reverence to God Who abides in us, so that we can become like Him. But the problem is that through sin we become temples of the evil spirit and we despise God.

In order to experience the Love of the Holy Spirit and to become children of God, we must not sin [1 John 3:9]

The Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to say, He reveals the Wisdom of God, because He reveals the teachings of the Word of God into our hearts, He is also described as the Consoler and Advocate or The Paraclete [John 14:26]

No one can become holy on his own so he needs the influence of the Holy Spirit, He is like a gentle dove that gets scared at the least movement of sin. So we must be very gentle in the Presence of God who has vouchsafed to come to dwell in us.

We have to deny ourselves the influence of our own human spirit in order to allow the Spirit of God to take control of our lives, this is only achieved by a life of prayer and detachment. We must yield humbly to the powerful Holy Spirit in order to correspond to His Grace, we must make a decision to lead an interior life where we give up our private judgement, the light of reason in exchange for the Light of God which comes only through faith. Only through this complete annihilation of the self can we allow the Spirit of God to possess us; to think otherwise is only presumptuous, because our pride will always desire praise for our works, but God's work in our souls is the only way to make us holy.

The spiritual man is also called a man of God, because he truly belongs to Him, He doesn't look for personal rewards, He doesn't resist God's Will whether that may bring him trials, temptations, contradictions or humiliations. God knows best, so the man of God yields completely to Him just like Job. Any temporal gifts are for the Praise and Glory of God not for his own, when any gifts material or spiritual are taken away from him, He will gladly accept God's will [Job 1:21]. He will live his life in imitation of Christ who always yielded to the Will His Heavenly Father [Luke 22:42].

Invoking the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the uttermost part of the earth.

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth through his Word. And the Holy Spirit rested upon the waters [Genesis 1:1-2]. The Father with His Omnipotent Power, The Son with mighty Word and Wisdom and the Holy Spirit with His Love was present in the origin of Creation.

God is only One, but He has revealed Himself very distinctly as three persons, so that we mere creatures can come to a better understanding of Him, however we are unworthy to know God completely and He remains the greatest mystery of our faith.

No one will ever receive the Wisdom to describe the Holy Trinity perfectly, so we must believe in the Word of God and in the teachings of the Church founded on Peter by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

God the Father, the uncreated Spirit and Father of all Spirits dwells in His abode of Glory in the highest heavens, surrounded by Majesty and Power.

God the Son, the Word of God became a man, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He came to the world to be our Saviour and Lord.

God the Holy Spirit abides in God's creation sustaining it by the Power of Love. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, in baptism we receive the Holy Spirit with His sanctifying Grace and are born from above. We become members of the body of Christ.

But we are called to live a life by the Spirit and not by the flesh, so our path to holiness is traced by the Holy Spirit and we can only grow spiritually depending on how much we surrender to His guidance and inspiration.

Unless we allow God to build our spiritual temple, we are wasting our time [Psalm 127:1], because all good that we do comes from God and is His work, our pride is our great problem because we neglect the help of the spirit, we work for ourselves instead of working for God, we expect credit for what we are doing and indeed we get paid only here then. We must try to become instruments of the Holy Spirit, not His obstacles.

When we become familiar with the Holy Spirit, we allow God to take possession of us, we let the King take command of our lives and we become one with Him.

To be able to experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit, we must repent, we must yield to the power of God, accepting His Will and following His commandments.

This work aims to make us more familiar with the Holy Spirit by study of the Holy Scriptures and by the personal experience of those who are consecrated to Him.

Who is the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, it is God, it is His powerful action that permeates creation with Love and Life. It is existence itself. We know Him also as the third person of the Holy Trinity.

As we look at the attributes of God, who is One, we may say that God the Father is the Absolute Power and Will, God the Son is His Word and command, God the Holy Spirit is the action of God which is Love.

The Holy Spirit is a fire of Divine Love that comes to touch us and refine us in an ardent desire to possess God. It gives us a passion for God, it destroys all the earthly affections because it opens our spiritual eyes to see how precious God is.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and of God the Son, so it moves us to cry Abba which means "daddy" and as children of God we come to trust God more than we have trusted before, it also moves us to accept Christ in our lives as our model, way, truth and life.

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The Holy Spirit is not visible to our eyes, but we can feel His Presence within us, He grants Peace, Love and Joy to our hearts and by His action we learn to recognise Him.

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As temples of the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 3:16] we must behave with the due reverence to God Who abides in us, so that we can become like Him. But the problem is that through sin we become temples of the evil spirit and we despise God.

In order to experience the Love of the Holy Spirit and to become children of God, we must not sin [1 John 3:9]

The Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to say, He reveals the Wisdom of God, because He reveals the teachings of the Word of God into our hearts, He is also described as the Consoler and Advocate or The Paraclete [John 14:26]

No one can become holy on his own so he needs the influence of the Holy Spirit, He is like a gentle dove that gets scared at the least movement of sin. So we must be very gentle in the Presence of God who has vouchsafed to come to dwell in us.

We have to deny ourselves the influence of our own human spirit in order to allow the Spirit of God to take control of our lives, this is only achieved by a life of prayer and detachment. We must yield humbly to the powerful Holy Spirit in order to correspond to His Grace, we must make a decision to lead an interior life where we give up our private judgement, the light of reason in exchange for the Light of God which comes only through faith. Only through this complete annihilation of the self can we allow the Spirit of God to possess us; to think otherwise is only presumptuous, because our pride will always desire praise for our works, but God's work in our souls is the only way to make us holy.

The spiritual man is also called a man of God, because he truly belongs to Him, He doesn't look for personal rewards, He doesn't resist God's Will whether that may bring him trials, temptations, contradictions or humiliations. God knows best, so the man of God yields completely to Him just like Job. Any temporal gifts are for the Praise and Glory of God not for his own, when any material or spiritual gifts are taken away from him, He will gladly accept God's will.

(Job 1:20-22)

20 Then Job rose up, and rent his garments, and having shaven his head fell down upon the ground and worshipped,

21 And said: Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: as it hath pleased the Lord so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord.

22 In all these things Job sinned not by his lips, nor spoke he any foolish thing against God.

The spiritual man will live his life in imitation of Christ who always yielded to the Will of His

Heavenly Father. (Luke 22:42) "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Promises of the Holy Spirit

God saw our need to have His Holy Spirit, otherwise we would be doomed. For this reason He made a promise in the Old Testament which was fulfilled with the coming of Christ, He spoke through different prophets as follows:

Old Testament

Ezequiel 36:23-28 | The Holy Spirit will rest upon the Son of David

New Testament

Ezequiel 36:23-28

23 And I will sanctify my great name , which was profaned among the Gentiles, which you have profaned in the midst of them: that the Gentiles may know that I am the Lord, saith the Lord of hosts, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the Gentiles, and will gather you together out of all the countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 And I will pour upon you clean water, and you shall be cleansed from all your filthiness, and I will cleanse you from all your idols.

26 And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and will give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit in the midst of you: and I will cause you to walk in my commandments, and to keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And you shall dwell in the land which I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Let us examine this passage:

I will sanctify my great name

Jesus came to reveal in Himself the splendour of the Father, the image of the invisible God and the power of His Holy Name [Philippians 2:10-11]. So that we should bend our knee at the mention of the holy name of Jesus, because it is only through the power of His name that we can be saved. [Acts 4:12] Jesus also taught us to pray to our Father in Heaven saying "Holy be your name" [Matthew 6:9]

I will take you from among the Gentiles

The gentiles were considered pagans or people without God, whereas the Israelites were the chosen people of God. Salvation is offered to every one who accepts Christ as their Saviour and Lord, the Holy Spirit is for all. [Romans 16:25-27].

I will pour upon you clean water

John the Baptist came baptising with water but Christ baptises with Living Water and with the Fire of the Holy Spirit [Matthew 3:11]. In the waters of baptism we come to meet Christ, we are immersed in the cleansing living water of the Holy Spirit, water that gushed forth from the heart of Christ. We receive the fire of the Holy Spirit, which is a spark of the divinity, the sanctifying grace that will lead us to Salvation [John 3:5].

I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you

Jesus died for our sins by giving his life in exchange for ours, He extended this gift making it a perpetual sacrifice "Take this and eat it, this is my body, take this and drink this is my blood" [Matthew 26:26-28], in a way God has given us the heart of Jesus as food for our souls in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The pierced heart of Jesus is also his personal gift to everyone, as we let our hearts be pierced with remorse for our sins we receive a new heart, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will have a heart that is not longer ours but the heart of God. This of course is incomprehensible doctrine for the learned and the wise, this is only meant for the little children since those are the ones who can possess the Kingdom of Heaven [Matthew 11:25-26].

What is the good of a heart if it doesn't give life? But with the heart of Jesus comes also His Precious Blood that gives us life for eternity. He has also given us His Holy Spirit which He sent from Heaven the day of Pentecost. The Spirit of God the Father and the Son is the new Spirit for us, which replaces the old human spirit of sinfulness and self love.

I will put my spirit in the midst of you

After the Resurrection of Our Lord, He appeared to his disciples bringing with Him the Peace of our reconciliation with God the Father. He then breathed on the apostles in order to give them new life and He said : "Receive the Holy Spirit" [John 20:22]. So He put His Holy Spirit in them, even though they only experienced the power of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, days after the Lord had ascended into Heaven.

The Holy Spirit descended in the shape of tongues of fire which were seen over the heads of the apostles. This was a baptism of fire with the Holy Spirit, we should also feel a similar experience when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and we are cleansed with the waters of Salvation, the spark of Divine Love within us keeps burning with desire for the Holy Spirit of God to completely possess us but it is up to us to fan that flame of Love within, to stir up the Grace of God for our own spiritual growth [2 Timothy 1:6].

It is the Lord who personally puts His Holy Spirit within us, since we are His temples, we must live our lives in humility before His Presence [1 Corinthians 3:16-17].

Through our devotions we supply fuel for the fire of our Faith and the Holy Spirit responds to us by filling us with yearning for God.

You shall be my people, and I will be your God.

We are the people of God, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9) ; we belong to Christ and we must proclaim that He has saved us.

In the past we were not God's people, but now, "we are the people of God". In the past we did not receive His Mercy , but now we have received God's Mercy through Jesus Christ Our Lord. In the mystical body of Christ He is the head and we are the body [1 Peter 2:9-10].

God has called us his people, furthermore in Christ we have become his adoptive sons and daughters, therefore we have become the children of God [Ephesians 1:5].

The Holy Spirit shall rest upon Jesus Son of David.

David son of Jesse . Jesse Son of Abraham [Genealogy of Christ Matthew 1:1-17].

In the book of the prophet Isaiah we learn that Christ will be a descendant of Jesse, the son of David and that the Holy Spirit will rest upon Him [Isaiah 11:1-2] with his seven gifts:wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

He will be the Saviour, He will give us living water to drink and with joy we will draw that water from the well of Salvation [Isaiah 12:3] . That will be the sanctifying water of baptism to deliver us from original sin, and it will be also the Living water of the Holy Spirit which will be given to us after the death of Our Lord [John 16:7].

The Lord tells us through the prophet Joel [Joel 2:28] :

And it shall come to pass after this, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy: your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and She conceived by His Power Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ [Luke 1:35]. While She was visiting her cousin Elizabeth, at hearing the voice of Mary St. John the Baptist was sanctified by the Holy Spirit in the womb of her mother and leaped for joy.

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said who am I that the Mother of my Lord should visit me, among all women you are blessed and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Mary answered by praising God in the beautiful song of the Magnificat [Luke 1:39-56].

Before Jesus started his public ministry, He went to the Jordan river where He was baptised by John the Baptist. Then The Holy Spirit descended upon Him and was visible to John in a form of a dove. He then went to fast in the desert for forty days, where he overcame the temptations of the devil. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit as promised in the book of [Isaiah 11:1-2] and

began His ministry calling everyone to repentance, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom of Heaven, healing the sick, and casting out devils. John the Baptist said to everyone I baptise you with water for repentance of your sins but Jesus will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire [Matthew 3:11] .

Jesus taught that all sins shall be forgiven except sins committed against the Holy Spirit [Luke 12:10].

He also taught that we only have to ask and it shall be given, knock and the door will be answered, search and we shall find, and that if a father here on earth, even though being wicked knows how to respond to the need of his children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give us the Holy Spirit if we ask !, so the Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father and the Son that sanctifies us and we must ask for it. It is the most precious thing that we can ask for and our good Heavenly Father will grant us our petition if we ask, knock and search for it.

We are temples of the Holy Spirit and to be filled with the Spirit of God we must cleanse our temples with the waters of repentance through baptism. However we are supposed to stop sinning in order to receive the fire of the Holy Spirit. So this promise of God is conditional to our repentance. A humble and contrite heart is the place where God wants to dwell [Isaiah 66:2] .

God the Father and God the Son will come to dwell in Spirit in those who love Jesus and keep His Word [John 14:23]

Jesus promised that whenever we are put on trial for proclaiming the Good News we will speak what is given to us by the Holy Spirit [Mark 13:10-11].

Repentance

The key to the reception of the Holy Spirit is repentance. John the Baptist was preaching repentance for the forgiveness of sins and as preparation for the coming of the Messiah. He was baptising with water as a symbol of cleansing, but He said that the Messiah would be coming after Him, baptising with fire and with the Holy Spirit.[Matthew 3:11]

After the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, Peter spoke to the people and exhorted them to repent and to be baptised, so that their sins would be forgiven and that they could receive the Holy Spirit [Acts 2:38], so this is why we must repent and turn to God, and produce fruits consistent with our repentance.[Acts 26:20]

We are baptised as infants when we have not committed any sins, so baptism infuse us with the Grace to become children of God redeemed by Christ. Further on in our lives, we must repent of our sins to allow the Holy Spirit to continue working in us with His sanctifying Grace.

Just as John the Baptist was someone preparing the way for the Lord in the Spirit of Elijah, repentance comes to prepare a path of contrition and sorrow for the coming of God the Holy Spirit.

There can not be an experience of the Holy Spirit, unless we have repented. For the purpose of our study, and for our own sanctification, we will study this topic from God's point of view through the Holy Scriptures and through the experience of repentance.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, upon whom my name is called, being converted, shall make supplication to me, and seek out my face, and do penance for their most wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.

Now therefore amend your ways, and your doings, and hearken to the voice of the Lord your God: and the Lord will repent of the evil that he hath spoken against you. [Jeremiah 26:13]

Therefore will I judge every man according to his ways, O house of Israel, says the Lord God. Be converted, and do penance for all your iniquities: and iniquity shall not be your ruin. [Ezekiel 18:30]

In those days came John the Baptist preaching in the desert of Judea and saying: Do penance: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [Matthew 3:1-2]

After being tempted for forty days in the desert, Jesus was baptised and was filled with the Holy Spirit. From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say: Do penance, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. [Matthew 4:17]

Unless you repent, you will all perish [Luke 13:3]

The Apostles were sent to preach repentance [Mark 6:12] It is our duty to become disciples of the Lord, and follow the steps of the apostles transmitting the message of repentance to everyone. We will be judged for not telling others to repent as in the case of the prophet [Ezekiel 3:18 - 21]

[James 5:19-20]

19 My brethren, if any of you err from the truth, and one converts him:

20 He must know that he who causes a sinner to be converted from the error of his way, shall save his soul from death, and shall cover a multitude of sins.

After the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, Peter was filled with courage to proclaim the gospel, while he addressed the crowds and exhorted them to be saved from their perverse generation, he also said these words concerning repentance:

Do penance, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins: and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. [Acts 2:38]

God has overlooked the times of our ignorance, [we don't really know how bad our offence is when we sin], so He has commanded all men everywhere to repent [Acts 17:30]

In order to repent we must subject the passions of the flesh and all our human weaknesses to the power of the Holy Spirit, we must suffer as we amend our lives and change [2 Corinthians 7:10], but the Lord will reward us for coming to Him like the prodigal son.

We must produce fruits in keeping with repentance [Matthew 3:8], fruits that will lead us to holiness, then we must continue with perseverance otherwise we may lose the privilege that the Lord has conferred us [Revelation 2:5]

We must confess daily our sinfulness and we must acclaim the holiness of God by contrast [Psalm 38:18]. We are sinners by nature, God is divine and holy by His own Grace.

How can we come to Him feeling that we are good when it is by our own sins that we have crucified His Son? [Genesis 6:12] With Adam and Eve we feel the guilt of our sinfulness and the eyes of God pierce through the nakedness of our souls accusing us of our impurities and imperfections, therefore we need to humble ourselves before the Majesty of God in order to receive His blessing .

We are unworthy to be in His Presence, should we see God's face we would die [Exodus 33:20], we have an eternal debt that we can not pay, except with our Love for Christ and our thanksgiving to the Father. In baptism we are clothed with Christ and by His Grace we are dressed with the robes of Salvation, however as we all have sinned, we have desecrated that Holy Presence of God in us, so we must repent. We must turn away from evil and darkness, from sin and death and we must choose Goodness, Light, Grace and Life.

The Lord says unless you repent you will all perish [Luke 13:5]. Most of us come to confession to confess the same sins that we repeatedly confess every time. Have we really repented? Are we justifying our sins and playing games with our Salvation? Are we not supposed to come shedding tears like Mary Magdalene for our sins? The reason for our behaviour is that we confess our sins without sufficient remorse, without feeling any guilt, without pain of having crucified our Lord.

We must confess not only our sins, but also our guilt, yes because our sins have crucified the Lord. [Zechariah 12:10]

We cannot become saints until we eradicate sinfulness from our lives. Whoever is born of God, commits no sin: for his seed abides in him, and he can not sin, because he is born of God. [1 John 3:9]

To be a saint means to become a son of God, we must strive for the purity of the holy angels, everything we do must be done in the Presence of God. We live before Him in the nakedness of our souls but our guilt is removed because the tears of our repentance demand His Mercy.

The saint is prepared to rather die than sin. To live to sin is a curse for Him, therefore He suffers in the flesh until He can be called to be in God forever [1 Peter 2:24].

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Jesus is the fruit of the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Out of this marvellous relationship between God and Mary, the Holy Spirit produced His fruit in the Incarnation of the Word of God, who became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. So out of this spiritual marriage of the Holy Spirit with Mary, She became the tree of life, whose fruit is the food for our souls. We are called to imitate Mary in order to bear good fruit, consistent with our repentance.

We are compared to trees on many occasions, in order to understand the purpose of our existence which is to be fruitful. John the Baptist came preaching repentance and with Him the threat that the axe is ready: every tree that does not bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. [Matthew 3:10] The Lord confirms that in [Matthew 7:19].

Our Blessed Lord manifested His anger at the fruitless fig tree, which dried out and died after his curse.[Matthew 21:19] , Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches, those who cut themselves off the vine by not abiding in Him, are cut off, they die and are thrown into the fire. [John 15:6]

The Lord says that the Kingdom of Heaven will be given to those who produce the good fruits of the Kingdom [Matthew 21:43], He also says that prophets will be known by their fruits [Matthew 7:16]. So the spiritual fruits that we produce are caused by the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, they are the fruits of Salvation through the power of the Holy Spirit and our faith in Him.[2 Thessalonians 2:13]

So according to the tradition of the Church the fruits of the Holy Spirit are: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity." [Galatians 5:22-23] These fruits are produced in our souls by our yielding to the gentle persuasions of the Holy Spirit.

In order to produce the fruits of the Spirit, we must be rooted on the firm soil of our faith, fertilised with the nourishment of the sacraments and devotions, watered with the Living Water of the Holy Spirit and pruned by our sufferings and trials. It is called the fruit of the Spirit, not so much our fruit, because it is produced directly by the Holy Spirit, so that we should not become proud. We must allow the Spirit of God to lead us to holiness, the Master Builder will construct a spiritual house in us for His pleasure and Glory. [Psalm 127- (126 D.Rh)]

It is for the Glory of God the Father that we become the fruitful disciples of Our Lord Jesus Christ [John 15:18]

* * *

Proverbs 8:19

For my fruit is better than gold and the precious stone, and my blossoms than choice silver.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the just man is a tree of life: and he that gains souls, is wise.

Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 Blessed be the man that trusts in the Lord, and the Lord shall be his confidence.

8 And he shall be as a tree that is planted by the waters, that spreads out its roots towards moisture: and it shall not fear when the heat cometh. And the leaf thereof shall be green, and in the time of drought it shall not be solicitous, neither shall it cease at any time to bring forth fruit.

Ezekiel 47:12

And by the torrent on the banks thereof on both sides shall grow all trees that bear fruit: their leaf shall not fall off, and their fruit shall not fail: every month shall they bring forth first fruits, because the waters thereof shall issue out of the sanctuary: and the fruits thereof shall be for food, and the leaves thereof for medicine.

The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit

Catechism of the Catholic Church

1832 The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Galatians 5:24-25

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

[Charity](#) | [Joy](#) | [Peace](#) | [Patience](#) | [Kindness](#) | [Goodness](#)
[Generosity](#) | [Gentleness](#) | [Faithfulness](#) | [Modesty](#)
[Self-control](#) | [Chastity](#)

Charity

Love finds its perfection in Charity, since we love God but we don't see Him so we can prove to Him our Love by loving others. The new commandment of Our Lord is "Love one another as I have loved you" that manifestation of Love compels the soul to do acts of charity for others. God is easily found in the needs of the poor, in the marginalised, the oppressed, the persecuted, the lonely, the outcast, those who suffer and all those who are last. No wonder the Lord has said that the last will be the first. On the day of Judgement, the Lord will reward us according to the way we treated our brothers and sisters, because in the same way we indeed treated our Lord.[Matthew 25:34-40]

Our Lady was a living model of Charity, as soon as She was filled with the Holy Spirit, She felt the need to go out of her way to help her cousin Elizabeth.

Joy

St. Paul recommends that we rejoice in the Lord always, [Philippians 4:4] and again He says rejoice. Joy is a gift to keep even in the middle of our trials and sufferings, because joy is the anticipation of the greater gift of eternal bliss.

We have good times when we naturally rejoice, but this joy is perfected when we appreciate that it comes from God and we thank Him. Whenever we suffer, we must be also thankful for the crosses we are receiving and rejoice spiritually because the reward for our crosses will be our crown.

Do we thank God for all the joys we receive? Do we take it all for granted or do we realise that God is the source of our joy?

Peace

Peace is the sign of God's Presence in our lives. Peace is the fruit of the reconciliation between God and man through the death of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The first words that the Lord pronounced after His resurrection were "Peace be with you" [John 20:19], the same words He repeated again before saying to the apostles "Receive the Holy Spirit"

With the gift of Peace, the Apostles then received the breath of the resurrected Lord and the power to forgive sins, which continues in the sacrament of Penance. As we are reconciled with God in this holy sacrament we are healed of the wounds of our sins and we receive God's peace, fruit of our reconciliation.

The Peace that we receive from the Lord is different to the peace of this world, it is the peace of the soul finding itself pure before God.

Patience

With this holy attitude, a person is prepared to deal with all the different situations and persons that otherwise would cause annoyance or distress. Being patient means understanding the individuality of other people and adjusting to their needs, knowing that God has sent them into our lives for a purpose, perhaps to make us humble or to make us realise how weak we are.

We can not change events that have already taken place, it is too late to be impatient as if by our lack of virtue we would change anything at all. Impatience can only make things worse. As a matter of fact, impatience leads to anger, which leads to hatred, which uncontrolled can lead to murder. This is why we must produce Patience, fruit of the Holy Spirit which is part of the very important foundations for holiness.

The Patriarch Job was an excellent example of this holy virtue of Patience, He was put to the test by the Lord who allowed satan to tempt Him. One day while he was at home he received different messengers telling him the bad news that He had lost all his cattle, that they had killed his servants and that the roof of the house where his seven daughters and three sons were staying had collapsed killing them all. This is how He responded to this situation:

[Job 1:20-22] 20 Then Job rose up, and rent his garments, and having shaven his head fell down upon the ground and worshipped,

21 And said: Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: as it hath pleased the Lord so is it done: blessed be the name of the Lord.

22 In all these things Job sinned not by his lips, nor spoke he any foolish thing against God.

Kindness

Many times we feel down but we are cheered up by the kindness of others. This beautiful disposition of the soul makes people very charming and useful to others, it is not the artificial smile that makes us welcome, but the sincere disposition of a good heart.

For whosoever shall give you to drink a cup of water in my name, because you belong to Christ: amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward. [Mark 9:40 - 41]

Goodness

God is the source of all goodness, He is the giver of all gifts, He wants us to imitate Him.

Imitation of Christ involves being good, being a reflection of Christ in our lives to others. Our behaviour reflects how we are keeping the commandments.

The first three commandments teach to love God, to respect His Holy Name and to keep holy the Sabbath day which for us Catholics is Sunday.

The last seven commandments refer to the way we must treat others. We must be good to our parents, we must protect our lives, the lives of the unborn and the lives of others because God is Life and life is good. We must respect our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit avoiding all corruption and impurity, we must respect our neighbour's goods, we must respect our neighbour's reputation, we must repudiate avarice, and we must respect our neighbour's wife.

Generosity

To love is to give. God loves us and He gives us everything. There is no greater friend than He who is prepared to lay down his life for another.[John 15:13] It is indeed a gift to be generous, because it takes a lot to decide not to keep what is rightly ours to give it to another, specially to a stranger.

When we give we truly deny ourselves, as the Lord has requested. Generosity must be done in silence in order to merit Grace from God and not merely the thanksgiving of men. It is very easy to be generous to our relatives or friends but that is not generosity since we will be repaid for that with friendship, thanksgiving and praise. Generosity must extend to the poor and the needy, it is a quest for justice as if we have the work of God to provide for those who don't have.

[Luke 14:13]

13 But when you make a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind;

14 And thou shalt be blessed, because they have not wherewith to make thee recompense: for recompense shall be made thee at the resurrection of the just.

For whosoever shall give you to drink a cup of water in my name, because you belong to Christ: amen I say to you, he shall not lose his reward. [Mark 9:40 - 41]

Gentleness

The Holy Spirit is a gentle Spirit that works very smoothly directing us to do what is pleasing to God. Under His action we can be meek and humble in everything we do; there is no violence nor corruption in a soul depending on the gentleness of the Spirit of God.

Our Lady is the perfect model of gentleness, her human actions had a touch of the divine because She is the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

We are the Church, the bride of Christ and we must bear resemblance to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the bride of the Holy Spirit. Through the action of the Holy Spirit we must become Immaculate in order to appear as virgins before the bridegroom on the day of the great marriage of the Lamb. [Revelation 19:7]

Faithfulness

God is infinitely surrounded by His faithfulness. He has committed himself to His creation, first by creating it, then by redeeming it through Christ our Lord and then by sanctifying it through the Holy Spirit.

The work of God is to believe in the one whom He has sent, namely our Lord Jesus Christ [John 6:29], by being faithful to Jesus we remain in Him and He remains in us, we become witnesses of the way, the truth and the life.

Our Loyalty to Christ involves becoming his disciples and doing the same works that He did; we must remain faithful not only to his teachings but to the Church that He founded on Peter the rock.

We must remain faithful to the teachings of our Church, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. [1 Timothy 3:15]. We must walk in the path of truth if we are to remain faithful to God.

Modesty

Jesus Christ the King of Kings, the ruler of the universe was born in a very poor cave, the son of very poor parents and surrounded by poverty. Mary our Mother replied to the angel that bore the good news of the coming of the Messiah: I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word. By her modest response, She didn't become proud of such gift, she actually never told Joseph that She was to be the mother of the Son of God, She kept it to herself risking to be divorced publicly since She was a virgin. Joseph found out in a dream through the message of an angel that Mary had conceived the Saviour of the world through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Modesty is an essential base for humility, it may appear mediocre in the eyes of man but not in the eyes of God. By this holy fruit of the Holy Spirit one learns to be contented with what is just required, one doesn't harbour any ambitions, nor take pride in any achievements since they appear commonplace.

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble [James 4:6], therefore we must conduct our lives with humility, not claiming any credit for ourselves, but giving all credit and thanksgiving to God and accepting His Holy Will.

Self-control

Man must become the master of his body, his body must not master him. The carnal man despises the Holy Spirit and doesn't exercise self-control.

By self control we must overcome all the passions of the flesh, since he who produces the fruits of the Holy Spirit belongs to Christ and has crucified the flesh with all its passions. [Galatians 5:24]

One good way to overcome the flesh is fasting and prayer, by overcoming the desires of the body for food, the soul learns to be deprived by the authority of the will and the result is self-control.

Couples can agree to exercise self-control only for set periods of time, say during lent, during holy days of obligation or Fridays as an act of penance, but always remembering that they must not deprive each other of their conjugal rights. The husband's body belongs to the wife

and the wife's body belongs to the husband, otherwise satan may lead each other to lose self-control.[1 Corinthians 7:3-5]

Chastity

The union between a man and a woman is sacred, it is bound in the sacrament of matrimony. Two become one flesh, therefore what God has joined together, let no man separate.[Matthew 19:6]. God hates divorce [Malachi 2:16]

In the same manner an unmarried couple living together, is not consecrated to God, they are committing adultery, they are parading their wickedness, they are living an illegal relationship.

The sexual relationship between husband and wife is a gift from God, it is the binding expression of the great unitive value of love. It is given as a gift from God, primarily for the transmission of life, and secondarily for the joy of the couple. The man and the woman should treat their bodies with due respect, remembering that they are temples of the Holy Spirit [1 Corinthians 6:19]. Lust is a disorderly passion that can creep into the relationship of the couple, therefore it is advisable that they practice chastity during certain monthly periods, they should also agree not to do it on holy days, perhaps Fridays in honour of Our Lord's passion or to practice whatever method of controlling passions within marriage. The pure purpose of marriage should be to love one another, to pro-create children for God and to maintain a pure relationship of fidelity and love.

People should not get married based on physical attraction only, they must understand each other and genuinely be willing to love one another for life.

Sex before marriage or outside marriage is adultery, masturbation is also a sin because it is either inciting the body to commit adultery or denying the other partner what belongs to their common joy. The chastity of the youth is equal to the purity of the children and is most precious in the eyes of God.

Virginity is the most excellent gift that the couple can offer to one another on their honey moon, it proves to them that they were truly made for one another.

Unfortunately these values have been lost nowadays, there are so many false teachings and so much bad example on television and the media; what can we say to our children? We are responsible before God for their conduct, because if we don't alert them to these dangers of unchastity and impurity, we will be held guilty for our negligence.

Homosexuality is a totally perverted expression of sexuality. It is a terrible abomination before the eyes of God, the man or woman engaged in this conduct is fighting against God's Will Who has made woman for man and man for woman [Genesis 2:24].

This sin caused the chastisement of Sodom and Gomorrah, because the Lord forbids a man to lay down with another man, or a woman with another woman [Leviticus 18:22-28]

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We have been created in the image of God, we are His children. We are still infants in our faith, because we love God only by faith; we can not enjoy our relationship with Him to the fullest because we are sinners still in the flesh. To help us in our Salvation God has sent His Son Our

Lord Jesus Christ to die for our sins on the cross. To sanctify us He has sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us and to teach us to know Him, love Him and serve Him.

To exist is the first gift that we become aware of, it is from God and it is eternal. The creation around us is filled with beauty and harmony, everything that God has created reflects His perfection and Glory.

We have the gift of love first from our parents, who love us and make us respond with love to them. As we grow older, we become intelligent and by reason and faith we accept God as our creator.

We have been adorned with gifts, both physical and spiritual. We have a mind to think and to reason, a body to contain all the different organs within.

The heart is a wonderful organ that beats continuously until we die, it ticks every time as if God was telling us: I love you, I love you, I love you, I love you.....

The eyes can contemplate the beauty of creation, they alert us to danger and they are wonderful companions. The nose allows us to enjoy beautiful fragrances and also warns us from bad smells. The ears help us to hear, to take part in different activities, even to enjoy music and other noises. The mouth helps us to speak and to communicate with others through the intelligence of the mind. It is also the door to our food intake, which also gives us pleasure when we eat. The arms and the legs, and in fact the whole body has been designed in such a fantastic way that it is the perfect machine. It provides us with enjoyment, it is useful, it is the place where our souls live.

We also have the senses of the soul: we must think with the mind of Christ, we must see with the eyes of the Spirit, we must listen to His Word, we must eat the bread of life that He gives us, we must speak the Word of God, we must work for the Kingdom of Heaven and we must walk along the path of His Holy Will.

Every morning as we wake up, we should bless and thank the Lord for all His blessings, because He loves us so much that we exist, we must thank the Lord that we are better off than many other disadvantaged human beings, no matter how bad we may feel at anytime.

So, we are filled with gifts. And yet these are only temporal gifts compared to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God has wanted to sanctify us through His Spirit but He has complained that we don't even know how to deal with what does not belong to us, so how can we expect to enjoy the gifts that truly belong to us since we are His children? [Luke 16:12]

All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are ready for us as a Christmas tree surrounded by gifts. We must merit those gifts first, then we must ask for them and most important we must open them and put them to good use.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for our sanctification and for the uplifting of the body of Christ, the Church.

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. In their fullness, they belong to Christ the perfect man, the Son of David [Isaiah 11:1-10].

There are many more gifts of the Holy Spirit as explained by St. Paul although they all derive from the seven gifts mentioned previously: [Romans 12:4-13], [1 Corinthians 12:7-11], [1 Corinthians 12:28-31], they help us to grow and to make others grow spiritually.

For the faithful they are the Divine help that perfect virtue and aid in the edification of the body of Christ. All those who are baptised receive these gifts in small measure, we must cultivate them and make them grow by living a Christian life.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

[Wisdom](#) | [Understanding](#) | [Counsel](#) | [Fortitude](#)
[Knowledge](#) | [Piety](#) | [Fear of the Lord](#)

Wisdom

[Read Proverbs Chapter 8]

Wisdom is one of the three main attributes of God: Power, Wisdom and Love, corresponding to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and to the three theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Love.

Jesus is the incarnate Wisdom of God, He is the Word of God made flesh, He is the way, the truth and the life. Bestowed upon Him is the plenitude of Wisdom, which desires to live in every heart.

One who is full of God is full of Wisdom; for this reason Jesus could claim the prophecy of Isaiah which was fulfilled as He read it in the temple. [Luke 4:18-21]

[John 15:4] Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in me.

A definition of Wisdom is found in the book of Job [28:28] Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom: and to depart from evil, is understanding.

[Psalm 111:10] the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding to all that do it: his praise continues for ever and ever.

[Romans 11:33] O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God! How incomprehensible are his judgments, and how unsearchable his ways!

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written: I will catch the wise in their own craftiness. [1 Corinthians 3:19]

Understanding

And God gave to Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart as the sand that is on the sea shore. [1 Kings 4:29-30 (3 Kings in D. Rh)]; understanding is the ability to discern what is from God and what is not. It is also the gift of interpreting the meaning

of the Holy Scriptures.

With the gift of understanding the disciples on the road to Emmaus were given the light to understand the Holy Scriptures and their hearts burned within as the Lord spoke to them.[Luke 24:30] The apostles understood about the yeast of the Pharisees being their wicked doctrine [Matthew 16:12], when the Lord told them that Elijah had come but they had done with him whatever they pleased, the apostles understood that Jesus was referring to John the Baptist [Matthew 17:12-13]

Understanding is also the gift of being able to perceive the hidden spiritual meaning of the Holy Scriptures, either by reading and meditating them or by listening to someone who has the gift of preaching.

Counsel

Those who desire to acquire wisdom must accept that they don't know everything, they should seek counsel from the elders and learn from experience and wisdom.

In the old days, kings used to consult the prophets and the men of wisdom before taking important decisions. God gives counsel to those who come to Him, therefore we should consult the Lord before we take any important decision, He will respond by giving us a clear mind full of wisdom.

With this gift we learn to help those who are confused, we lend a hand to those suffering depression, we advise those who are about to do something wrong and we minister the great wisdom of God. We normally receive counsel from God when we are sleeping [Psalm 16:7].

[Psalm 32.8-9]

8 I will give thee understanding, and I will instruct thee in this way, in which thou shalt go: I will fix my eyes upon thee.

9 Do not become like the horse and the mule, who have no understanding. With bit and bridle bind fast their jaws, who come not near unto thee.

Fortitude

Our Lord Jesus Christ had this great gift from God the Father so that He was able to endure the hardships of the passion.

God gives us the cross but He also gives us the strength to carry it [1 Corinthians 10:13]

It is not by human strength that we have to do our spiritual battles, therefore we need to be reinforced being strong in Him and in the strength of His power, putting on the armour of God and fighting the good battle.[Ephesians 6:10-17]

Seek ye the Lord, and be strengthened: seek his face evermore. [Psalm 105:4]

In fortitude we learn to endure and persevere through all our difficulties, I am able to do all things in Him who strengthens me. [Philippians 4:13]

Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the ability to know future events and to read the minds of others, mainly to read the soul of another person; as Our Lord demonstrated knowing how the Samaritan woman had had different men [John 4:18-19], He read the mind of those who were saying to themselves how can this man forgive sins when only God forgives sins [Luke 5:21-23], He knew that Lazarus was dead when the apostles came to tell Him, He also knew that Judas was going to betray Him and much more.

This gift of the Holy Spirit has been present in the lives of the prophets and the saints, it is given so that others may be warned or that they strengthen their faith.

In a weak form this gift is the same as intuition. For those who practise the spiritual life, this gift comes sometimes in visions that represent a message of something that is either going on or that will happen, also as a reminder to pray for a particular cause or person.

Piety

This is a great gift of faith that gives a person the ability to spend time in prayer and devotions, it is like a fire that always wants to grow and it receives fuel in prayer.

On the way to Calvary Jesus met the pious women of Jerusalem, they followed the example of Mary our Blessed Mother. Pious people can be found today attending mass daily and praying for other people. They feed their piety by praying the Holy Rosary daily, by seeking knowledge in religious books and by practicing their religious devotions.

Most priests and religious have had this strong vocation of serving the Lord, they were motivated by piety. They have accepted hardships and persecutions and somehow they have become fools for Christ like St. Paul [2 Corinthians 12:10-11] because in our weaknesses we discover the strength of the Lord.

In baptism we receive an infusion of all these gifts of the Holy Spirit, but like gifts under the Christmas tree, they must be opened and put to good use.

Fear of the Lord

Holy fear of the Lord consists in fearing to offend God by our indifference and sinfulness.

In fact fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom [Proverbs 1:7], The fear of the Lord hates evil: I hate arrogance, and pride, and every wicked way, and a mouth with a double tongue says the Lord . [Proverbs 8:13]

Not much is taught about fearing God any more, we live with the concept that God is so good that we should not fear Him, but if we look at the Holy Scriptures we will see that even the Holy Name of God inspired so much awe and respect to the Israelites that they did not pronounce it completely for fear of offending Him.

We must not fear God because He is going to punish us, this indeed would be to think that God is a punitive God waiting for a chance to teach us a lesson. We must fear God because our

lives depend on Him and if we sin, we ourselves separate from Him and risk to be on our own.

A branch cut off the vine withers and dies [John 15:1-6], so if we turn away from God who is Light, we give ourselves to the prince of darkness, the devil and He becomes our Father [John 8:44]. This would be enough reason to have fear of offending God.

So we must trust and remain in our faithful God, who is our strength, the light of our lives. We must remain faithful to Him and avoid the risk of losing Him for lack of Fear of God.

Romans 3:10

10 As it is written: There is not any man just.

11 There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.

12 All have turned out of the way; they are become unprofitable together: there is none that doth good, there is not so much as one.

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have dealt deceitfully. The venom of asps is under their lips.

14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

15 Their feet swift to shed blood:

16 Destruction and misery in their ways:

17 And the way of peace they have not known:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Charismatic gifts

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Overview

Besides the seven gifts found to perfection in Christ and which everyone who is baptised possesses in different degree for his own sanctification, there are also spiritual gifts for the edification and sanctification of the whole Church.

These gifts are received for the purpose of helping others, they are supernatural gifts that help the faith of those who are benefited by them, usually not the person who receives them but the person or persons affected by them.

For example Prophecy is the highest of these gifts, it has the power to convince others that what is being said is truly the Word of God, it is not so much prophesying coming events, but expanding the Holy Scriptures with Wisdom that touches the heart of those who listen.

The gifts of healing and miracles, are a response of God to the prayers of intercession and while they heal one person, others become convinced that the Lord is truly there in the prayer group, and encourages to pray for healing.

These gifts can be received when a person receives the experience of the Baptism of the Spirit; an experience which is not another baptism, but a very strong physical and spiritual

confirmation of the Holy Spirit. The person must be a very strong believer of the Words of Christ and must have repented of his sins with true sorrow and contrition.

Normally this experience is received through the laying of the hands by one who has received the Holy Spirit anointing, we are supposed to receive this experience in the Sacrament of Confirmation, but that is not normally the case. The anointed person lays hands on a person who is repenting of his sins and surrendering himself or herself to the action of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit responds to the purity of intention of the ones involved. It is common to see people responding with tears in their eyes, feelings of joy, speaking in tongues and being slain in the Spirit.

Those who receive this experience of the Holy Spirit become thirsty for God. They continue to attend prayer meetings, where they begin to get involved in preaching the gospel, praying over the sick and committing themselves to the Work of God.

The Spiritual gifts were present in the early Church as we learn from St. Paul [Romans 12:4-13] and then have manifested at other times to the saints and to those who seek God.

Nowadays, we are experiencing an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in fulfilment of the prophecies of the Old Testament. [Joel 2:28]

Prophecy

To prophecy means to speak in the name of the Lord, in other words it means to speak God's Word to others, namely the Gospel. Every one who is baptised is called to be a witness of Christ by word and action. John Paul II is the prophet of our times, He speaks the Word of God in all his encyclicals the same as all the other popes.

Bishops and priests also receive this gift, although not all of them open themselves to the influence of the Holy Spirit, since when speaking in prophecy one is the instrument of God, but some actually having the opportunity to prophesy become obstacles of the message of God.

As a gift from the Holy Spirit, prophecy is given as a message of the Lord for His people. The person receives an interior locution, a very strong desire to say what is given to Him and the words just come [Jeremiah 20:9].

There is nothing to be revealed since all revelation has been given to us through the Holy Scriptures, so prophecy is a sign from God that He is present in the prayer group or the Church assembly.

Most prophecy is heard in Charismatic groups, since many other groups and apostolates in the Church reject the approach of the Charismatic movement.

However not all Charismatic groups are totally acceptable since some tend to deviate from the teachings of the Church, and neglect the Sacraments, specially Confession before the priest, some others neglect the attention that is due to Mary the Mother of God, therefore they dedicate themselves to the study of the Holy Scriptures and in a way they become very much like Pentecostals.

We must remember that the first Christian and Charismatic was Our Lady, because She was

totally anointed with the Holy Spirit, in such a way that She bore in her womb the Incarnate Word of God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, She spent thirty years of the private life of Jesus in His company and She went all the way to the holy mountain of Calvary to offer her Isaac to the Lord in sacrifice. She offered the true lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world; and that, makes Her the mother of our faith. If we can not find place for Our Lady in Charismatic prayer meetings, then we are not dealing there with the Holy Spirit.

So future Charismatics: Beware ! - Remember, the Holy Spirit is found where Mary is found. If they don't pray the Rosary in your Charismatic prayer group, be sure of suggesting how important it is to be in the company of Our Lady like the Apostles on the day of Pentecost.

Deliverance

In my name they will cast out devils, they will speak in tongues ..etc [Mark 16:17], these are signs that accompany the believers.

People do not believe in evil spirits any more, they laugh about the idea of the devil, they accept the evil in the world and they don't reject it. So in a way to be able to deliver evil spirits one must believe that they exist, and one must have a very strong conviction in the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Unless you believe that the Spirit of the Lord is upon you, and unless you are in a state of Grace, do not dare to rebuke evil spirits from another person, in fact if you try, you will end up having a terrible experience if the person is really possessed. Officially the Church only grants permission to exorcise to certain gifted priests.

According to the Words of Christ, we must truly believe to be able to receive that power of God to cast out devils, to heal, to perform miracles etc [Mark 16:17-20]. We must believe in the Holy Spirit as the Creed says: I believe in the Holy Spirit, that means I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe that I am a temple of the Holy Spirit and that I have been commissioned to bring the Presence of God to others.

Evil Spirits will leave at the command of one who is anointed with the Holy Spirit. There will be signs to confirm that the success of the exorcism has taken place.

Come Holy Spirit - Charismatic movement

Tongues

On the day of Pentecost, the apostles received the gift of tongues, they were able to speak to peoples of different nationalities who would understand them in their own languages.

However this gift does not only refer to languages that can be interpreted by others only, St. Paul says that if someone speaks in tongues there should be another person who would interpret what he is saying for the benefit of the whole group. There are also tongues of praise and adoration, which are the most common. These are very beneficial for the soul. They are as the language to express communication only between the soul and God [1 Corinthians 14:2] St. Paul recommends that once we receive the gift of tongues one should strive to possess the gift of Prophecy because tongues build the individual while Prophecy builds the whole Church. He says do not forbid speaking in tongues [1 Corinthians 14:39].

We don't know how to pray and we need the help of the Spirit, so He makes His presence to us in sighs, moans, tongues or any other manifestation that expresses our deepest feelings of love for God [Romans 8:26]

Many healings take place at the moment of laying hands on the persons being prayed over, specially when tongues are being said [Acts 19:6]. There is mystery in this gift, since only God knows the language of the Spirit. Visions are also reported to be seen when the Lord is being praised in tongues.

Those who do not have this gift may laugh or criticise those who have it, let me assure you that this is very real [Isaiah 28:10-11]. When I received it I was in tears every time that I used it, as a result I praise the Lord in tongues every day.

I want to relate to you my personal experience with this gift. I prayed over my seven year old daughter who was asking me about this gift and who genuinely desired to praise the Lord in tongues, while I was driving my car with one hand I layed hands on her with the other, a few minutes later She was praising God in tongues, and She was crying saying to me I don't know why I am crying, but I am certainly speaking in tongues.

However we must be cautious even with this gift, since some people possessed by an evil spirit may speak also in tongues and can deceive others. So instead of praising they might be cursing God. We must therefore pray always for discernment.

Teaching

This is a very useful gift that permits people to expand the Holy Scriptures and to transmit the true teachings of the Church. This is not just confined to priests or religious, everyone is supposed to be a witness of the truth.

Apologetics do a very good job putting together parts of the Bible combined with the teachings of the Church to explain certain Topics of fidelity to the Catholic Church.

Teaching can be the passing of acquired knowledge or it can be also the gift of expressing the supernatural in natural words, namely the preaching of the Majesty and Glory of God, the mysteries of His Creation, the exaltation of the Son of God, and all the beautiful teachings about Our Lady.

By the teachings of Wisdom, great mysteries can be expanded. The mystery of the Holy Trinity for example would be appreciated more when learned from someone who is anointed with this gift. There are no human words to explain mysteries, because that is what they are, but they can be put in words that will touch the soul and somehow the Holy Spirit will make up for what is lacking in meaning.

Healing - Miracles

Healing takes place when we have a change of heart and repent, when we pray to the Lord and ask for His Mercy. The Lord is our healer [Exodus 15:26].

Healing can only take place after repentance and forgiveness. That is the obstacle of many who are seeking to be healed, the reason is that they may still have some resentment against someone, against themselves or against God.

The Lord heals first the soul, then the body [Matthew 9:2-6] as we recall in the healing of the paralytic.

When we refer to the gift of healing we speak of people who have the gift of praying for the healing of others and the response of the Lord by healing them.

Those who are engaged in this kind of intercessory prayer, must pray fervently that the Lord will forgive the sins of the sick person. If you can bring a person to repentance of his sins, then there is a great possibility of healing.

We must be proclaimers of repentance, unafraid of criticism. We must advise people to go to confession when they sin or at least once a month, so that we don't lose the sense of sin.

As we pray for another, we must bring that person before the Lord in humility and contrition which are the doors to His Presence, we must ask the person to live the prayers, we must confess our sins to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness. We must forgive everyone in our lives, even those that we don't remember. We must thank God the Father for the gift of His Son, whom we confess to be Our Lord, God and Saviour. We pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ His Son. We must pray that the Precious Blood of Jesus will deliver the person from all evil spirits. We must ask through the merits of the sufferings, agony and death of Our Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of His holy wounds. We should always seek the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and ask through the merits of her most holy tears.

The person being prayed over, must renounce satan, the world and all those things that lead to sin. All these prayers are submitted to the Holy Will of God and depend on His Will, not our wills. At the end of the prayers, we must thank God again for answering our prayer, we must believe that the Lord is granting us our request because trust in Him is the vessel of His Mercy. We conclude our prayers with praise and adoration.

After the prayers, we must present these petitions to the Lord as we receive Him in the Holy Eucharist and ask Him to cover them with His Precious Blood.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is truly present with us, specially as we proclaim His Word [Mark 16:20].

Many miracles have taken place in our humble ministry following this preceding prayers. Thanks be to God!

Discernment

By this gift, we receive a feeling inside that tells us whether things are right or wrong. It is very useful when we have to pray for someone, because somehow we receive a special light to guide us in prayer.

Discernment is also very useful when we deal with someone for the first time, or when we listen to a prophecy. There are many voices in the world, we must know which ones we must avoid.

We must pray daily for this gift because the devil is the father of lies and he is always trying to find ways to deceive us.

We are bombarded continuously with heresies, blasphemies, lies, false stories and distracting words.

As disciples of Jesus, we must listen only to one voice, His Word. Solomon prayed for Wisdom, and great discernment was given to Him [1 Kings 4:29-30]. Likewise we must pray that God who is Wisdom will fill us abundantly.

Apparitions

Very common during this century is the occurrence of Apparitions of heavenly beings, such as angels, saints, Our Lady and Our Lord.

Throughout the centuries, Our Lord and Our Lady have appeared mainly to the saints in order to pass very important messages or doctrines, such as the doctrine of the Sacred Heart revealed to Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the Divine Mercy revealed to Sr. Faustina. Our Lady in the main apparitions such as Lourdes revealed that She was the Immaculate Conception and in Fatima She said that She is Our Lady of the Rosary and that Jesus wants us to have devotions to Her Immaculate Heart.

The Lord prophesied through, [Joel 2:28] And it shall come to pass after this, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy: your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

In the Spirit of Elijah, these apparitions are taking place in order to bring people to repentance, to show them the reality of God Who is denied and blasphemed. The Lord in His great Mercy does not want to condemn us but He sends His mother or comes Himself to warn us.

Commonly angels precede the apparitions of Our Lord or Our Lady in order to prepare the visionaries for those great encounters.

This phenomenon has multiplied in this last century, the main theme of the messages is that people must return to God, that they must amend their ways and come to the Sacraments.

Our Lady has been requesting that we pray the Holy Rosary, because this great prayer is a miniature presentation of the main teachings of the New Testament, where we learn to know and love Jesus throughout His life, passion, agony, death, resurrection and Glory.

We are given these devotions to Our Lady in order to also come to know Her Who is our Queen and our Mother, our great Advocate before the Lord; then we can humbly come to Jesus through Her.

As Catholics we have the choice of believing or rejecting these apparitions especially before they are approved by the Church. After approval, we are invited to learn from this heavenly experiences in order to benefit our souls. However the Church teachings are not based on apparitions but on the direct teachings of the Holy Scriptures and the traditions handed out to us through the centuries.

Messages

We must be careful regarding messages and apparitions, since the devil is also at work trying to deceive and destroy.

For messages to be authentic, we must make certain that they don't contain anything contrary to the teachings of the Church. The safest way to discern is to accept those messages which have received the imprimatur or approval of the Church.

We don't sin if we accept apparitions and messages which are not approved officially by the Church but we may fall into disobedience by promoting them.

There are three marks pertaining to good Catholics, they are :

- Love for Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist.
- Love for Our Lady . Devotions of the Holy Rosary.
- Love for Holy Father and acceptance of the official teachings of the Magisterium of the Church.

Any messages and apparitions must conform with these points in order to prove their authenticity and loyalty. Obedience and humility must support them as well. No desire for money or fame must be involved, since that would prove hidden false motives.

Besides the messages received directly in apparitions, there are also messages received in the Spirit of Prophecy, such as dictations or interior locutions. There are also many visions given to those who are seeking the Way, the Truth and the Life, they are all part of the training that God is giving to His people in these times of His great Mercy.

Other phenomenon associated with apparitions and messages is the stigmata, which is given to special victim souls who have the privilege of carrying in their bodies the marks of the passion of Our Lord. [Galatians 6:17] . By sharing in the sufferings of Our Lord many sins are atoned, victims souls contribute with their suffering in the purification of others and they are great intercessors before the Lord.

The Charismatic movement

One of the results of the II Vatican Council, was to acknowledge the Charisms of the Holy Spirit as a very important part of our Christian Life. The Charisms of the Holy Spirit are invaluable in the work of the new Evangelisation of the Church and they provide the faithful with the zeal of the Holy Spirit to praise God, to worship and to live with the great joy of knowing that Jesus is Alive.

Groups of enthusiastic worshippers have gathered since then and have discovered that prayer, praise, worship, and togetherness are truly a renovating force breathed by the Holy Spirit. The Charismatic movement has obtained the approval of the Catholic Church and is flourishing in many parts of the world. Many priests take part in this movement.

One of the negative aspects of the Charismatic movement is the similarity to Pentecostalism, but the true Charismatics remain faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and must promote the Sacraments, especially Reconciliation.

The movement has encountered a lot of opposition from very Orthodox Catholics who see it as a threat to traditional teachings. However the Church has given it approval provided the movement maintains fidelity to the Church.

On a general audience with Pope John Paul II, March 9, 1994 the Pope spoke about the Charisms of the Holy Spirit:

The Apostolic Exhortation *Christi fideles Laici* also stressed the "no charism dispenses a person from reference and submission to the Pastors of the Church." These norms of prudence are easily understandable and apply to all, both clerics and lay people.

That having been said, we would like to repeat with the Council and the Exhortation cited above the "charisms should be received in gratitude both on the part of the one who receives them, and also on the part of the entire Church." For these charisms there arises "for each of the faithful the right and duty of exercising them for the good of men and for building up the Church." [Pope John Paul II, General Audience, March 9, 1994]

Parts of a typical Charismatic prayer meeting

The Holy Rosary

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the advocate before Our Lord Jesus Christ her son, this generous lady, our mother, wants us to know her more and also her Son Our Lord through this humble devotion of the Rosary, the prayer of Our Lady's predilection.

The Rosary is not in the Bible, but the Bible is in the Rosary. Through these simple meditations we receive the Grace we need.

The Blessed Virgin has asked for this prayer of the Rosary, in order to combat heresies and to defend us from the attacks of the devil.

The Holy Rosary contains fifteen mysteries divided in Joyful, Dolorous and Glorious. They can be recited in groups of five mysteries during the different days of the week.

When we pray the Rosary, we must do not only vocal prayer, but also mental prayer so that we can meditate the different events of the life of Christ and His Most Holy Mother.

Normally we pray five decades of the Rosary daily, but when a great fervour is reached, the prayer of the Holy Rosary goes through the entire life of Our Lord and Our Lady which is contained in the fifteen decades of the Rosary.

Before the recitation of the Rosary, we should always list all the intentions that we are praying for. We should pray at the end for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Praise and worship

This section is destined for singing songs of Praise and Worship to the Lord, St. Augustine says that when we sing our prayers, we pray twice over. This creates an atmosphere of Joy in preparation for the rest of the meeting. A section of the group takes care of preparing the songs, this is called the music ministry, some members can use their musical talents, in any case everyone is invited to sing joyfully.

Praise can be done also by reading Psalms and other parts of the Bible or by sharing spontaneous prayers, praising in tongues, etc.

Deliverance

It is important to command all evil spirits in the name of Jesus to leave the place and the people in the prayer meeting.

This must be done only when there are persons in the group who have the gift of deliverance and know how to confront evil spirits.

Repentance

We must come before the Lord with a humble and contrite heart. This is the first step in our process to receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

The group must pray for repentance, usually there are leaders who say the prayers for repentance, they can be taken from prayer books but it is spiritually healthy to allow the Holy Spirit to grant them spontaneously.

If there are Priests present in the meeting, this is the opportunity to go to confession. During Holy Mass, the priest should put emphasis on repentance, after all, these were the first words of Christ during His ministry here on earth. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand (Matthew 4:17). A clean heart is a clean house for the Holy Spirit.

Calling of the Holy Spirit

This is a time to invoke the Holy Spirit, usually singing a "Come Holy Spirit song". After that, there should be a period of praising in tongues if the gift is present, otherwise any ejaculations of praise are sufficient, such as:

" I love you Jesus, I praise you Jesus, come Lord my God, I worship you Lord, Come Holy Spirit, come Fire of Divine Love. Come Spirit of Peace and Wisdom, fill our hearts.
Thank you Jesus, we praise you Jesus, we love you Jesus. Amen. Alleluia.

After that there should be a moment of silence in which everyone will open themselves to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing

It is most important for us to cultivate this intimacy among brothers and sisters in Christ which let us know how the Lord has affected the lives of others.

By sharing our experiences we bind ourselves in communion with one another, we convey the faith we have, we grow as we learn of the growth of others and we learn about the things that we must pray for. We also become bold witness of the great things that the Lord has done for us. Our Lady shared the great things the Lord had done for her [Luke 1:49].

Petitions

Since we feel the Presence of the Lord in our prayer group, it is very important that we express our petitions with thanksgiving to God for the Graces we receive. Members of the prayer meeting are encouraged to speak and to make their petitions known so that we can all pray to the Lord for the same intentions, although these intentions can be expressed in silence too.

The Word of God

The Word of God is food for our souls, nourishment for our spiritual growth, everlasting wisdom.

Jesus the Eternal Word of God incarnate came to the world to give us the Word that save us. His words must be engraved in our hearts; they must be our hope and consolation, our joy and meditation.

The Word of God must be read in the prayer group, and we must pray to the Holy Spirit to give us the spiritual meaning that we don't normally perceive.

Great spiritual profit can be obtained from the Word of God if we accept it and put it into practice. (Hebrews 3:15) As it is said, "if you hear his voice today, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

One of the group leaders may expand a religious or spiritual topic based on the Holy Scriptures, all the listeners may contribute with their spiritual perceptions and the result will be the amplification of the Word of God in our hearts.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

16 All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

All Catholics must become evangelicals in the sense that we must put more attention to the Word of God; we must study it and meditate it. The Protestants are very advanced regarding the study of the Word of God, unfortunately they have their own interpretations and they create misleading anti Catholic doctrines.

Catholic Charismatics are encouraged to study the Bible and to become defenders of the Catholic faith; we must be Apologetics, full of insight into the Holy Scriptures and rich in knowledge of the doctrines of the Church.

The Lord has commanded all believers to preach His Word; He will accompany them and provide miracles to back up their ministry. This of course is of great interest to the Charismatic Movement.

(Mark 16:20) And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Prayers in the Spirit

To conclude the prayer group, we finish with the prayers in the Spirit. This is done after the Holy Mass if that is possible or after the previous steps. Those who have the gift of intercession begin to pray for the sick or for those who bring a especial petition to the Lord.

We pray laying hands over the sick persons, we anoint them with oil emphasizing repentance and opening to the action of the Holy Spirit. We pray for discernment, we ask people to renounce satan and sin, we invoke the Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues, we ask the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and we submit all intentions to the Lord.

If we pray for people who are standing, it is necessary to have other people to assist them in case they are slain in the Spirit. It is advisable to pray for people when they are sitting, to avoid any injuries in case they fall without support.

Great miracles have occurred during these types of prayers, many persons have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, others have received physical and spiritual healings, others have received gifts of the Holy Spirit such as Prophecy and tongues.

Glory to God!

Slain in the Spirit

This is one of the experiences in the Charismatic movement that defy the traditional beliefs of many Catholics. When someone prays over another person, sometimes that person receives a touch of the Holy Spirit that takes away their strength and makes the person fall to the ground. The person is filled with great Peace, it is an encounter with God in a very serene atmosphere. Somehow the person is disconnected with reality and enters into a state of joy in the Lord.

Of course we must not believe everything we see, specially when some people exaggerate or fake the experience or when some of the people who pray push the others to the ground. We are not talking about this here.

To be slain in the Spirit is a true experience when the right people are involved and when the Holy Spirit makes His manifestation; the ways of the Lord are above our ways and the wind of the Spirit blows where it pleases [John 3:8]. It is very easy to condemn what we don't know says St. Peter.[2 Peter 2:12]

David and the high priests fell on their faces when they saw an angel standing between earth and Heaven [1 Chronicles 21:16]

Ezequiel came before the Presence of God and He fell upon his face [Ezekiel 1:26-28]

Daniel also had a similar experience, He lost his strength [Daniel 8:17-18]

When St. John the Apostle had his encounter with Our Lord, he fell at His feet, feeling as dead. [Apocalypse 1:17]

The fact of the matter is that the experience of being slain in the Spirit is very real and genuine. It is important for Charismatic groups to be prepared when they start laying hands on people; a good way is to ask them to sit down. If the prayers will be done for people who are standing, it is recommended to have people, who will catch them when they are falling to the ground to avoid injuries. (Although no one has complained in our groups)

I have prayed over many people who have been slain in the Holy Spirit, I did not put any pressure on them and I could feel how their strength was being lost and finally they dropped. Normally they would stay on the ground for up to fifteen minutes, although some stayed longer.

When people fall genuinely for the first time, they report a feeling of great peace; they feel very close to God. They repeat that experience on occasions when they are prayed over, although being slain in the Spirit does not happen every time.

There were occasions when people fell without any hands touching them, I simply raised my hands, I wanted to pray over them, but they just dropped, I could feel the Holy Spirit very strong on many occasions.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that there is only one Baptism and through it we have received the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience that a baptised person may have if they open their hearts to the influence of the Holy Spirit, it is a very common experience at a Holy Spirit Seminar or at Charismatic prayer groups. It is like an awakening to the reality that we indeed have gifts but that we are supposed to open them and use them.

To have such a "Freeing of the Spirit", the person has to go through the stages of Repentance and belief in the Promises of the Holy Spirit. Then, the imposition of hands [not always necessary] helps to bring about this experience.

This "Fullness of the Spirit" is similar to an experience of the early Church in Corinth as related in the Acts of the Apostles:

[Acts 19:1-6]

1 And it came to pass, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul having passed through the upper coasts, came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples.

2 And he said to them: Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? But they said to him: We have not so much as heard whether there be a Holy Ghost.

3 And he said: In what then were you baptised? Who said: In John's baptism.

4 Then Paul said: John baptised the people with the baptism of penance, saying: That they should believe in him who was to come after him, that is to say, in Jesus.

5 Having heard these things, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had imposed his hands on them, the Holy Ghost came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Growth in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit fills us with the gifts we need to produce good fruit, to grow in holiness, and to proclaim the Good News of our Salvation [Colossians 1:10].

We must submit our lives to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, He is the Advocate, the Paraclete, the Spirit of Peace, Love and Joy. In Him we can rest and be fed. He is our teacher, He will always tell us what is right and what is wrong, because He speaks through our conscience. We must remain obedient to the teachings of the Church and open ourselves to the direction of the Holy Spirit. God is with us, but we must come to Him.

The Holy Scriptures say that we will be taught by God [Isaiah 54:13], we have received the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ Who has sent His Holy Spirit to guide us.

As a baby depends on its mother, we must also depend on God, St. Peter invites us to drink that spiritual milk [1 Peter 2:2] that will make us grow in the knowledge of Our Lord.

The Holy Spirit does His work silently as a gentle breeze, all we have to do is to believe and to submit ourselves to His direction.

[1 Corinthians 3:6] I have planted, Apollo watered, but God gave the growth.

Charismatic prayer meetings

The Lord says that where there are two or more gathered in His name, He is in their midst. We come together to pray in the name of Jesus and for His greater Glory.

I don't recommend any prayer meetings where the Rosary is omitted, in fact we must emulate the apostles who were together in prayer with the mother of God when the Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost.

If you can not invite into your life the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, then there must be something wrong with you. Mary is the Mother of the Son of God, and She is also our Mother. As mother of the children of God, She has received the task of caring for us.

Through her intercession the Holy Spirit descended to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, and it is also through her intercession that the Grace of the Holy Spirit descends to us in a very powerful way.

With the company of the Blessed Mother of God we can safely proceed to conduct a Charismatic prayer meeting where there will not be deception by the enemy.

The prayer meeting may last several hours depending on the enthusiasm of those involved and on the length of the healing ministry at the end. Sometimes it concludes with a healing mass.

Healing Ministry

Many miracles have occurred during the prayers done at this section of the prayer meeting. Those who are given the gift of prayer and healing, can lead others to pray for those who are sick, everyone is invited to extend their hands and raise their spirits in supplication to the Lord

for the prayers to be answered.

Those who are more gifted, can lay their hands on the ones being prayed over. Remembering that the most effective way to obtain healing from the Lord is to bring those being prayed over to repent of their sins, to forgive those they resent, to forgive themselves and to accept the Will of God. Only the priest has the power to forgive sins here on earth, so we should recommend everyone to go to confession in order for the healing effects of the prayers to take place.

St. James recommend that we anoint those who are sick with oil, although this is separately a Sacrament administered by the priest, any lay person can also anoint someone with oil, preferable blessed by a priest, and the good intentions of the heart and the prayers of a just person can obtain healing for the sick. [James 5:14-16]

The Healing Ministry is a great manifestation of the Spirit of Charity working within us moving us with compassion and love for those who are suffering. Our ministry is not only confined to the prayer meeting, we must pray for all those people who suffer, we must pray for peace, we must pray for the gift of life to be preserved, we must pray for those who are contemplating something evil to stop. We must pray for one another because caring in this way is the same as loving one another. We can pray over the phone, we can pray on the street when we know that people need prayers, we can pray for sick people in hospitals, in fact the whole world is in need of prayer, so let us pray for one another.

It is not for us to see the result of our prayers straight away or for all prayers to be answered according to our needs or petitions, when we pray we don't come to give directions to God, because that would be a sin, so we come humbly to present to the Lord the needs of those who are suffering. We always leave our petitions in the hands of Our Lord and we wait confidently and patiently for the results.

If God answered our prayers every time, we would be filled with pride thinking that we are saints, so we have to accept first the Will of God, and if the healing is to contribute to that person's salvation, and if it is according to His Will, the Lord will respond positively.

Many times, the Lord gives a sign when someone is being healed, even as we pray, the person may experience tremendous heat as if they were on fire. Other times a word of knowledge or a vision may be received in regards to the healing of the sick. Whatever happens, the Lord always hears our prayers. Amen.

Becoming instruments of the Holy Spirit

To be able to assist the Spirit of God and to merit ourselves to become His instruments, we must be disciples of Jesus. It takes self denial, acceptance of His Holy Will and imitation of Christ. We must truly diminish humbly so that the Lord may grow in us [John 3:30], we must be quiet within, so that we may hear the voice of the Spirit, we have to forget ourselves in order to think of God all the time, we have to leave the world behind in order to find the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth, right within our hearts.

When we allow the Spirit of God to possess us, it is unimportant to speak about us any more; we just want to speak about God. We must reject all the credit that is given to us for our good works otherwise we will be paid here not in heaven [Matthew 6:2], we stop worrying about all the things of this world and start living the spiritual things that Jesus is teaching us in His

gospels.

The spiritual person has to overcome the world, the devil and the flesh. The Sacraments of reconciliation and Holy Communion must be received frequently so that the person remains in a state of Grace. God doesn't listen to sinners [John 9:31], so how can we pretend that we can intercede for others when we ourselves need more prayers than them?

To become instruments of the Holy Spirit, we must become holy, we must listen to the command of God to be holy [Leviticus 11:45]. We must be clean containers of the Living Water that saves us, we must burn with the pure flames of the fire of Love.

We must have a pure conscience, a pure heart, a pure intention for everyone. We must live not for ourselves but for Christ, we must count everything as rubbish in order to possess Christ [Philippians 3:8].

So to merit this great gift of the Holy Spirit we must come to a stage where we can say with St. Paul, it is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me [Galatians 2:20].

Life in the Spirit

We are invited to live a life in the Spirit of God, this calls for renunciation of the earthly life, detachment from our material world, possessions and the ego.

We must die to the old self to experience the new self which is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live according to the Will of God.

This new life creates new commitments to God, which involve more time for God than before, we are encouraged to participate in different types of prayer meetings, we may practice different devotions, we may be called to receive the Lord daily in the Holy Eucharist, we may decide to pray the Rosary daily and many other activities which did not make sense before.

We are the new apostles of the Lord, apostles of the last times, we must pray for the unity of the Church, we must proclaim the Good News to everyone and be living witnesses of the truth.

Pray that the gifts the Lord is giving you will be given to everyone, pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit continually.

Those experiencing the action of the Holy Spirit may receive visions, locutions, dreams, knowledge, wisdom, shakes, moans or sighs when they pray, etc. They are little consolations but we must not seek them, they can become weapons of the adversary to make us believe that we are doing very well spiritually. Beware friends in Christ; pray continually to the Holy Spirit for discernment and to Our Lady to protect you from the enemy. Pray the Holy Rosary.

Those who are receiving the gifts of grace from the Lord will also experience the attacks of the enemy who comes in our dreams or during events of our lives tempting us, humiliating us and trying to discourage us.

Whatever we do in the new spiritual life, let us always do in the name of Jesus, thanking our Heavenly Father for His gifts and living our lives consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Holy Spirit and Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the most perfect of all creatures, She is the Immaculate Conception, in other words She reflects perfectly the image of God that Adam and Eve reflected before they committed sin. She was conceived without sin by a very special Grace of God Who made Her full of Grace, She grew in that Grace and later was requested to become the Mother of the Word of God Who took flesh and blood from Her and became man. The Conception of Our Lord happened by the action of the Holy Spirit in the virginal womb of Mary [Luke 1:35].

This spousal between the Holy Spirit and Mary is the most intimate encounter between God and man. Out of this fruitful union came Our Blessed Lord Who being God humbled Himself to clothe Himself with our humanity, remaining a prisoner in the womb of the Blessed Virgin for nine months and accompanying Her during thirty years of His life.

By the spousal with the Holy Spirit, Our Lady was anointed and sanctified. She cooperated with the Holy Spirit in so far as becoming His most perfect instrument. No one can claim that they could be as useful to God as Mary is. This is why Our Lady says humbly, The Lord has done great things in me and holy is His name. All generations shall call me blessed. [The Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55]

By the action of the Holy Spirit, Mary became the tree of Life. The fruit of this tree is first of all Our Lord Who is the bread of life. As we accept Christ into our lives and live a Christian life fulfilling the promises made in our Baptism, we become the children of God who by precedence have the same spiritual mother as His Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. So we are the children of the new Eve, we have been conceived in the spiritual womb of Mary which is Her Immaculate Heart.

No wonder Our Lord said, you must be born again: " You must become a child of Mary".

The Holy Spirit begets the children of God in Mary, He did that first with Our Lord, we are also children of God, children of Mary.

In revelation 12:17 we are told that the dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil was very angry with the woman who conceived the child who rules all the nations [Revelation 12:5] whose enmity was stated in [Genesis 3:15]. He, the devil went out to make war to the woman and the rest of her children [who accept Mary as Mother] , those who keep the commandments [Revelation 12:17] and accept the teachings of Jesus Christ.

So this great privilege of being the spouse of the Holy Spirit is unique to Our Blessed Mother, and yet God has made us all temples of His Holy Spirit so that we can be united to Him and love Him as Mary does.

We must become like Mary in order to receive these great gifts of God, we must learn to love God the way She loves Him: as a perfect daughter of God the Father, as a perfect mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and as the perfect spouse of the Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYERS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Novena to God the Holy Spirit
Prayer to the Holy Ghost
Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Spirit
Come Holy Spirit, come
Healing Prayer
I believe
Veni, Creator (hymn)
Act of consecration to the Holy Spirit (recite daily)
Prayer for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (recite daily)

Novena to God the Holy Spirit

Taken from the Work of God Apostolate

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit (recite daily)

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit (recite daily)

FOREWORD

The novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

To encourage devotion to the Holy Spirit, the Church has enriched this novena with the following indulgences:

The faithful who devoutly assist at the public novena in honor of the Holy Spirit immediately preceding the Feast of Pentecost may gain:

An indulgence of ten years on any day of the novena; a plenary indulgence, if they take part in at least five of the exercises, and moreover go to confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the Holy Father's intentions.

Those who make a private novena in honor of the Holy Spirit, either before Pentecost or at any other time in the year, may gain:

An indulgence of seven years once on each day of the Novena; a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions at the close of the novena; but if a public novena is held, this indulgence is available only to those who are lawfully hindered from taking part in the same.

Those who want to make the Novena before the Feast of Pentecost, should start on the Friday after Ascension or Friday of 6th Week of Easter.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (recite daily)

On my knees, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds,

and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant is listening" Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (recite daily)

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

FIRST DAY

Holy Spirit! Lord of Light!
From Your clear celestial height,
Your pure beaming radiance give!

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important - eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared - sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helps our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asks for us."

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who has permitted to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and has given us forgiveness of all sins, permit to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

SECOND DAY

Come, Father of the poor.
Come, treasures which endure;
Come, Light of all that live!

The Gift of Fear

The gift of Fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever, help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven, where You live and reign in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God world without end. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

THIRD DAY

You, of all consolers best,
Visiting the troubled breast,
Do refreshing peace bestow.

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect for His sake persons and things consecrated to Him, as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion, not a burdensome duty, but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labor.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God, that I may find satisfaction only in His service, and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

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FOURTH DAY

You in toil are comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
solace in the midst of woe.

The Gift of Fortitude. By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitation the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect, and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that perseveres to the end, shall be saved."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from You, my God and greatest Good. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

FIFTH DAY

Light immortal! Light Divine!
Visit these hearts of Yours,
And our inmost being fill!

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth - in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask the pretence of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity, and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesses it."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge, and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Your glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to You, and Your eternal rewards. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

SIXTH DAY

If You take Your grace away,
nothing pure in man will stay,
All his good is turned to ill.

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be

quicken to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God, pleasing Him in all things, and increasing in His knowledge."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and enlighten our minds, that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation; and may merit at last to see the eternal light in Your Light; and in the light of glory to have a clear vision of You and the Father and the Son. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

SEVENTH DAY

Heal our wounds - renew our strength;
On our dryness pour Your dew,
Wash the stains of guilt away.

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct your way in truth."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Your holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Your commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

EIGHTH DAY

Bend the stubborn heart and will,
melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray!

The Gift of Wisdom

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of wisdom it is written "all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish divine things, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, while the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Saviour: "Take up your cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my

burden light.

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

NINTH DAY

On those who evermore confess you and Adore you,
in Your sevenfold gifts, Descend;
Give Them Comfort when they die;
Give them Life with You on high;
Give them joys which never end. Amen

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve Whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Your heavenly fruits, Your charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that I may never grow weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Your inspiration may merit to be united eternally with You in the love of the Father and the Son. Amen.

Our Father and Hail Mary ONCE. Glory be to the Father SEVEN TIMES.

We should pray and invoke the Holy Spirit for each one of us, for each one of us greatly needs His protection and help. The more a man is deficient in wisdom, weak in strength, borne down in trouble, prone to sin, the more he should fly to Him Who is the never ceasing fount of Light, Strength, Consolation, and Holiness.

Pope Leo XIII

Prayer to the Holy Ghost

Holy Spirit, come into my heart; draw it to Thee by Thy power, O my God, and grant me charity with filial fear. Preserve me, O ineffable Love, from every evil thought; warm me, inflame me with Thy dear love, and every pain will seem light to me. My Father, my sweet Lord, help me in

all my actions. Jesus, love, Jesus, love (St. Catherine of Siena).

(Anyone who has consecrated himself to Mary according to the formula of the Blessed Grignon de Montfort, and then also to the Sacred Heart, will find great treasures in a repeated consecration to the Holy Spirit. The whole influence of Mary leads us to intimacy with Christ, and the humanity of Jesus leads us to the Holy Spirit, who introduces us into the mystery of the adorable Trinity.)

Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

O Holy Ghost, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to Thee my intellect, my heart, my will and my whole being for time and for eternity.

May my intellect be ever docile to Thy heavenly inspirations and to the teaching of the Holy Catholic Church of which Thou art the infallible Guide. May my heart be ever inflamed with the love of God and my neighbour; may my will be ever in conformity with the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful imitation of the life and virtues of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom, with the Father and thee, Holy Spirit, be honour and glory for ever. Amen.

(Indulgence of 300 days once a day, applicable to the souls in Purgatory -- Pius X. This consecration may be renewed by repeating only the first paragraph of the form.)

COME HOLY SPIRIT, COME

by Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary your well beloved spouse.

Come Holy Spirit, come, enkindle the hearts of your faithful.

Come Holy Spirit, come, we have received the body and blood of Jesus, fill us with His spirit, His purity and His goodness.

Come Holy Spirit, come, penetrate with your light the deepest part of our souls, empower us with great faith, clothe us with your love and enlighten us with your wisdom.

Come Holy Spirit, come, renew our minds and our hearts, make healthy our bodies and our souls.

Come Holy Spirit, come, saturate us with your presence and sanctify us.

Come Holy Spirit, come, make every beat of our hearts a song of praise, blessing, thanksgiving and glory to God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, replace our cold hearts with living furnaces of burning love for God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, make every cell of our bodies a holy altar of worship and service to God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, let peace reign in our midst, the peace that Jesus has given us.

Come Holy Spirit, come, make us aware of the living presence of God at all times. Come Holy Spirit, come, enlighten our minds with wisdom of the heart.

Come Holy Spirit, come, prepare our souls as living tabernacles of the Holy Trinity. Come Holy Spirit, come, take over our lives: act in us, think in us, will in us, for the glory of God .

Come Holy Spirit, come, increase our faith, hope and love, give us the grace to do always the will of God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, increase our dependence in the Sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Come Holy Spirit, come, teach us to open our hearts and our lives to the Will of God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, make us keep the Word of God constantly.

Come Holy Spirit, come, inspire us to be holy and perfect.

Come Holy Spirit, come, teach us to surrender to God, remind us constantly to imitate Mary your worthy and beloved spouse.

Come Holy Spirit, come, pray for us at all times even if we don't understand it, praise God without ceasing, teach us to worship in spirit and in truth.

Come Holy Spirit, come, Spirit of Jesus the Sun of Justice. Let your healing rays touch our hearts, our bodies and our souls and heal us of all wounds that prevent our perfect relationship with God .

Come Holy Spirit, come, baptise us with your healing consuming fire of love.

Come Holy Spirit, come, touch the hearts of all unbelievers and all sinners, convert them to Jesus, fill them with repentance and the spirit of conversion.

Come Holy Spirit, come, enkindle the fire of worship and adoration in lukewarm souls.

Come Holy Spirit, come, teach us to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

Come Holy Spirit, come, fill us with your goodness, teach us to share and to be compassionate.

Come Holy Spirit, come, anoint us with your purity, make us live holy lives for the glory of God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, fill us with understanding, patience, faithfulness, trustfulness, mercy, self control, humility, kindness, charity, obedience, piety, surrender and joy.

Come Holy Spirit, come, fill us with the Word of God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, make us truly new creatures in Christ, help us to shine his light where there is darkness; to bring his peace and joy where there is unhappiness. Come Holy spirit, come, Teach us to glorify Jesus by evangelising and becoming his instruments of love.

Come Holy Spirit, come, animate us with your holy presence. Fill your temples: take possession of our bodies, our souls, our minds and our wills; which we submit to you to glorify God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, fill us with the Power of Faith. With the great Love of God. With holy Wisdom. With abundant Grace. With innocent Purity. With everlasting Peace and with the Light of God.

Come Holy Spirit, come, dwell in us forever, with the Father and with the Son. Amen.

Healing Prayer by Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Lord, hear me....

Lord, anoint me with Your Divine Spirit...

Inflame my heart with the fire of Your Love.....

Flood my being with Your Majestic Presence.....

Please attend the call of my soul.....

Lord, forgive me all my offences.....,

purify me and heal me of all the resentments

that I may have contracted in my ignorance.....

Forgive me for all the times that I have despised You.....

when I have sinned and haven't felt any remorse.....

Deign to fill me with the gift of Forgiveness.....

so that at this moment I can forgive all the people that have
offended me, and that I can send my love to them

and so that they forgive me too.....

Lord.....Heal my self inflicted wounds for lack of pardon and
understanding for my brothers.....

Heal me Lord.....

Purify my soul,.... so that I can feel that I have no
resentments against anyone....or against myself.....or against
You.....

Fill me with Your Peace.....

Saturate my being with Your Divine Love, to undo the walls of
pride and selfishness.....

Teach me to love You and others as I have never loved
before.....

Transform me into a sun of Eternal Loveto light up all
hearts with tender rays of love.....

Heal me Lord.....

Fill me with Your Light.....

Fill me with Your Love.....

Fill me with Your Peace.....

Amen.....

I believe

(Charismatic Scriptural Prayer - by Joseph of Jesus and Mary)

I believe in the Most Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three persons, one God. I believe that I must love you my God with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul and with all my strength , I believe that I must love my neighbour as myself and that I must forgive him. I believe in the ten commandments, I believe in the Holy Scriptures.

I believe in you Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Son of the Living God, my God, my Saviour, my Redeemer. I believe that you are the Word of God, who is eternally present with the Father, I believe that you came to the world and became flesh through the Blessed Virgin Mary and that you were conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe in your Word, I believe in the power of your Gospel, I believe that your words are words of everlasting life.

I believe that your Word opens the Kingdom of Heaven in all hearts. I believe that you are the Light of the world and the Way to follow, you are the truth and you are the Life. I believe that every word of your gospel is for me and that I can be moulded by it if I accept it with my heart.

I believe that if I keep your Word I will have eternal life, that you and your Father will love me and that you will reveal yourself to me and make a dwelling in me because I am a temple of your Spirit. I believe that if I keep your word , you will accompany me with signs and wonders because you have said so, and that I can do the same things you did because this is your Will.

I believe that you are my personal Saviour and Lord and that you died personally for my sins suffering the greatest torments, I believe that you took upon your crucified body all the sins of humanity, past, present and future and that by your wounds we are healed, by your death we have life, and by your resurrection we live eternally.

I believe in your Mercy which is unfathomable, I believe that you drew all humanity to yourself on the cross and that I must come to you to offer the Heavenly Father your sacrifice as the atonement for all sins. I believe in your healing power which is the power of the Resurrection.

I believe that after your death you rose again and that you ascended to the Father to intercede for us and to prepare a place for our souls.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and your Spirit whom you sent on Pentecost to unite us in your mystical body as the Church, I believe that you baptize us with the fire of your Holy Spirit which makes us new creations, true children of God.

I believe in the Holy Catholic Church and all its teachings, I believe that the Sacraments are encounters with you and I believe in the infinite power of the Holy Mass which is the unbloody re-enactment of your sacrifice in Calvary.

I believe that your Will is that we become saints for our Salvation and for your Glory. I believe in the purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary your Mother, I believe that you have raised Her above all creation, I believe that She is our Mother and that She has great power of intercession to help us and that She has great power over the devil to protect us.

I believe in the power of intercession of the saints and I pray that you increase our faith, our trust in you and our charity.

Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Veni, Creator (hymn)

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest (Veni, Creator)
Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
And in our souls take up your rest;
Come with your grace and heavenly aid
To fill the hearts which you have made.

O Comforter, to you we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above.

You in your sevenfold gifts are known;
You, finger of God's hand we own;
You, promise of the Father, you
Who do the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our senses from above,
And make our hearts overflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us your peace instead;
So shall we not, with you for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may your grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know;
And you, through endless times confessed,
Of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
With you, O holy Comforter,
Henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.

Act of consecration to the Holy Spirit (recite daily)

On my knees, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious

inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, so to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant is listening" Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (recite daily)

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

OTHER PRAYERS

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[Psalm 23](#) The Lord is my Shepherd

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The Our Father

Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed be Thy name:

Lord you are the King of the Universe, may you be glorified by all your creation, holy, holy, holy Lord, Heaven and earth are full of your Glory, Hosanna in the Highest, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the Highest.

Thy Kingdom come:

May Peace, Love and Joy reign in our hearts, may your Kingdom of Justice, truth and integrity reign over the land.

Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven:

May we become your slaves of Love and accept your Will because your will is perfect. Not my will Lord, but yours be done.

Give us this day our daily bread:

Generous Father, grant us our daily physical and spiritual bread. Feed our bodies and feed our souls with the bread of life.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us:

We repent of our sins and ask you to forgive us, in your holy name we forgive those who have sinned against us, cleanse our hearts from all resentments.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

We acknowledge how weak we are Lord, please protect us from all evil. Amen.

Our Lady's daily prayer

[From the Mystical City of God, revealed to Maria of Agreda]

I prostrate myself in your Presence Oh God Most High and I give You Thanks and Praise for your Immutable Being, for your Infinite Perfections, and for having created me out of nothing. I acknowledge myself as your creature and as the work of your hands. I bless you and I adore You. I give you Honour, Magnificence and Divinity as the Supreme Lord and Creator of myself and of all that exists.

I raise up my Spirit to place it into your hands. I offer myself with profound humility and resignation to You and I ask you to dispose of Me according to your Holy Will during this day and during all the days of my life, and I ask You to teach me to fulfil whatever would be to your greater pleasure.

I consult you, I ask your advice, I ask your permission and I ask your blessing on everything that I do today.

Heavenly Father, help us

by Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Heavenly Father, in the name of Your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the merits of His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, I come to implore You the expulsion of Satan from the world.

I offer You also the merits of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the hearts of all your saints.

I beseech and implore, that You send your angels to the final battle against Satan, to clean and restore this world to the purity that You conceived originally.

Holy Mother of God, in the name of the Love that You have for us your children, I beg you to command Your angels to expel the evil spirits, that are damaging so many souls.

Saint Michael the Archangel, by the Power of God the Father, I adjure You to drive away the spirit of Lucifer from the hearts of all human beings in which he destroys the image of God, which I consecrate now to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be purified and healed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Gabriel the Archangel, by the Wisdom of God, I adjure You to teach us the Word of God, to illumine us with Your Light and to engrave our hearts with the mark of the elect.

Saint Raphael the Archangel, by the Love of God, I adjure You to take away from us anything that does not conform to the Love of God and enkindle us with the love flames of the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus and Mary, forgive us, your children, protect us and deliver us from evil. Amen.

Meditated Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The "Our Father", Hail Mary, the Creed.

Pray five times the following:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ
in atonement for our sins and the sins
of the whole world.
For the sake of his sorrowful passion
and the sorrowful
Immaculate Heart of Mary:

In the Agony in the Garden,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the scourging of Our Lord,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the crowning with thorns,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the trial,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the carrying of the cross on his wounded shoulder,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the encounter with Mother Mary,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the encounters with the Cyrenean, Veronica and the holy women

Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the falls of Our Lord,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the stripping of our Lord's garments,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the crucifixion,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the sorrowful agony and death,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the piercing of His Most Sacred Heart,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
In the sorrows of Our Lady after the death of Our Lord, as She received
the body of Jesus in her arms, as She place Him in the tomb and as She
waited until the Resurrection,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. [Three times at the end]

Daily Divine Mercy intentions

Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins and the sins of the whole world;

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all sinners, all generations past, present and future.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all priests and religious, especially those who fail you in their sublime vocation.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the faithful and devoted souls.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the pagans and those who do not know you.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the heretics, schismatics, those who reject the Catholic religion.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the meek and humble souls, especially those of the little children.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who honour and venerate your Mercy.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the poor souls in Purgatory.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

have Mercy on all the lukewarm souls.

Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins and the sins of the whole world;

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who honour and venerate your Blessed Mother.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who venerate the Blessed Sacrament.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who venerate the Catholic Church and the Holy Father.

Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins and the sins of the whole world;

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who are dying at this moment and during this day, grant them to repent and to come back to you.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all those who are sinning at this moment and on every one when they sin, Forgive them Father, they do not know what they do.

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion and of the Sorrows of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, have Mercy on all the dead, you alone have the power to raise us to life.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,
Have Mercy on us and on the whole world.

Glory to God in the highest

Glory to God in the highest and Peace to His people on earth,
Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father,
we worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for your Glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have Mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

Thank you Father

Heavenly Father, Almighty God. I just want to thank you and praise you for my existence, I thank you in the name of Jesus for everything that I am, for everything that exists.

Thank you infinitely Father for having made me a human being, for making me in your image and for calling me you son [or daughter]. Thank you Father for your infinite goodness which is reflected on the perfection of all your works.

Thank you Father Almighty for giving us your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you in the name of Jesus for your infinite Merciful Love.

Thank you Father for the gift of our earthly parents, children and family. Thank you for accepting us into your eternal heavenly family; thank you Father for the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Mother.

Thank you Father for giving us the Holy Spirit to remind us that you are our daddy. Thank you Father for calling us again and again and for wanting us to stop being prodigal children so that we can start enjoying all the riches of your spiritual Kingdom. Thank you Father for the gift of our faith.

Thank you Father for the gift of my health, for my food, shelter, intelligence and all my talents. Thank you Father for caring for us your ungrateful children.

Thank you Father for your your most Holy Will that includes me in your plan. Thank you for all the crosses that you give me, since you know better than me what they are for, thank you for giving me the Wisdom to accept you as my Father.

Thank you Father for being my Father.
Joseph of Jesus and Mary.

Prayer to Jesus God the Son, through Mary

My Jesus, Divine Majesty, Sovereign King.

I prostrate myself at Your feet to adore You, praise You and supplicate You.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

I am dust, a creature of the earth, a simple human being with all the lowliness that I have by inheritance and because of my carelessness. However God The Father gave me a soul in His image.

But how unworthy I am, I have stained it with my faults, and with indifference to You.

Today I feel profound repentance for my mistakes and I come to talk to You from the core of my soul, from where Your Divine Presence gives me Life. It is for the sake of my sins and for those of my brothers, that You, Divine King, came to the earth and compared yourself with us, You became slave of the human race and allowed yourself to be outraged, despised and killed cruelly, in order to forgive our faults before God The Father and thus securing Eternal Life for

us, according to our deeds.

O my God, How can I repay You for what You have done. How can I even just feel myself worthy of being listened by You, when my sins stain my soul and hide me from Your sight.

But, how happy I feel, knowing that You gave us on the cross Your Most Sacred Mother as our Mother. And how Hope shines in our hearts when we are sure, that it is easier for You to listen to Her than to us.

This is why Mary is that beautiful way that leads us to You.

And this is why I consecrate myself to Her Immaculate Heart and I take Her as my Spiritual Mother, so that She may listen, teach, nourish, guide, pray and intercede for me, that She may mould my soul in the perfection of the Holy Spirit and finally that She can put me in Your hands as an offering worthy of Your Glorious Majesty.

My Jesus, listen to me through Mary. I wish that She lives through me, so that I can express the perfection that You wish.

I consecrate to Her the faculties of my soul.

Holy Mother. I consecrate to You my memory, so that I remember Jesus and You constantly.

Holy Mother, I consecrate to You my understanding, so that I can always understand Jesus and You.

Holy Mother, I consecrate to You my Will, so that it becomes Jesus' Will and Your Will.

My Jesus, God the Son; listen to my supplications, that are those of Your Mother, my Mother; forgive all my sins and receive me in Your Kingdom to share It with You, with Her, with the Father and with the Holy Spirit eternally.

Amen.

Joseph of Jesus and Mary

Psalm 23

1 A Psalm of David.

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff --
they comfort me.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long. (NRSV)

Psalm 32

1 Of David. A Maskil.
Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

2 Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

3 While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

6 Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

7 You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

8 I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

9 Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

10 Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

11 Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (NRSV)

Psalm 91

1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

2 will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust."

3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;

4 he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,

6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.

8 You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,

10 no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

11 For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

12 On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

15 When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

16 With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.
(NRSV)

Psalm 103

1 Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits --

3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

6 The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.

7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.

15 As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;

16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.

17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting

on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,

18 to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

19 The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.

21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts,
his ministers that do his will.

22 Bless the LORD, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.
Bless the LORD, O my soul. (NRSV)

Conclusion

After reading this work, we realize how much God loves us, we realize that miracles are quite possible if we have faith. The power of the Holy Spirit becomes the need of every soul and these writings show a way to receive that power from above.

We realize that we must have a continuous intimate relationship with God and that we have to change our lives in order to be saved and to be instrumental in the salvation of others.

The Work of God Apostolate has made its presence on the internet since 1998, its mission statement is to proclaim the Word of God and to lead people back to Him. Anyone interested in participating in this kind of work must make these messages known to others, so that our Apostolate can continue to spread the seeds of salvation.

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