

FEBRUARY CONTEMPLATION

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader:

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

All: Amen.

Silent Reflection

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

Prayer Before Reading Scripture

Leader: *Let us pray.*

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

Scripture Reading: (1 Gal 3:7-14)

Brothers and sisters: Realize that it is those who have faith who are children of Abraham. Scripture, which saw in advance that God would justify the gentiles by faith, foretold the good news to Abraham, saying, *Through you shall all the nations be blessed.* Consequently, those who have Faith are blessed along with Abraham who had faith. For all who depend on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, *Cursed be everyone who does not persevere in doing all the things written in the book of the law.* And that no one is justified before God by the law is clear, for *the one who is righteous by faith will live.* But the law does not depend on faith; rather, *the one who does these things will live by them.* Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, *Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree,* that the blessing of Abraham might be extended to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5, 6)

Response: The Lord will remember his covenant forever.

I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart in the company and assembly of the just.

Great are the works of the LORD, exquisite in all their delights. **R/.**

Majesty and glory are his work, and his justice endures forever.

He has won renown for his wondrous deeds; gracious and merciful is the LORD. **R/.**

He has given food to those who fear him; he will forever be mindful of his covenant. **R/.**

He has made known to his people the power of his works, giving them the inheritance of the nations. **R/.**

Glory be to the Father...

Reflection: * *Aperuit Illis* #13

Yet another challenge raised by sacred Scripture has to do with love. God's word constantly reminds us of the merciful love of the Father who calls his children to live in love. The life of Jesus is the full and perfect expression of this divine love, which holds nothing back but offers itself to all without reserve. In the parable of Lazarus, we find a valuable teaching. When both Lazarus and the rich man die, the latter, seeing the poor man Lazarus in Abraham's bosom, asks that Lazarus be sent to his brothers to warn them to love their neighbor, lest they also experience his torment. Abraham's answer is biting: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (*Lk* 16:29). To listen to sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life. God's word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity.

Silent Reflection

Prayer for the Family

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

Meditation from *Dei Verbum*

In carefully planning and preparing the salvation of the whole human race the God of infinite love, by a special dispensation, chose for Himself a people to whom He would entrust His promises. First He entered into a covenant with Abraham (see *Gen.* 15:18) and, through Moses, with the people of Israel (see *Ex.* 24:8). To this people which He had acquired for Himself, He so manifested Himself through words and deeds as the one true and living God that Israel came to know by experience the ways of God with men. Then, too, when God Himself spoke to them through the mouth of the prophets, Israel daily gained a deeper and clearer understanding of His ways and made them more widely known among the nations (see *Ps.* 21:29; 95:1-3; *Is.* 2:1-4; *Jer.* 3:17). The plan of salvation foretold by the sacred authors, recounted and explained by them, is found as the true Word of God in the books of the Old Testament: these books, therefore, written under divine inspiration, so that by steadfastness and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (*Rom.* 15:4).

Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, promulgated by Pope Paul VI, Nov. 18, 1965, Chapter 4, *Old Testament*, #14.

Intentions

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intention of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:

All:

Eternal Father, we offer you in union with Mary, Mother of the Redeemer of humankind, the Blood Jesus shed with love in his passion and every day is offered on the altar. In union with the Victim offered for the salvation of the world, we offer today's actions in expiation for our sins, for the conversion of sinners, for the souls in purgatory, for the needs of the holy Church, and especially:

For the Holy Father's intention: that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered, we pray. *R/.*

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

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

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

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

Our Father...

Silent Reflection

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Let us pray:*

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

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn

* This year the *Reflections* will be taken from *Aperuit Illis (Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God)* the Apostolic Letter by Pope Francis to "enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (#2)

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