

# AUGUST CONTEMPLATION

*May the Crucifix be our book; therein do we read to learn how to act.*  
– St. Gaspar (Letter #2368)

## Opening Hymn

*Eucharistic Exposition*

### Leader:

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

**All: Amen.**

### Leader:

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

### All:

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

### *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:** *(Luke 21:8-15, 19)*

Jesus said, "Watch out; don't be fooled. Many men, claiming to speak for me, will come and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time has come!' But don't follow them. Don't be afraid when you hear of wars and revolutions; such things must happen first, but they do not mean that the end is near."

He went on to say, "Countries will fight each other; kingdoms will attack one another. There will be terrible earthquakes, famines, and plagues everywhere; there will be strange and terrifying things coming from the sky. Before all these things take place, however, you will be arrested and persecuted; you will be handed over to be tried in synagogues and be put in prison; you will be brought before kings and rulers for my sake. This will be your chance to tell the Good News. Make up your minds ahead of time not to worry about how you will defend yourselves, because I will give you such words and wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to refute or contradict what you say.... Stand firm, and you will save yourselves."

The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** (*Psalm 33:8-15*)

***Response: Happy the nation whose God is the LORD.***

Let all the earth fear the LORD;  
let all who dwell in the world show reverence.  
For he spoke, and it came to be, commanded, and it stood in place. ***R/.***

The LORD foils the plan of nations,  
frustrates the designs of peoples.  
But the plan of the LORD stands forever,  
wise designs through all generations. ***R/.***

Happy the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people chosen as his very own. ***R/.***

From heaven the LORD looks down and observes the whole human race,  
Surveying from the royal throne all who dwell on earth. ***R/.***

The one who fashioned the hearts of them all  
knows all their works. ***R/.***

**Glory be to the Father...**

**Prayer for Missionaries**

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

**Meditation:** CHAPTER II - THE MINISTRY OF PRIESTS

Priests, therefore, must take the lead in seeking the things of Jesus Christ, not the things that are their own. They must work together with the lay faithful, and conduct themselves in their midst after the example of their Master, who among men "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life as redemption for many" (Matt. 20:28). Priests must sincerely acknowledge and promote the dignity of the laity and the part proper to them in the mission of the Church. And they should hold in high honor that just freedom which is due to everyone in the earthly city. They must willingly listen to the laity, consider their wants in a fraternal spirit, recognize their experience and competence in the different areas of human activity, so that together with them they will be able to recognize the signs of the times. While trying the spirits to see if they be of God, priests should uncover with a sense of faith, acknowledge with joy and foster with diligence the various humble and exalted charisms of the laity. Among the other gifts of God, which are found in abundance among the laity, those are worthy of special mention by which not a few of the laity are attracted to a higher spiritual life. Likewise, they should confidently entrust to the laity duties in the service of the Church, allowing them freedom and room for action; in fact, they should invite them on suitable occasions to undertake works on their own initiative. (*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #9*)

***Silent Reflection***

## **Prayer for the Family**

**Leader:** *Let us pray.*

**All:** 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! Amen.

## **Intentions**

**Leader:**

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

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

O God, you sent your Son so that we may have life and be enlightened by your Word, may all people become stewards of peace, to serve you and to do your will, we pray. *R/.*

For parents who seek to raise their children in the faith of Jesus Christ, grant that their love may bear fruit, we pray. *R/.*

For those in sorrow: may the wisdom of the cross open the way for them to meet the Lord Jesus in the mystery of his suffering, we pray. *R/.*

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

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

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

**Our Father...**

*Silent Reflection*

## **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** *Let us pray:*

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

*Benediction and Reposition*

## **Closing Hymn**