

A small wooden boat is positioned in the lower-left foreground, facing towards the center of the image. The boat is dark-colored with some lighter wood on its deck. The water is very still, acting as a perfect mirror for the sky and the mountains. In the background, a range of mountains is silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is a glowing orb on the horizon, with rays of light spreading out. The sky is a mix of deep blues and oranges from the sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

LEAD ME INTO THE DEEP, LORD

REVELATION 3: CREATING SPACE FOR
JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
WEEK 1, DAY 1

KNOWING GOD AS
EMMANUEL, GOD-WITH-US

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of Charity

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the immaculate heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all the apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.



PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

Listen:



Being God's child is our privilege and destiny. Our transformation into children of the Living God has been made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. He has washed us clean and brought us into the bosom of the Father where God desires that we live as His sons and daughters. God's original plan to create us in His image and likeness so that we could participate in God's Trinitarian life has been brought to completion through Jesus' death and resurrection. In our baptism we were buried into the death of Jesus and have been raised with Him through His resurrection (Colossians 2: 12). We are now the branches united to Jesus, our Vine. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being re-created in the image and likeness of Jesus. Our identity as God's sons and daughters, being given a continual rebirth into Jesus through the Holy Spirit, should produce profound gratitude and humility. We are grateful for our participation in God's divine life which is a totally unmerited gift offered to us freely and lovingly. We are humbled by the fact that God calls us to share in His holiness, total otherness that is beyond our abilities, and through His Holy Spirit, will make the impossible possible in our lives.

It is encouraging when we meet persons who believe with every fiber of their being that they have been created in God's image and likeness and live in joy and hope. It is heartening to see that their lives are being shaped by the constant effort to replace everything in them that is of sin and not of God, with obedience to Jesus and to His teachings. During Week One of Revelation Three, we will have the privilege of encountering such people who sold everything they had to buy the treasure buried in the field (Matthew 13: 44).



PREPARING FOR THE JOURNEY

The Woman caught in the act of adultery was snatched by Jesus from the jaws of imminent death by stoning. In her encounter with Jesus, she moved from being a sinner into becoming a saint as a disciple of Jesus. The woman pardoned by Jesus and looked down upon as a public sinner, engaged in a saintly and courageous act of gratitude and humility toward Jesus. She braved the hostility and derision of Simon the Pharisee and his friends and accorded Jesus the hospitality deserving of a guest by washing his feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair, and then anointing them (Luke 8: 36-50).

The healing of the crippled woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath, and the parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin speak of Jesus' loving kindness and enduring mercy toward us. In His ministry, Jesus brought this indescribable joy and hope to those who believed and accepted Him as their Savior and Lord. He offers us the same gift. During Week One, you will reflect on your own life to see whether you have created space for Jesus in your life. Creating space for Jesus implies that you are committed to cleaning your house, altering your lifestyle, working toward making Jesus the Center of your life and actions, under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. If you have experienced God's forgiveness and love, you will want to reciprocate through a life of constant gratitude and humble service.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Listen: 

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, and overshadow me with your gentle wisdom and power as I endeavor to sit at the feet of Jesus during this period of prayer. Purify my mind and heart as I seek to make the teachings of Jesus my priority in life, thinking, speaking, and doing as He desires. You are the Keeper of my soul, leading me into God's heart. May I be docile and submissive to your wisdom and guidance, and may my life be a pleasing offering in your sight, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A personal and intimate relationship with God is a pure gift, given to us by the Holy Spirit. In creating us in His image and likeness, God put into us an ever-expanding capacity for sharing in the fullness of divine life! Only sin and rebellion can tarnish this capacity for sharing in the fullness of God's life. In creating us in the divine image and likeness, God made the irrevocable decision to be involved intimately in our lives and be the God of our history. Despite such a noble identity, we struggle with low self-esteem, resentment, shame, and guilt. Some of us never get past a pessimistic assessment of their lives because they are so trapped in their mistakes and failures. Others have wandered through the wilderness of addictions and degradation. The ravages of sin are around us and in us. In more ways than one, life is a valley of tears. Instinctively, we tend to sabotage the good and noble in us.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

So, it is incomprehensible to the human mind that God would desire holiness and blamelessness for each of us. Yet God forgives our sins and helps us to live transformed lives of service and love in peace and joy, the opposite fruits of sin. This transformation has been made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus is our Emmanuel, God-with-us and in us. Our Risen Lord has given us the Holy Spirit who will re-create us in the image and likeness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will be our Judge, convicting us when we sin, without ever condemning us, always leading us back into God's embrace. Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all!



By now it has become clear that the nightly review consists of first asking the Holy Spirit to overshadow us and guide us as we review our discipleship during the day. The first step is to thank God for the blessings and graces that we have received. These blessings have been poured out upon us during this day. It is quite possible, however, that the Holy Spirit will remind us of the countless other blessings that we have been receiving our whole lives. Within the context of receiving the Blessed Trinity's boundless love and forgiveness, we then examine our own response. The Holy Spirit acts as the Advocate of our discipleship, convicting us when we have sinned, and encouraging us towards repentance and a firm purpose of amendment. As we examine our conscience, we pay special attention to the Particular Examination of conscience, seeing how we have fared in addressing the particular weakness or core wound in us. We then make an act of contrition and firmly resolve to live out our discipleship generously and wholeheartedly. Thus, the nightly review of the day is a significant practice in a disciple's formation. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

Listen:



Examination of CONSCIENCE

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O my God, I thank you for all the graces and blessings which I have received from you this day. Express to God your gratitude as you recall the blessings and graces that were present today: For what are you grateful?

Examination of Conscience

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The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.





Encouragement for the Journey

You are beginning a grace-filled journey into the heart of God. You will be assisted by the Holy Spirit who will become your ardent Advocate, recreating you in the image and likeness of Jesus, and bringing you into the depths of God's Trinitarian love and compassion. Gradually, the Holy Spirit will develop the disciple's lifestyle in you. Prayer, the celebration of God's life in the Eucharist and Sacraments, Scripture and Spiritual Reading, and Ascetical Practices will become an integral part of your daily life. However, developing a disciple's lifestyle takes time and patience. There will be setbacks and lapses as we struggle with sinful urges that make it difficult to stay on the straight and narrow pilgrim road into God's Heart. In this Program, GEM will lead you slowly but surely, on your pilgrimage into God's Heart. We will offer you easy steps and gradually accelerate the process so that no violence is done to your spirit, and you experience your growth as a disciple, organically and naturally.

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[illegible]

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LEAD ME INTO THE DEEP, LORD

REVELATION 3: CREATING SPACE FOR
JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
WEEK 1, DAY 2

JESUS, TEMPLE OF THE
NEW COVENANT

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

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FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

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"But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more." - John 8: 7-11

This event took place during Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem. By then, Jesus was involved in a contentious relationship with the Jewish leadership which was trying to kill Him (John 7: 2). On the other hand, they were at a loss about how to handle Him: "How does he know scripture without having studied?" (John 7: 15). Any opportunity they had, they were there to heckle Jesus, trying to trap Him into blasphemy and heresy. Such an opportunity presented itself when the scribes and Pharisees saw that Jesus was ministering to a group gathered around Him in the temple precincts. They proceeded to trap Jesus by bringing to Him a woman caught in adultery.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

In their arrogance, they shame the woman by declaring her sin: “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery” (John 8: 4). Then they set their trap: “Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him” (John 8: 5-6).

At first, Jesus’ response puzzles them. They are befuddled by His action, not knowing His intentions: “Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger” (John 8: 6). Not knowing what He was getting at, they are frustrated and persist in their questioning. Jesus responds quite simply and directly: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And Jesus continued writing with His finger on the ground. To everyone’s amazement, especially to the relief of the woman, “in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders.” This incident portrays the power and compassion of Jesus. He is the Savior of the world. Jesus has come to deliver us from all sin and evil. The world might be unforgiving of us. Not Jesus. In this matter of life and death, Jesus has the power to convince even His enemies to do the right thing. Despite their bad faith, Jesus convicts their consciences, and by leaving the woman without stoning her to death, they were admitting their own sexual sins, even adultery.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Finally, Jesus is left alone with the woman. She has been delivered from certain death by Jesus. She has been spared public condemnation and total disaster. After Jesus has delivered her from the jaws of death, He tells the woman that neither does He condemn her.

His great love and compassion have aroused intense repentance in the woman. She has been forgiven and has experienced new life in Jesus. In asking her to not commit this sin of adultery anymore, Jesus is confident that a profound conversion has taken place in the woman, and this encounter with Him has transformed her life from sin to holiness, from adulteress to disciple. Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

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Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The nightly review of the day is a significant practice in a disciple's formation. The context for our nightly review is our covenant relationship with God. Through baptism we were buried into the death of Christ, and rose to new life, God's own life, through the resurrection of Jesus. We belong to God and the Blessed Trinity has become ours through Jesus. Every single day, God is overwhelming us with grace upon grace, suffusing our lives with His tender mercies and unconditional love. Every single day of our lives, then, is an opportunity to praise, adore, and thank God for His indescribable goodness and loving kindness. We engage in praise and thanksgiving for the blessings and protection we received from God. Now, with thanksgiving in your heart, you can go over your day and see how God was Emmanuel, with you and in you. You can then do an examination of your conscience to see how you responded in your covenant union with Him. Did you succumb to temptation and did you commit deliberate sin? As disciples of Jesus, we owe it to our Savior to humbly acknowledge our sins and make an act of repentance and contrition. After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

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Encouragement for the Journey

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My Notes

Date :

What is God saying to you?

For what are you grateful?

For what are you contrite?



*LEAD ME INTO
THE DEEP, LORD*

REVELATION 3: CREATIING SPACE FOR
JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
WEEK 1, DAY 3

JESUS PARDONS THE
SINFUL WOMAN

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

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FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

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"Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." - Luke 7: 44-48

This episode is one of several in the gospels that highlights the powerful connection between forgiveness and love. This episode also contrasts the self-righteousness of the Pharisee with the forgiven woman's overwhelming love for Jesus in what must have been for her, very humiliating circumstances. Simon the Pharisee has invited Jesus to his home to dine with him and his friends.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

It seems to have been quite a festive occasion and Simon's initial attitude toward Jesus is that He might be a prophet. However, after Jesus enters the house, Simon displays a self-righteous attitude toward Jesus. He humiliates Jesus by not according the basic rituals of hospitality: having his feet washed and his head anointed with oil. This omission is deliberate, and even more glaring, because the other guests have received Simon's hospitality.

Into this uncomfortable situation, an uninvited woman makes her presence known and felt in the house. In the community, this woman was known to be of ill repute. She lived in disgrace and there was only scorn for her, and for anyone who associated with her. From her unusual behavior, it seems clear that she had encountered Jesus before she came to Simon's home. In that meeting, Jesus forgave her sins, restored her dignity as God's child, and made her His ardent disciple. In gratitude, she wishes to give Jesus everything she has. When she finds out that Jesus has been invited to dine in the Pharisee's house, she knows instinctively that He will be humiliated. Without hesitation, she enters the lion's den, knowing that she and Jesus will be ridiculed for their association with each other. Yet she is determined to demonstrate her great love for Jesus unabashedly. She can be her true self even in the face of ridicule and scorn! She behaves as a forgiven sinner, bathing Jesus' feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair, and anointing His feet with ointment. Her behavior clearly indicates her transformation into a saint.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

“Her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love”: Jesus gives us an important principle for the spiritual life in this verse. A disciple is willing to give of self generously and wholeheartedly, because in the first place they have encountered deeply God’s immense love and forgiveness of them. This was the case with the woman who was supposedly a public sinner. She was forgiven much; and as a result, she loved much! Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The context for our nightly review is our covenant relationship with God. During our nightly review, we take the time to appreciate God's amazing love for us. We can never quite plumb the depths of God's magnanimity and generosity toward us. God's love for us is the very foundation of our lives. Every single day, God is overwhelming us with grace upon grace, suffusing our lives with His tender mercies and unconditional love. Every single day of our lives, then, is an opportunity to praise, adore, and thank God for His indescribable goodness and loving kindness. This morning in your Face to Face with Jesus, you witnessed with amazement the transformation that took place in the woman who demonstrated her great love for Jesus unabashedly. She behaved as a forgiven sinner, bathing Jesus' feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair, and anointing them with ointment. Her behavior clearly indicated her transformation into a saint. She was forgiven much, and as a result, loved much! With thanksgiving in your heart, you can go over your day and see how God brought you healing and salvation. You can recall with gratitude the special moments of forgiveness of your sins that you experienced after the sacrament of reconciliation. You can then do your Particular and General Examination of conscience to see how you responded to Jesus as His disciple. How would you critique your discipleship in the light of the woman's great love for Jesus? Do you love much because you have been forgiven much? After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

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REVELATION 3: CREATING SPACE FOR
JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
WEEK 1, DAY 4

THE CURE OF A CRIPPLED WOMAN

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



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PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, and overshadow me with your gentle wisdom and power as I endeavor to sit at the feet of Jesus during this period of prayer. Purify my mind and heart as I seek to make the teachings of Jesus my priority in life, thinking, speaking, and doing as He desires. You are the Keeper of my soul, leading me into God's heart. May I be docile and submissive to your wisdom and guidance, and may my life be a pleasing offering in your sight, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect. When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, "There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the sabbath day." The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the sabbath day from this bondage?" -Luke 13: 11-16

Jesus did many of His miracles on the Sabbath. The cure of the crippled woman in the synagogue is one of them, a very moving and informative event! Jesus came to bring the good news of God's healing and forgiving love for fallen humanity. Anyone who desired the good news and accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord, would be set free of their bondage of sin and sickness, and enter the kingdom of God.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Not only was the Sabbath day no exception to offer the good news, rather, it seemed like the most appropriate day to experience God's love for sinful humanity. Furthermore, it was Jesus' express purpose to fulfill the law and the prophets. One aspect of this fulfillment was to set aside or overrule gross misperceptions and interpretations of the law that bound rather than freed people in their relationship with God. In this instance, Jesus was liberating the crippled woman from the unjust burden that had been placed upon her by the Pharisaic interpretation of the law of Moses concerning the Sabbath.

Jesus' compassion for the lost and burdened is truly overwhelming and moves one to tears. Imagine yourself in the synagogue. You have seen this woman crippled for 18 years, coming into the synagogue, bent over and incapable of standing erect. Jesus' compassion is greater than the narrow interpretation of the Sabbath observance by the religious leaders. Jesus touches her and she is made whole. And her spontaneous response is one of great gratitude and praise, and she does this while standing erect: "He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God: This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the Sabbath day from this bondage?"



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

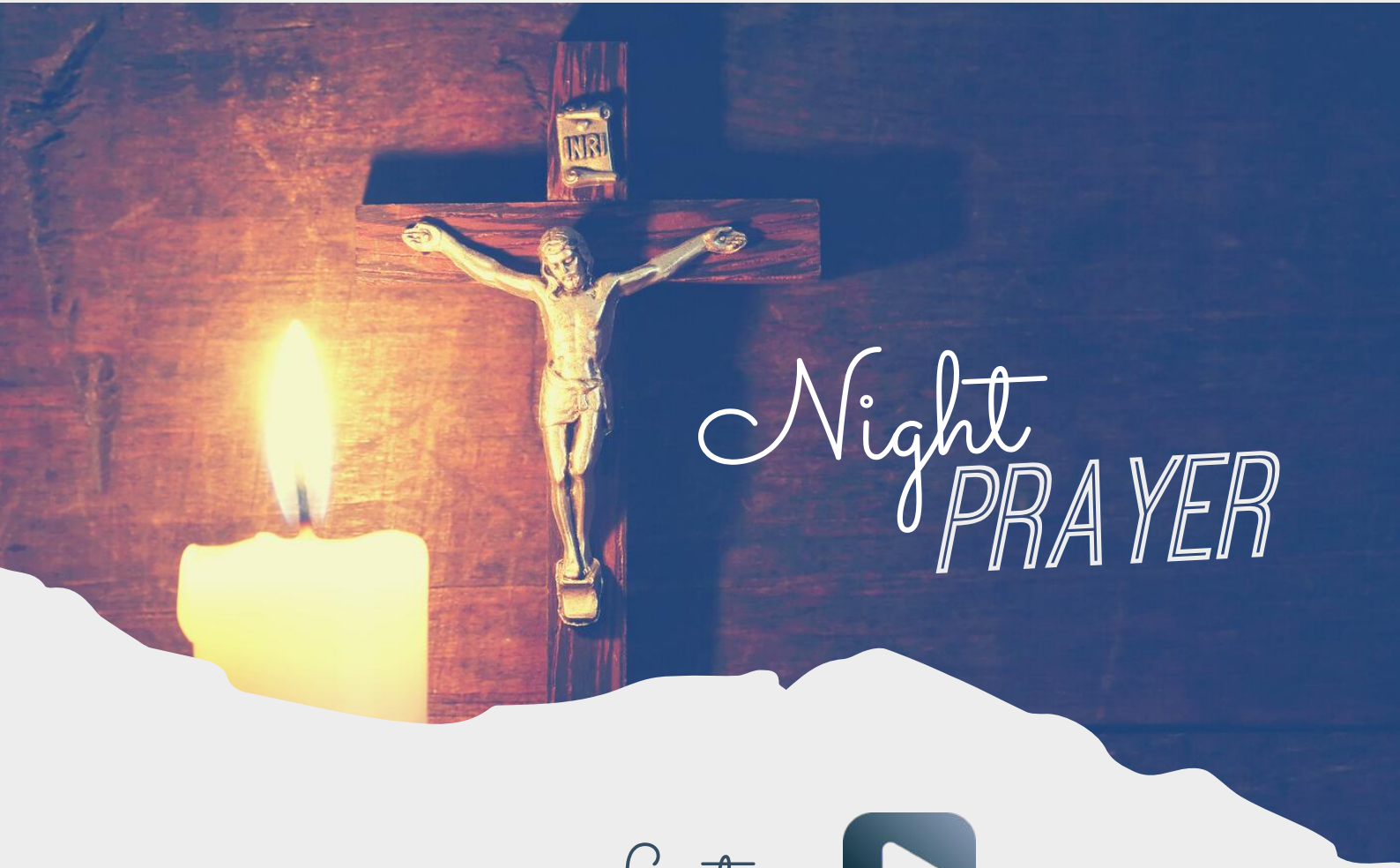
Jesus healed many on the Sabbath, including this woman. Consequently, He received much criticism and opposition from the religious leaders of His people. In healing her on the Sabbath, Jesus was highlighting two truths: The Sabbath was for the benefit of man and not meant to be a burden, and even affliction. Secondly, Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets, and part of His mission was to offer us the correct understanding of the Scriptures. Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

Both Mary and Joanna are mentioned as being present at the tomb when the angel informed them that Jesus had risen from the dead (Luke 24: 10). We can assume therefore, that Joanna was also present at Jesus' crucifixion and death though her name is not mentioned. They were indeed practicing covenant living, giving Jesus their all because He had given them new life in Him. Lord Jesus, I desire to receive new Life in you!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all!



Listen:



The nightly review gives us the opportunity to pull ourselves together to see how our day has been filled with blessings and graces through the Blessed Trinity's presence in us and among us. In due time, the nightly review will become a sacred tradition in our discipleship. Our awareness of God's constant love and presence among us will deepen and become second-nature to us. So, make sure you take your time over the different steps of the review, tasting and relishing each step. Try to be deliberate and intentional with your prayer of thanksgiving and examination of conscience. In your morning Face to Face with Jesus, you encountered the woman crippled for 18 years and unable to stand erect. Jesus' compassion is greater than the narrow interpretation of the Sabbath Observance by the religious leaders. Jesus touches her and she is made whole. Her spontaneous response is one of great gratitude and praise, and she does this while standing erect. What did God say to you as you visited with her? Is the message a source of gratitude or a matter for repentance? As you review your blessings from the Lord with gratitude, and your failures with repentance, keep in mind that the Lord always blesses the disciple who is grateful, honest, and transparent. Our single greatest blessing is that Jesus is our Messiah, the Son of the Living God! Every blessing flows out of this source of divine life! Indeed, Jesus is our Way, Truth, and Life! After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

Listen:



Examination of CONSCIENCE

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O my God, I thank you for all the graces and blessings which I have received from you this day. Express to God your gratitude as you recall the blessings and graces that were present today: For what are you grateful?

Examination of Conscience

O my God, give me light to see what sins I have committed, and grant me the grace to be sorry for them: For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow? Recall your sins of the day and repent in sincere sorrow for the sins you have committed, by reciting the Act of Contrition.

The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.





Encouragement for the Journey

You are beginning a grace-filled journey into the heart of God. You will be assisted by the Holy Spirit who will become your ardent Advocate, recreating you in the image and likeness of Jesus, and bringing you into the depths of God's Trinitarian love and compassion. Gradually, the Holy Spirit will develop the disciple's lifestyle in you. Prayer, the celebration of God's life in the Eucharist and Sacraments, Scripture and Spiritual Reading, and Ascetical Practices will become an integral part of your daily life. However, developing a disciple's lifestyle takes time and patience. There will be setbacks and lapses as we struggle with sinful urges that make it difficult to stay on the straight and narrow pilgrim road into God's Heart. In this Program, GEM will lead you slowly but surely, on your pilgrimage into God's Heart. We will offer you easy steps and gradually accelerate the process so that no violence is done to your spirit, and you experience your growth as a disciple, organically and naturally.

Step Three: Have you considered additional ways for God to speak truth into your day?

- Engage the life of Christ in a new way by exploring the New Testament.
- Consider simply reading 2 Chapters from any of the Gospels three or four times per week.
- As Bearers of Christ's light to the world, consider consciously engaging in doing one good deed daily.

My Notes

Date : _____

[illegible]

My Notes

Date :

What is God saying to you?

For what are you grateful?

For what are you contrite?



*LEAD ME INTO
THE DEEP, LORD*

REVELATION 3: CREATING SPACE FOR
JESUS IN YOUR LIFE
WEEK 1, DAY 5

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

Act of Charity

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

Morning Offering

O Jesus, through the immaculate heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the holy sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all the apostles of prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month. Amen.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Listen:



PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, and overshadow me with your gentle wisdom and power as I endeavor to sit at the feet of Jesus during this period of prayer. Purify my mind and heart as I seek to make the teachings of Jesus my priority in life, thinking, speaking, and doing as He desires. You are the Keeper of my soul, leading me into God's heart. May I be docile and submissive to your wisdom and guidance, and may my life be a pleasing offering in your sight, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addresses this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance." - Luke 15: 1-7

Luke's gospel is known as the gospel of mercy in that he highlights Jesus' great compassion for sinners. Luke himself was possibly a Gentile from Antioch in Asia Minor. He was a physician and the most literary of the New Testament writers. As a Gentile, he had a soft corner for sinners and those considered to be outside the pail.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Chapter 15 especially, offers us three parables of mercy. It is understandable then that Jesus' audience is people who are willing to receive the good news of God's love and forgiveness of them: tax collectors and sinners. Tax collectors were always lumped together with sinners. They were placed among the lost sheep of Israel. Rabbinic experts considered them to be irredeemable! Consequently, Jesus' association with them was severely frowned upon and despised.

The Pharisees saw salvation as the fruit of their own labors. For Jesus and those who acknowledged their sinfulness, salvation was a gift given to them by Jesus who became their Savior by dying on the cross. Instinctively, the tax collectors and sinners knew that salvation was beyond them and therefore gravitated toward Jesus: "The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

In the parable of the Lost Sheep, Jesus contrasts the dissimilar approaches to discipleship, making it clear which approach was the correct one. The concerned shepherd in the parable represents God who is depicted as the Good Shepherd in the Old Testament, especially in Psalm 23. And in the New Testament, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, contrasting Himself with the religious leaders who pastored their flocks as hirelings and thieves. The shepherd leaves his ninety-nine sheep in the desert and goes looking for the lost one. No true shepherd would leave his ninety-nine sheep to go look for the lost one before he ensured their safety.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

The shepherd in the parable does not seem to have such a preoccupation. At the end of the parable, Jesus tells us why. These ninety-nine sheep were self-righteous people who did not need repentance as they could save themselves. They merited God's good graces because of their rigorous observance of the law. Indeed, these ninety-nine sheep represented the spirituality of the scribes and Pharisees: they did not need a savior, as they could save themselves. Hence, the shepherd concentrates fully on finding his lost sheep. It is the tax collector and sinner who knows they are lost and are looking for a good shepherd to rescue them.

And there is immense joy when he does. Jesus tells us that there will be immense joy in heaven over one sinner who was lost and is now found because he repents. The joy over this saved sinner will be greater than the joy over ninety-nine people who have no need of repentance. May we never think we do not need repentance! Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The nightly review of the day is very instrumental in developing a sanctified Unconscious. Developing a sanctified Unconscious is the equivalent of replacing our minds and hearts with the mind and heart of Jesus. This replacement takes place at the hands of the Holy Spirit. Ardent discipleship can only flourish with a sanctified Unconscious. Painful memories that incite anger and resentment, generational sins that ensnare us, addictive behaviors that enslave us, they all reside in our Unconscious. They become the proverbial tail that wags the dog, influencing strongly our conscious thoughts, actions, and decisions. They need to be replaced constantly with the name and presence of the Blessed Trinity. Every negative thought needs to be countered with gratitude and praise of God. We need to practice the presence of God continually. So, there is an urgent need to sanctify our Unconscious by creating as much space for Jesus as possible. Our discipleship will be jeopardized if we are half-hearted about destroying the roots of sin in us. Another practice to sanctify our Unconscious is to make sure that we sleep with the Presence of God on our lips and in our hearts. When we sleep with grateful and forgiven hearts, our Unconscious will become God's abode. In your review of the day, as you take stock of God's blessings upon you as well as your failed response to God's invitations during the day, you can remind yourself of what Jesus said in your morning Face to Face with Him. He came for sinners, willing to go to any lengths. After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

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Examination of CONSCIENCE

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Encouragement for the Journey

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My Notes

Date :

[illegible]

My Notes

Date :

What is God saying to you?

For what are you grateful?

For what are you contrite?



LEAD ME INTO THE DEEP, LORD

REVELATION 3: ARE YOU READY TO
RECEIVE NEW LIFE IN JESUS?
WEEK 1, DAY 6

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

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O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

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FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Listen: 

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Come, Holy Spirit, and overshadow me with your gentle wisdom and power as I endeavor to sit at the feet of Jesus during this period of prayer. Purify my mind and heart as I seek to make the teachings of Jesus my priority in life, thinking, speaking, and doing as He desires. You are the Keeper of my soul, leading me into God's heart. May I be docile and submissive to your wisdom and guidance, and may my life be a pleasing offering in your sight, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

"And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." - Luke 15: 9-10

Jesus used everyday situations of life to illustrate the profound truths of God's love and forgiveness in His teachings and through His miracles. He was especially fond of using the parable, a story form that was ideally suited to describe Jesus as our Savior and Lord. A parable was a story that could always have a glorious ending no matter how tragic and disastrous the beginning and middle might have been, because the author of the parable is Jesus through whom our lives can always be brought to a glorious ending, to be in covenant union with the Blessed Trinity.

In the Parable of the Lost Coin, Jesus brings up a real-life situation that would be dreaded by anyone: "What woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it?" Jesus is describing a woman who has ten coins or the equivalent of ten drachmas.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Ten drachmas were a lot of money for her if you consider that a drachma was the equivalent of a day's wage. In her circumstances, when most people struggled with a hardscrabble life, living from hand to mouth daily, a lost coin would have created much anxiety, and even panic. Her determination, therefore, to find her lost coin is fraught with anxiety and ceaseless activity. She will not leave any stone unturned in her endeavor to find her lost coin. Every square inch of her home is scrutinized. Through this woman's wholehearted commitment to her goal of finding her lost coin, Jesus is highlighting the height and depth, length and breadth, of God's unrelenting search for us who are lost. It also highlights the realization that a forgiven sinner has of God's unrelenting love and enduring mercy for them. They are overwhelmed with gratitude and love to the point where they become ardently committed disciples.

God's compassion is intense and totally focused on the return of the sinner back to Him. Through Jesus, God offers the sinner an invitation to repentance leading to the forgiveness of sin. We were lost, and through Jesus, we have been found and returned to God as His sons and daughters! Consequently, there is much rejoicing over the conversion of a sinner: "Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost." In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

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Listen:



Through our nightly review of the day we are affirming the truth that we have been overwhelmed by God's amazing generosity and love in giving us His Son to be our Savior and Lord. In response, we wish to offer all our thoughts, words, and actions to God, generously and without reserve. So, this evening we are reviewing how God has come to us all day and looking at how we have carried out our various responsibilities and decisions. God blessed us with many graces and insights. The Holy Spirit preserved us from temptation and convicted us when we sinned. In our morning prayer, Jesus highlighted the fact that as our Savior, He has an uncompromising and insatiable commitment to our salvation from sin and eternal damnation. So, with thanksgiving in your heart, you can go over your day, and see how God came to you. You can then do an examination of conscience to see how you, as a part of the body of Christ, responded to Jesus, the Head. Are there some teachings of Jesus that you disregard? As disciples of Jesus, we owe it to our Savior and Lord to humbly acknowledge our sins, and make an act of repentance. After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

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This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, typical of notebook or primary school paper. The background is white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.

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My Notes

Date :

What is God saying to you?

For what are you grateful?

For what are you contrite?



LEAD ME INTO THE DEEP, LORD

REVELATION 3: ARE YOU READY TO
RECEIVE NEW LIFE IN JESUS?
WEEK 1, DAY 7

THE UNMERITED GIFT OF COVENANT LIVING WITH GOD

MICHAEL FONSECA, D. MIN

A lit candle in a metal holder and hands clasped in prayer with a rosary.

Morning PRAYER

Listen:



Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches because in revealing them you can neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

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FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

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Being God's children is our privilege and destiny. We are God's image and likeness and have been made sons and daughters of the Father, through Jesus, the Son of God who is our brother. This identity should produce profound gratitude and humility, as it is God's pure gift to us! If ever our divine heritage became a source of pride and elitism, we would have committed the sin of idolatry, making God's gift to us, a possession and idol. In offering us the gift of His relationship with His Father, Jesus is sharing with us as well the gift of the Holy Spirit who is the bond of love and tenderness between the Father and the Son! The Holy Spirit scrutinizes all matters, even the depths of God. And the Holy Spirit has been given to reveal to us the depths of God's love in Jesus' Person and teachings. Jesus has washed us clean and brought us into the bosom of the Father where God desires that we live our lives.



FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

It is therefore very fitting for Jesus to say, "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5: 48). Because God does everything in love, God desires that we, as adopted children of God, be full of love, that we forgive and let go of all hatred, anger, resentment, and anything that soils our spirits, so that we can be a pleasing offering in the Father's sight. Lord Jesus, I praise and thank you for your forgiveness and love! Reign in my heart!

PRAYER TO THE HOLY TRINITY

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I thank you for your gracious companionship. I praise you for being my Creator, Savior, and Lord. May I take your blessings to my day, and may your Presence envelop and permeate all my thoughts and actions, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all! Triune God, be my all!



Our nightly review of the day has an immediate and a long-term purpose. The immediate purpose is to review our current relationship with God to see if it is increasingly grace-filled or adversely affected by the disorder of sin. The saints inform us that we either go up in fervor and generosity or down into complacency and ennui in the spiritual life. Hence, the nightly review is very important. The long-term purpose of the nightly review is to foster and deepen our awareness of God's presence during the whole day. When the nightly review is done sincerely and seriously, it leads to a strong desire to be in communion with God throughout the day. With practice and familiarity with the different traditions of the practice of the Presence of God, a disciple will develop a consistent awareness of God's presence and love throughout the day. Keeping this long-term benefit in mind, we can now go over the day to see how God has been present to us. With grateful hearts, we express our praise and amazement at God's immense love and compassion for us as His sons and daughters. We then do the Examination of Conscience, both Particular and General, to see how we have responded to God as disciples of Jesus. Have we been obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? In what specific ways have we sinned? Did we make a generous effort to practice the presence of God through a short prayer formula, as for instance, Triune God, be my all, reciting it as many times as possible? After you have examined your conscience and are ready to ask forgiveness, you can pray the Act of Contrition. We encourage you to journal on the following questions: What is God saying to you? For what are you grateful? For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow?

Listen: 

Examination of CONSCIENCE

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O my God, I thank you for all the graces and blessings which I have received from you this day. Express to God your gratitude as you recall the blessings and graces that were present today: For what are you grateful?

Examination of Conscience

O my God, give me light to see what sins I have committed, and grant me the grace to be sorry for them: For what are you contrite? What spiritual discipline, including fasting, do you need to focus on tomorrow? Recall your sins of the day and repent in sincere sorrow for the sins you have committed, by reciting the Act of Contrition.

The Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.



Encouragement for the Journey

You are beginning a grace-filled journey into the heart of God. You will be assisted by the Holy Spirit who will become your ardent Advocate, recreating you in the image and likeness of Jesus, and bringing you into the depths of God's Trinitarian love and compassion. Gradually, the Holy Spirit will develop the disciple's lifestyle in you. Prayer, the celebration of God's life in the Eucharist and Sacraments, Scripture and Spiritual Reading, and Ascetical Practices will become an integral part of your daily life. However, developing a disciple's lifestyle takes time and patience. There will be setbacks and lapses as we struggle with sinful urges that make it difficult to stay on the straight and narrow pilgrim road into God's Heart. In this Program, GEM will lead you slowly but surely, on your pilgrimage into God's Heart. We will offer you easy steps and gradually accelerate the process so that no violence is done to your spirit, and you experience your growth as a disciple, organically and naturally.

Step Three: Have you considered additional ways for God to speak truth into your day?

- Engage the life of Christ in a new way by exploring the New Testament.
- Consider simply reading 2 Chapters from any of the Gospels three or four times per week.
- As Bearers of Christ's light to the world, consider consciously engaging in doing one good deed daily.

My Notes

Date : _____

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

My Notes

Date :

What is God saying to you?

For what are you grateful?

For what are you contrite?