

MARCH CONTEMPLATION

*“Work harder and harder for the good, activating it,
encouraging it, defending it, and sustaining it.”*

- St. Gaspar (Letter #1769)

Opening Hymn

Eucharistic Exposition

Leader: May this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament be an opportunity to grow in awareness of the incomparable treasure which Christ entrusted to his Church. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Silent Reflection

During this 200th Anniversary Year, we pray especially for our spiritual fathers.

Prayer for the CPPS 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.

Scripture Reading: *(Revelation 7:9-12)*

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a mighty shout, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!”

And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *(Psalm 62:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9, 11-12a)*

Response:

Only in God is my soul at rest.

I wait quietly before God, for my victory comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress where I will never be shaken. **R/.**

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. **R/.**

My victory and honor come from God alone.

He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me. **R/.**

O my people, trust in him at all times.

Pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge. **R/.**

Common people are as worthless as a puff of wind,
and the powerful are not what they appear to be.

If you weigh them on the scales,

together they are lighter than a breath of air. **R/.**

God has spoken plainly, and I have heard it many times:

Power, O God, belongs to you; unfailing love, O Lord, is yours. **R/.**

O LORD, hear my plea for justice. Listen to my cry for help.
Pay attention to my prayer, for it comes from honest lips. *R/*.

Declare me innocent, for you see those who do right. *R/*.

I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God.
Bend down and listen as I pray. *R/*.

Glory Be...

Reflection:

Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation, something along the lines of what a missionary does when visiting a home. Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey. (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, #127)

Silent Reflection

Leader: *Let us pray.*

Lord our God, we thank you for the wisdom we gain from your scriptures. Grant us the courage to open our hearts and our minds to neighbors of other Christian confessions and of other faiths; the grace to overcome barriers of indifference, prejudice or hate; and a vision of the last days, when Christians might walk together towards that final feast, when tears and dissension will be overcome through love. Amen.

Meditation: CHAPTER I - THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Through the ministry of the priests, the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect in union with the sacrifice of Christ. He is the only mediator who in the name of the whole Church is offered sacramentally in the Eucharist and in an unbloody manner until the Lord Himself comes.[Cf. I Cor. 11:26] The ministry of priests is directed to this goal and is perfected in it. Their ministry, which begins with the evangelical proclamation, derives its power and force from the sacrifice of Christ. Its aim is that "the entire commonwealth of the redeemed and the society of the saints be offered to God through the High Priest who offered Himself also for us in His passion that we might be the body of so great a Head." [Cf. St. Augustine "The City of God" 10, 6: PL 41, 284]

The purpose, therefore, which priests pursue in their ministry and by their life is to procure the glory of God the Father in Christ. That glory consists in this--that men working keenly and with a grateful spirit receive the work of God made perfect in Christ and then manifest it in their whole lives. Hence, priests, while engaging in prayer and adoration, or preaching the word, or offering the Eucharistic Sacrifice and administering the other sacraments, or performing other works of the ministry for men, devote all this energy to the increase of the glory of God and to man's progress in the divine life. All of this, since it comes from the Pasch of Christ, will be crowned by the glorious coming of the same Lord, when He hands over the Kingdom to God the Father. [Cf. I Cor. 15:24] (*Presbyterorum Ordinis, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, #2*)

Intentions

Leader:

Let us pray together the Daily Offering with the intentions of the Holy Father and our personal intentions:
R/. Lord, hear our prayer.

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 **Universal Intention:** That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person, we pray. *R/*.

For the Holy Father's **Intention for Evangelization:** That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always, we pray. *R/*.

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: Prayer for the Family

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!

Benediction and Reposition

Closing Hymn