

Week 7 – Go out to Love and Serve

Easter 2016

Theme and Texture

To be completely infused with the joy of the Lord that is manifested in the love we've experienced. This joy changes us and makes us restlessly want to love and serve the Lord in all things.

Grace for the Week

To truly feel the joy of the resurrection that gives us a restlessness to want to love and serve the Lord and others in all things.



Points for Prayer

Note: The prayers are not arranged by days as in previous weeks. Feel free to pray them in any order and to repeat them as you feel drawn to.

John 21 – “Do you love me?”

- Feel the restless love of St Peter as he rushes to meet the resurrected Lord on shore. Can we feel the same?
- Feel the companionship with the Lord while sharing breakfast with Him on the shore. What do we say to Him?
- Feel my own response to the Lord as He asks if we love Him. We know we do but how much?

Luke 24: 13-35 – “Were not our hearts burning within us?”

- Accompany the disciples as they walk the long road to Emmaus with the Lord. How do I feel?
- What makes my heart ‘burn within’ as I encounter the Lord in my own life?
- What am I drawn to do as I encounter the Lord in all things?

John 20:19-31: “My Lord and my God”

- Feel the Lord's great love for me even in my own doubts and sinfulness. Realise that doubts are part and parcel of life and that the Lord loves us because of that.
- Humbly come before the Lord and call upon Him anew. Take the opportunity to renew our relationship and faith with him.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 – Make all things new!

- Work with the Lord to make all things – realise how the Lord is calling upon us to spread the work of reconciliation and mercy and to spread this love to all we meet.

Reflection: Contemplation on Attaining the Love of God

- Reflect on the various forms we experience God's love and how we can bring that to others.
- Consider how we're called to give ourselves completely to this love so that we can serve the Lord in all things.



Transition and Moving Forward

Spend time reflecting upon your retreat experiences, storing the graces and insights for future prayer and reflection. We might use the following questions to help us move forward:

- How has my awareness of God changed over the past weeks?
- Where did I experience harmony between my prayer and life experiences during the retreat journey?
- How can I try to keep these harmonies in my life?
- What am I inspired to do in my ‘regular’ life to continue the graces that the retreat has begun in me?

Contemplation on Attaining the Love of God

(St. Ignatius of Loyola, adapted from translation by Louis Puhl, SJ)

Two preliminary points

1. Love is shown more in deeds than in words.
2. Love is expressed in sharing and giving of the gifts of God.

First Point – God’s gifts to us

I consider the blessings that I have received – of how God has not just given me everything (people, experiences, life, faith...) that I have but also gives all that He possesses as well.

Second Point – God dwells in us

I consider the blessings of creation around me and how God is present there. I consider how God is present in me, giving Himself to me and saving me as I am created in the likeness and image of God.

Third Point – God labours in creation

I consider how God continues to work and labour for me in all that is around me. I feel how God is inviting me to labour with Him, working to bring His love to everyone around.

Fourth Point – God’s love is limitless

I consider how God’s love falls upon all things like the rays of the sun and how it gives light to everything. I feel how God’s love is touched by all things and how that makes me want to participate in that love and service.

Then I pray,

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. You have given all to me. To You, O Lord, I return it. All is Yours, dispose of it wholly according to your most Holy will. Give me only Your love and Your grace, for this is enough for me.

A Step Along the Way: Prayer of Bl Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,

and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,

but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.