

Parish Family Ablaze 11-12-17

THE PRAYER OF THE ANGEL OF PEACE (Fatima, Fall of 1916)

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly.
I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ,
present in all the tabernacles of the world,
in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference by which He is offended.
By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

KEYNOTE: THE HOLY FAMILY—JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

I. The Holy Family contrasted with Man's First Family

A. Adam versus Joseph

1. Silence
 - a. Adam—neglectfully silent when tested
 - b. Joseph—prayerfully silent when tested
2. Attitude toward God
 - a. Adam hides from God in disobedience and in fear.
 - b. Joseph seeks God in obedience to the law and in dreams.
3. Approach to the Law
 - a. Adam separates law from love (unjust).
 - b. Joseph interprets the law with love (just).
4. Sense of Responsibility
 - a. Adam blames God and Eve for his disobedience.
 - b. Joseph accepts responsibility to obey God and to protect Mary.
5. Relationship between the Body and the Soul
 - a. Adam's physical senses darken his spiritual vision.
 - b. Joseph's spiritual vision animates his human actions.

B. Eve versus Mary (The New Eve)

1. Angelic Encounter
 - a. Eve answers Satan's questions without reflection.
 - b. Mary questions Gabriel in reverent consideration of his words.
2. Vision
 - a. Eve's vision is superficial and sensual.
 - b. Mary's vision is contemplative and devotional.
3. Fruit from the Heart
 - a. Eve eats forbidden fruit and bears Cain.
 - b. Mary embraces God's will and bears the fruit of her womb, Jesus.
4. Relationships
 - a. Eve—bound by Satan, dominated by Adam, troubled by Cain
 - b. Mary—freed by the Father's Word and espoused of His Holy Spirit, loved and protected by Joseph, perfectly loved by Jesus

C. Cain versus Jesus

1. The Lord to Cain: "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."
 - a. Cain gives in to temptation and is mastered by sin.
 - b. Jesus overcomes temptation and conquers sin.

2. Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - a. Cain takes Abel's life in envy and malice.
 - b. Christ gives His life for us in love and mercy.
3. Cain: "My punishment is greater than I can bear."
 - a. Cain: Distrusts God, resists punishment, seeks vengeance
 - b. Christ: Obeys His Father, accepts our punishment, offers mercy

II. Holy Communion in the Holy Family

- A. Prayer and Contemplation—Silence and Pure Vision (Intellect)
- B. Loving Obedience—Understanding and acting out the commandments and law in the light of loving relationship: Union of Hearts (Wills)
- C. Self-realization through loving and giving, not using and taking
- D. Minds and hearts direct emotions, senses, and body—primacy of the soul
- E. Trust, courage, and fortitude

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

- I. What makes Christian love more true, powerful, and satisfying than any other loves?
- II. If God made us for holy communion (true love), why did He give us the freedom to sin and to introduce alienation? Would we be better off and happier without freedom?

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: "The Apostles' Creed," "The Pardon Prayer," and "The Prayer of the Angel of Peace"
- II. Mental Prayer during the day (15-30 minutes)
 - A. Meditatively read or write down "The Apostles' Creed," "The Pardon Prayer," or "The Prayer of the Angel of Peace."
 - B. Lift up your prayer to One of the Three Divine Persons.
 - C. Listen to this Divine Person speaking within your mind and heart.
- III. Examination of conscience based on the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The silence of Joseph: Did I listen at least twice as much as speaking today? Did I master my emotions and speak with proper thoughtfulness and charity? Did I remain peaceful in my heart today? Did I pray meditatively?
 - B. The Immaculate Heart of Mary: Did I gaze upon others with a pure heart and direct my thoughts and eyes to what is pure and beautiful? Did my soul magnify the Lord in love and holiness, or did I darken my soul with malice and sin?
 - C. The Sacred Heart of Jesus: Did I give myself to others in loving service or take from others and use others for my self-interest? Did I put what I want or what other people want first, or did I put what God the Father wants first?