

15 COMMUNITY PRAYER

SONG: Come with me - Disco Look for my face (Ain Karen)

Come, come with me to a quiet place
and rest your weariness on me.
Let me heal your wounds
that the work for the Kingdom has left you.
Your strength answered with my Bread,
with my wine cheer the heart.
And now come ...

READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF SAINT MARK (4, 30-32)

The apostles met again with Jesus and told him what I have done and taught.
He said to them, "Come with me to a secluded and quiet place and get some rest."
Because there were so many who came and went that they didn't even have time to eat.
And they went in the boat to a quiet place by themselves.

SILENCE

TO MEDITATE

1. Do I seek Jesus to share my experiences with him and find rest in him?

READING OF THE CONSTITUTIONS

45. We should all feel responsible for the smooth running of our communities, committing ourselves to share:

- Faith and prayer,
- Mutual forgiveness,
- Apostolic works and experiences,
- Successes and failures,
- Joys and sorrows.

46. Our project of consecrated life demands that we diligently observe common life in all houses, even in those things that pertain to food, clothing and trousseau.

47. The closure will be maintained, and there will be places in each house reserved exclusively for the nuns. We will not admit outsiders to them, except for special circumstances that will be determined in the Board of Directors.

SILENCE

TO MEDITATE

1. Do I share with the Sisters of Community? Is the community my place of rest, of encounter with Jesus?
2. Do I meet Jesus in the community, in community times and in community prayers?
3. Do we look for times and places in my community that are unique to us?

READING OF THE BOOK OF EXCELLENCES OF THE ORATORY CONGREGATION (Copied for us by Fr. Tejero)

This beautiful virtue, Queen of all, that the Divine Humanized Word has practiced on earth, God has wanted to grant to the Congregation of San Felipe for its very special excellence. It consists in a close union with one another with great love and brotherhood; despite being so many in number, and sometimes so different in country, moods, conditions, knowledge, and other arts and talents; preserving equality in all things; without admitting privileges or exemptions, but only due to necessity or lack of health.

And this union of charity is all the more admirable, since no subject is allowed to change his house, as is done in other religions, in order to avoid the disappointment of a genius different from his own; but he is forced to suffer it to death, and digest it with the warmth of charity itself; imitating our Lord Jesus Christ, who having once chosen the company of his Apostles, never left her except in death, although he must have suffered much from his rusticity, simplicity, ignorance and errors.

And indeed, it is proven by experience that only those who have true charity can remain constant in the Congregation, and progress in it in perfection; this virtue being sufficient to fulfill the entire law of Christ, and consequently also the Institute. Therefore, the Holy Father once asked; what rules he had given to his children in whom so much spirit of holiness shone, that it seemed that there must be many, he answered: that he had given them only one; that is, charity.

It can, therefore, be said that this virtue is the main motto of our Congregation, which makes the subjects live in great peace and harmony; it unites the Congregations of the Oratory with a bond of love, although separated from each other, and engages all the Fathers in continuous exercises in favor of their neighbors.

TO MEDITATE

1. Do I look at my Sisters with charity?
2. Do I consider that common life is the path of holiness?
3. Do I make its joys, its sufferings, its successes, its failures my own?
4. Do I pray for them and with them?

READING OF POPE FRANCIS'S SPEECH TO RELIGIOUS IN SEOUL (August 16, 2014)

We all know that, although joy is not expressed in the same way in all moments of life, especially in those of great difficulty, "it always remains at least as a sprout of light that is born from the personal certainty of being infinitely loved." (*Evangelii gaudium*, 6). The firm certainty of being loved by God is at the center of his vocation: to be for others a tangible sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God, a foretaste of the eternal joy of heaven.

Only if our witness is joyful will we draw men and women to Christ. And this joy is a gift that is nourished by a life of prayer, meditation on the Word of God, the celebration of the sacraments and life in community, which is very important. When these are lacking, weaknesses and difficulties will arise that will obscure the joy that we felt so deep inside at the beginning of our journey.

Community life is not always easy, but it is a providential training ground for the heart. It is unrealistic not to expect conflict; Misunderstandings will arise and will have to be addressed. But, despite these difficulties, it is in community life that we are called to grow in mercy, patience and perfect charity.

TO MEDITATE

1. Do I give up on the difficulties of life in my community?
2. Do I see them as a call from God to grow in mercy, patience and charity?
3. Do I live my community with joy?

SONG: Jesus, my joy.

Oh Jesus of most sweet memory,
that you give us true joy,
more than honey and everything else
your presence infuses us with sweetness.

He who suffers trusts in Jesus,
how pious you show yourself to the one who prays,
what goodness in you the one who seeks you finds,
how happy will be the one who finds you.
There will be no softer song in the ear,
nor that it is pleasant to hear it,
not so sweet to be remembered,
like you, oh Jesus, the beloved Son.

There will be no language that can express it,
no word that can translate it,
for only the one who has experienced it,
he is capable of knowing what it is to love him.

SILENCE

WE PUT OUR FAITH IN COMMON

OUR FATHER

FINAL PRAYER

Father,
today I want to ask you
for my community sisters.

You know them personally:
you know her first and last name,
their strengths and weaknesses,

their joys and sorrows,
their strength and weakness,
you know all their history;
you accept them as they are
and vivify them with your Spirit.

You Lord love them
not because they are good,
but because they are your daughters.

Teach me to really love them
in imitation of Jesus Christ,
not by her words or by her deeds
but for themselves,
discovering in each one,
especially in the weakest,
the mystery of your infinite love.

I thank you, Father,
because you have given me sisters.
They are all a gift to me
a true "sacrament",
sensitive and effective sign
of the presence of your Son.

Give me the look of Jesus
to contemplate them,
and give me your heart
to love them to the extreme;
because I also want to be,
for each of them,
living sacrament of the presence of Jesus.