

Verbum Dei

GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER

Jesus: The Way, the Truth and the Life

General Theme:
Transformation into Love -
“To be Christ”

General Objective

To discover and be convinced that to be Christ is our true identity as children of God. To be Christ is the maximum fulfillment of our vocation to love. Our mission is to help others live out this same goal.

Week 1
(June 3 - 9)

Objective: To present the supreme ideal of human life in the person of Christ.

INTRODUCTION

“Humanity is loved by God! This very simple yet profound proclamation is owed to humanity by the Church. Each Christian’s words and life must make this proclamation resound: God loves you, Christ came for you, Christ is for you “the Way, the Truth and the Life”. (Pope Francis)

We just celebrated the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord and heard his promise, *“I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me because I live and you also will live.” (Jn. 14:18-19)*

Jesus is no longer visibly present among us but as we continue to choose to love, we make Him present. Love is the true mark of a disciple and follower of Jesus.

Our life is for loving and only in loving to the full we can live the fullness of our life. For we are created out of love and we have the capacity to know and reproduce the same love of God. Jesus came to show us that the path to the fullness of life is in the fullness of loving not

with the human love but with the love of God.

It is in love that God can act in our lives. He chose us to be his through our union with His Son, Jesus Christ (cf. Ephesians 1:4). So that in love, in Him, we live and grow conforming to our real identity who is no other than Christ. God desires for us a life lived to the full (cf. John 10:10), a life that we were created for.

In Baptism, we become part of Christ and called to share in His same identity: priest, prophet and king. God revealed to us the mystery of his love through the way of life and loving of His Son, Jesus Christ who is his perfect image.

“The truth is that only in the mystery of the incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light.” (Gaudium et Spes 22) Jesus is the absolute vocation and greatest ideal and project for all. He is the way, the truth and the life, and no other project can truly satisfy the thirst of the human heart for happiness than living and loving like him. This would be made possible through the help of the Holy Spirit whom He promised to send us to be our Helper. (cf. John 14:26)

MONDAY Mystery of Life

Psalm 8:5-7

What is man that you are mindful of him, and a son of man that you care for him? ⁶ Yet you have made him little less than a god, crowned him with glory and honor. ⁷ You have given him rule over the works of your hands, put all things at his feet:

We often ask ourselves who we really are and why we are here in this world. It is a mystery born out of God's love. He set us on a path towards happiness and love. Often we see that our life is a mystery in as much as love is. Yet our existence is part of this mystery of Love. It is God, who created us that loved us first. He continues to show mankind the goodness and greatness of his love from the beginning.

What gives meaning to your life? How does our faith convince that we worth more than what we think of ourselves?

TUESDAY

Created in the Image of Christ

Gen 1:26

²⁶ Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth.

God created us out of love and have made us capable to love with same love of God. As we were created in Christ's image and likeness, we can fulfill our mission by setting our eyes on Christ and not on ourselves. Our lives prepare us to be like Christ. We are not just what we define ourselves, but what God made us to be - His children.

What is the image that we bear to others? Is it just our own or is it the image of Christ?

WEDNESDAY

The truth of our life comes from Jesus

Jn 1:16-18

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, ¹⁷because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen

God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

Christ made a path for us to understand the nature of the Father. The truth of the life we seek is manifested throughout his works and deeds during His life here on earth. We are called to seek, experience and live out what we have received that we may truly believe what God has revealed to us through Christ.

From whom do we seek the truth about our life? Do I believe that in the fullness of loving as Christ loved I can be able to also live the fullness of my life?

THURSDAY

Put on Christ

Eph 4:22-24 ²²that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, ²³and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

In our baptism, we receive the Holy Spirit which gives us the gift of faith. It is the Spirit that guides us away from a life of deceit and greed. It inspires us to live the same life as Christ

taught us and to reproduce Him in our life.

What do I need to put away to be able to freely put on Christ in my new self?

FRIDAY

Christ, our way, our truth and our life

Jn 14:6-7 Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Jesus came to teach us the path that leads to true life and true love. Our kind of life and loving depends on how close we have identified ourselves in Christ's way of life and loving.

How much do we know of Jesus? To whom do we look to and pattern our life?

SATURDAY

Staying with and learning from Christ

Jn 1:35-39 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." ³⁷The two

disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day.

Our faith comes from the faith that others have shared to us, and our experiences of God's ways of love. How much more can we grow if we learn and live with the same faith of Christ!

Like the two disciples of John, how can we dedicate ourselves to learn more from Christ's faith?

PENTECOST SUNDAY

1st Reading Acts 2:1-11

Resp Psalm 11:4-7

2nd Reading 1 Cor 12:3-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23



