

Pilgrimage Prayer 2014

Dear Mother and Mother of our Lord!
With great joy we start out on our pilgrimage to your shrine.

Father Kentenich's faith inspired you
to set up your home in Schoenstatt.
In the shadow of this shrine
a family was born,
a new spiritual way within the Church,
a charisma in the midst of our time.

Today we want to fill the jars with our gifts,
with our gratitude and repentance,
with our surrender and longing.
With every step we take on our pilgrim way we ask you:
Enkindle in us anew the fire of love for you,
for our father and for our family.
Mother, give us the strength to spread a covenant culture in our world
today
and educate us to be your true missionaries for this century.

Prepared by

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Retreat for Journeying through Lent Everyone

Retreat for The Father Everyday



God in my Life

Third Week of Lent

Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen

Prayers for the Way of the Cross

At the beginning of each Station

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you because by thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The Fourteen Stations

- I. Jesus is condemned to death.
- II. Jesus receives the Cross
- III. Jesus falls the first time under His Cross
- IV. Jesus is met by His Blessed Mother.
- V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry His Cross.
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- VII. Jesus falls for the second time.
- VIII. The women of Jerusalem mourn for Jesus.
- IX. Jesus falls the third time.
- X. Jesus is stripped of His garments.
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
- XII. Jesus dies on the Cross.
- XIII. Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
- XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Prayer at each Station

I love you Jesus, my love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for having offended thee. Never permit me to separate myself from thee again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what thou wilt.

Common Prayers

God in my Life

Marian Consecration Prayer

My Queen, my Mother, I give myself to you. And to show my devotion to you I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart. My entire self without reserve. As I am your own, my good Mother, guard and defend me as your property and possession. Amen

I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear, I do believe that you are always near. Whatever happens, Mother mild, I blindly trust in you and in your Child.

Let us walk like you through life, / let us mirror you forever: Strong and noble, meek and mild, / peace and love be our endeavour. Walk in us through our world, / make it ready for the Lord.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy; hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

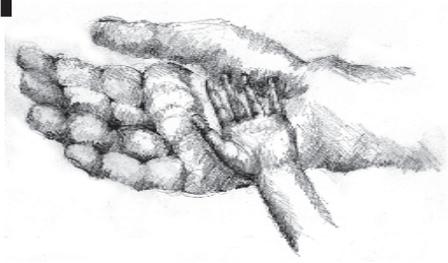
(When recited at the end of the Rosary, the following prayer may be said.)

(V)Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. (R) That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Let us pray. O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating, on these Mysteries, in the most holy Rosary of the

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Introduction and Programme



Introduction

The retreat is now in its second week. It's a good idea, once again to look back at this moment. Look at how the retreat went last week, make the necessary adjustments to the programme for you. Perhaps you will need to adjust the time to suit you, maybe choose a different place, maybe decide the television should be switched off.

Things that help

Choose one place to pray.
Choose a time and keep to it.
Invite others to share in your prayer.

Tip for the Week

A great prayer for Lent are the Stations of the Cross. Perhaps you can pray that prayer in your parish church.

For further details please read the introduction in Book 1

Monday - Jesus came to Nazara and spoke to the people in the synagogue: "I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country." (From: Luke 4)

Tuesday - Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." (From: Matthew 18)

Wednesday - Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them." (From: Matthew 5)

Thursday - These were my orders: Listen to my voice, then I will be your God and you shall be my people. Follow right to the end and the way that I mark out for you, and you will prosper. (From: Jeremiah 7)

Friday - For the ways of the Lord are straight, and virtuous men walk in them, but sinners stumble. (From: Hosea 14)

Saturday - "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted." (From: Luke 18)



Thoughts for the Week

God in my Life

Greeting

Let us begin our prayer together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

God with us.

Jesus drove the market sellers out of Your House and proclaimed that if they would destroy it, He could raise it up again in three days. Build with us a place for You in our hearts, where you can be the centre of our lives for ever and ever.

Amen

Thought for the Week

Read the passage from scripture for the day. Spend some time in quiet. Gather all your prayers and offer them to God.

Blessing Prayer

Father,

as we Journey toward 2014

help us to remember that You are always close to us.

May we welcome You into our lives and homes this Lent.

Let us create a unique place where we can speak to You each day and gain the strength and confidence to live life with You.

Give us Your continued love, and help us to never lose faith.

In this Year of Grace may your Church grow through our prayer.

With Mary we journey in faith in our home where you are Lord, living and reigning for ever and ever. Amen.

Meditation

God in my Life

On top of a Holy Mountain or at the Ends of the Earth or at the Heights of the Heavens - whatever way you look at it God seems very far away. The distance at which we place God to ourselves, is not just about the images we have of a far flung supernatural being, it also has to do with our personal experiences. Sometimes we think that God has at best forgotten us, sometimes we might make the experience that he has rejected us or even abandoned us. This feeling could be because of the experience I have made in my life or again it could be a result of the decisions I have made which have "put distance" between me and my God. When we consider the natural and human disasters of the century just finished we might also get the general feeling that God has somehow lost the plot, he is losing control, has fallen asleep, is simply absent or - our worst fears - God is dead! This last thought came from Frederick Nietzsche who describes in the most graphic detail what it means when there is no God in one's life.

In today's Gospel we hear the Pharisees asking Jesus: "What sign can you give us?" This is a question for everyday life: What signs does God give us of his nearness, of his personal care, his real presence in our lives. The more we get to know the God of our lives the more our lives and attitudes change: instead of feeling forgotten I feel that I am precious in his eyes. Instead of rejection I feel warm acceptance and instead of being abandoned I find myself in his caring hands. My life has direction and a deeper meaning. It is not just coincidence or like a game of chance. With the God in my life I am the odds on favorite to win. In a first step we see that our trust in God gives us the inner freedom to follow His will in our lives.

In his recent book Scott Hahn tells of the God described in the Bible as “a Father who keeps his promises”. At the beginning of the book he illustrates what he means by relating the following experience:

“Everybody felt it: a moment of eerie silence, a low rumble and then the ground began to shake. Buildings swayed and buckled, then collapsed like houses of cards. Less than four minutes later, over thirty thousand were dead from a magnitude 8.2 earthquake that rocked and nearly flattened Armenia in 1989.

In the muddled chaos, a distressed father bolted through the winding streets leading to the school where his son had gone earlier that morning. The man couldn't stop thinking about the promise he'd given his son many times: “no matter what happens, Armand, I'll always be there”.

He reached the site where the school had been, but saw only a pile of rubble. He stood there at first, fighting back tears, and then took off, stumbling over debris, toward the east corner where his son's classroom had been.

With nothing but his bare hands, he started to dig... “Forget it, mister. They're all dead.” (said on-lookers). He kept digging and digging - for hours... Finally into the thirty-eighth hour, he heard a muffled groan from under a piece of wallboard.

He seized the board, pulled it back, “Armand!’ From the darkness came a slight shaking voice, ‘Papa...!’ They found fourteen of the thirty-three students still alive. When Armand (and the other survivors) finally emerged, everybody standing there heard him as he turned to his friends and said, ‘See, I told you my father wouldn't forget us’.

God in my Life gives me a basic attitude of trust. A second important step is to look for the signs of his presence. For this we need “eyes that can see”. We live in the world of a thousand things from Play Station to Microwave Oven, from Roller-Blades to

Blessing Prayer

Father,
as we journey toward 2014,
help us to remember that You are always close to us.
May we welcome You into our lives and homes this Lent.
Let us create a unique place where we can speak to You each day and gain the strength and confidence to live life with You.
Give us Your continued love, and help us to never lose faith.
In this Year of Grace may your Church grow through our prayer.
With Mary we journey in faith in our home where you are Lord,
living and reigning for ever and ever.
Amen.



this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Gospel Meditation

Take some time to think about the Gospel you have just heard. Perhaps the following questions might help you - but don't let them distract

** Where is God in your Life, how do you see him and keep in contact with him?*

** Is your image of God "personal"? Do you see him as "God with us"?*

** How can we rebuild our relationship with God when it has been damaged and how can we strengthen it?*

Time for Quiet

Personal Bidding Prayers

Jesus said where two or three are gathered in my name - I am with them. Gather all your prayers together either aloud or in the quiet of your own heart.

*Join your prayers with the prayers of Mary as you say-
Hail Mary, full of grace...*

Moment of Prayer

Choose one of the prayers from the collection on Page 14

BMW. Remember that the Creator God gave us so many things to help us live a fuller, more human life and to know his care, his nearness and his love. If a beautiful sunset tells us about the majesty and serenity of God then one of our household appliances can tell us about the care he has for us. On another level we can try and make sense of our own personal and family history. To get the feeling that I am not on my own, there is a plan for my life and someone who accompanies me through the ups and downs of my life. Jesus tells us that the hairs on our head are counted. This means that the God of our lives is not as far away as we sometimes might think. The poet, John Donne tells us: "The kingdom of God is within us." Then we know that we do not have very far to travel to find him. When I look into my own heart I can discover the God of my life.



Story

God in my Life

The Story of the Man who knew Jesus

There once was a conversation between a Christian who had found God again in his life and a friend, who claimed that he did not believe:

“So, you have found Jesus in your life again?” “Yes, that’s true.”

“Then you should know a lot about him. Tell me, in what country was he born in?” “I don’t know the answer to that”.

“How old was he, when he died?” “I don’t know”

“How many sermons did he give?” “I’m not sure about that.”

“You don’t know a lot for someone who says that he has found Jesus in his life.”

“I suppose that you are right. I am actually ashamed that I know so little about him. But I do know this: Three years ago, I had a drink problem. I was in debt. My wife and children were scared stiff every time I came home at night. Now, I don’t touch alcohol, and I have cleared my debts. My family is back together again and my children can’t wait for me to get home every evening. It was Jesus Christ, who did all this for me. That much I do know about Jesus!”



Sunday Liturgy

God in my Life

Greeting

Let us begin our prayer together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Opening Prayer

Let us pray

God with us.

Jesus drove the market sellers out of Your House and proclaimed that if they would destroy it, He could raise it up again in three days. Build with us a place for You in our hearts, where you can be the centre of our lives for ever and ever.

Amen

During this prayer a candle can be lit.

Gospel Reading

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers’ coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, ‘Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father’s house into a market’. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, ‘What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?’ Jesus answered, ‘Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up’. The Jews replied, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build