



## **Meditations on the Rosary Based on the Message of Pope Francis on the Occasion of the XXXI WYD – Krakow 2016**

### **JOYFUL MYSTERIES**

#### **1. The Annunciation**

*The Old Testament uses various terms when it speaks about mercy. The most meaningful of these are “hesed” and “rahamim.” The first, when applied to God, expresses God’s unfailing fidelity to the Covenant with his people whom he loves and forgives for ever. The second, rahamim, which literally means “insides”, can be translated as “heartfelt mercy”. This particularly brings to mind the maternal womb and helps us understand that God’s love for his people is like that of a mother for her child.*

Thanks to the *fiat* of Mary, the mercy manifested so far as *hesed* and *rahamim*, is embodied, is made present in the world in a new, tangible way, with Christ and through Him! Let us pray that the Year of Mercy will allow us to be astonished by God's grace and not ask: is it possible, but – how will this happen, Lord?

#### **2. The Visitation**

*Jesus presents us with the works of mercy and tells us that we will be judged on them. I ask you, then, to rediscover the corporal works of mercy... [and] the spiritual works of mercy (...). As you can see, mercy does not just imply being a “good person” nor is it mere sentimentality. It is the measure of our authenticity as disciples of Jesus, and of our credibility as Christians in today’s world.*

Mary went with haste to Elizabeth as she wanted to help, attend, and accompany her. Let us pray that in meditating on and practicing works of mercy we do them always with love, with Christ, who – like in the tabernacle – was pleased to dwell in the human heart.

#### **3. The Nativity**

*The New Testament speaks to us of divine mercy (eleos) as a synthesis of the work that Jesus came to accomplish in the world in the name of the Father.*

The greatest manifestation of Divine Mercy was accomplished thanks to the mediation of Blessed Mother Mary. Let us pray that, listening to the will of God, we would allow the Lord to work and use us, particularly in the time of preparations for World Youth Day. Also, with our involvement, may there be more of God on earth.

#### **4. The Presentation**



*Pier Giorgio was a young man who understood what it means to have a merciful heart that responds to those most in need. He gave them far more than material goods. He gave himself by giving his time, his words and his capacity to listen. He served the poor very quietly and unassumingly. He truly did what the Gospel tells us (...).*

Mary and Joseph went to the temple to entrust Jesus, their treasure, to the Most High God. Let us pray for pure and holy hearts, that we spare no time, strength and talents, but rather trusting ourselves to Him who is Merciful, selflessly serve those to whom the Lord sends us.

## **5. Finding Jesus in the Temple**

*I felt certain that, in the person of that priest, God was already waiting for me even before I took the step of entering that church. We keep looking for God, but God is there before us, always looking for us, and he finds us first. Maybe one of you feels something weighing on your heart. You are thinking: I did this, I did that.... Do not be afraid! God is waiting for you!*

When it seems that Jesus has become lost somewhere – let us take a good look around. May we not be afraid of asking relatives or friends, people whom we trust, about Him. Let us also pray that in every circumstance we look for Him stubbornly and persistently, especially in the Church. God is always by our side, it is only we who sometimes lose sight of Him.

## **LUMINOUS MYSTERIES**

### **1. The Baptism of Jesus**

*Perhaps some of you are asking: what is this Jubilee Year that is celebrated in the Church? (...) Every fifty years [the people of Israel] heard the sounding of a trumpet (jobel) calling them (jobil) to celebrate a holy year as a time of reconciliation (jobal) for everyone. During that time they had to renew their good relations with God, with their neighbours and with creation, all in a spirit of gratuitousness. This fostered, among other things, debt forgiveness, special help for those who had fallen into poverty, an improvement in interpersonal relations and the freeing of slaves.*

Baptism is the beginning of new life, is being immersed in God and His mercy, and is very closely tied with mission. Jesus begins his public ministry precisely from the point of his baptism in the Jordan. Let us pray that the holy time of jubilee will become for us a time of reconciliation, and would help us to newly read about and take on the mission that the Lord entrusts to each of us.



## 2. The Wedding Feast at Cana

*I meet so many young people who say that they are tired of this world being so divided, with clashes between supporters of different factions and so many wars, in some of which religion is being used as justification for violence. (...) How I wish that we could join together in a chorus of prayer, from the depths of our hearts, to implore the Lord to have mercy on us and on the whole world!*

Sometimes, even our best, beautiful dreams, our hard work and troubles – all go to nothing. Great works demand making sacrifices, but sometimes we reach a wall. Let us pray that we – like Mary – know how to humbly show this situation to Jesus and that we strongly believe that even out of the greatest failure, He is able to produce the most unexpected good.

## 3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom and the Call to Conversion

Jesus Christ came to proclaim and bring about the Lord's everlasting time of grace. He brought good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed (cf. Lk 4:18-19).

Proclaiming the Gospel, forgiving, carrying out His will – when we do these things, we are never alone. Jesus walks ahead of us, taking our steps before us, preparing the way. Let us pray that all the efforts which we make in preparation for WYD would above all bring ourselves to conversion.

## 4. The Transfiguration

*The Church must offer abundant signs of God's presence and closeness, and reawaken in people's hearts the ability to look to the essentials.*

Each of us desires to feel the presence of God, His love in and among us. We are in need of faith to know that it is precisely in the Church, and specifically in the "Mount Tabor" which is the sacraments, each person can already today witness His glory, hear His voice and experience the transformative power of God.

## 5. The Institution of the Eucharist

*It is in the Lord, who gave his life for us on the cross, that we will always find that unconditional love which sees our lives as something good and always gives us the chance to start again.*

In the Eucharist, Divine Mercy reveals itself in a special way. Celebrating the greatest mysteries of our faith, we touch the source of mercy. Let us pray that frequent participation in the Holy Mass would expand our hearts, enrich our strength and enable us to give ourselves to our neighbours.

## SORROWFUL MYSTERIES



## 1. The Agony in the Garden

*We must ask the Lord to give us the grace to be merciful to those who do us wrong. (...) Mercy is the only way to overcome evil. Justice is necessary, very much so, but by itself it is not enough. Justice and mercy must go together.*

In our lives we must sometimes accept suffering, and give ourselves up. Yet this does not mean we have lost; on the contrary – if in obedience to God and His purposes we are able to say: may Your will be done – we become partakers in the suffering of Jesus. Let us pray that in our pursuit of justice, we would never forget that mercy is its perfect fulfillment and something even greater.

## 2. The Scourging at the Pillar

*The Divine Mercy message is a very specific life plan because it involves action. One of the most obvious works of mercy, and perhaps the most difficult to put into practice, is to forgive those who have offended us, who have done us wrong or whom we consider to be enemies.*

Forgiveness – although it sometimes seems to be beyond our strength – it is always possible! If Jesus, though suffering as an innocent, forgave his persecutors, how much more should we who are sinners! Let us pray for the grace of looking at each person with the merciful eyes of Jesus.

## 3. Crowning with Thorns

*Our Lord's mercy can be seen especially when he bends down to human misery and shows his compassion for those in need of understanding, healing and forgiveness. Everything in Jesus speaks of mercy. Indeed, he himself is mercy.*

“Here is the man” – Pilate stated about Jesus. In His great mercy, God identified Himself with each of us, especially when we suffer, become sick, or are impoverished. Let us pray for merciful eyes and hearts, for the grace of being close to those, who are not doing well.

## 4. The Carrying of the Cross

*You, dear young man, dear young woman, have you ever felt the gaze of everlasting love upon you, a gaze that looks beyond your sins, limitations and failings, and continues to have faith in you and to look upon your life with hope? Do you realize how precious you are to God, who has given you everything out of love?*

Jesus did not at any point stop loving those who put the cross on His shoulders, and later nailed Him to it. Let us pray that, immersing ourselves in the infinite Mercy of God, we would



be able to have mercy on the misery of humanity, and on our own as well. Let us be merciful – to ourselves and others – just like God is merciful.

## 5. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

*(...) The cross is the most eloquent sign of God's mercy! It tells us that the measure of God's love for humanity is to love without measure! Through the cross we can touch God's mercy and be touched by that mercy! Here I would recall the episode of the two thieves crucified beside Jesus. (...) With which of the two do we identify? Is it with the arrogant one who does not acknowledge his own mistakes? Or is it with the other, who accepts that he is in need of divine mercy and begs for it with all his heart?*

Standing under the cross – we need to be silent facing the immensity of love, which we did not deserve. Sometimes, in the face our own weakness, we can only call for God's help. May we have as much humility and crazy hope as the good thief. God is waiting to give us everything.

## GLOIROUS MYSTERIES

### 1. The Resurrection

*In particular, this Holy Year of Mercy is "a time for the Church to rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter: to be a sign and an instrument of the Father's mercy".*

Within the wounds of the Risen One, which can be clearly seen on the image with the words, "Jesus I Trust in You" – is where our good truly lies. This means that we too, because of the power of His Resurrection, can be instruments of peace, witnesses of mercy, proclaimers of the fullness of life, which is eternal, and is given freely.

### 2. The Ascension

*Carry with you the flame of Christ's merciful love – as Saint John Paul II said – in every sphere of your daily life and to the very ends of the earth. In this mission, I am with you with my encouragement and prayers.*

The mission of the disciples of Christ is never a burden. The person entrusting their life and calling to Him will receive more than they asked for or expected. Let us pray for the courage of being able to take on the works that the Lord gives us to make us even more happy and fulfilled.

### 3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit



*Dear young people, at the Shrine in Krakow dedicated to the merciful Jesus, where he is depicted in the image venerated by the people of God, Jesus is waiting for you. He has confidence in you and is counting on you! He has so many things to say to each of you... Do not be afraid to look into his eyes, full of infinite love for you. Open yourselves to his merciful gaze, so ready to forgive all your sins. A look from him can change your lives and heal the wounds of your souls. His eyes can quench the thirst that dwells deep in your young hearts, a thirst for love, for peace, for joy and for true happiness.*

While waiting for WYD, for this time of grace, let us faithfully listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, and may all of our preparations flow out of His inspiration. In this way, led by the Spirit of Jesus, we will certainly experience mercy, and in the community of the Church, we will find that which our hearts desire.

#### **4. The Assumption**

*We know that the Lord loved us first. But we will be truly blessed and happy only when we enter into the divine “logic” of gift and gracious love, when we discover that God has loved us infinitely in order to make us capable of loving like Him, without measure.*

In learning to receive and show mercy, let us look at Mary. She did not need forgiveness, but being the “Coredemptrix,” she helped Christ with presenting the great gift of mercy to the world. Let us pray, that reflecting upon the mystery of Her life and that of Her Son, we would desire to spread the Kingdom of God on earth.

#### **5. The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

*I always like to link the Gospel Beatitudes with Matthew 25 (...).*

As we try to be guided by Jesus’ instructions in our daily life, let us ask the Mother of Mercy for help. It is she who “by her maternal charity [takes] care of the brethren of her Son who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home” (*Dives in misericordia*, 9).

*Translated by Thomas Harbeck*