

Second Day
October 14th

Distinguished Teacher of the Truth

Preparatory Reading:

“Love the truth above all, sensing a vivid understanding for the modern society in which we live. Today humanity is full of people who seek the truth. [...] Love the truth above all with the scruple of orthodoxy, eagerly listening to the teacher who speaks intimately to each one, and remaining closely united to the Church, Mother of salvation. [...] Love, finally, the truth by devoting yourselves to the work of your perfection. [...] Because to love the truth means concretely to love holiness.”¹

“We must no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming (Eph 4:14). The Apostle Paul reminds us with these words of the need to be adults in the faith, mature in judgments and in possession of a moral conscience capable of directing our choices in harmony with speaking the truth in charity (Eph 4:15). It is fundamental work in form our own conscience. The reason is very simple: our conscience can err. And when error prevails over, it causes the most serious harm to the human person. It prevents man from submitting himself to freedom of truth.

However, the path to a mature moral consciousness cannot begin if the spirit does not free himself from the deadly disease that is widespread today: indifference to the truth. How can we care that truth dwells in our conscience if we do not understand that being in the truth has value of decisive importance to man? There are many symptoms of this sickness. Indifference in respect to truth is shown, for example in the opinion placed in the truth and falsehood of ethics, which is then only a matter of tastes, personal decisions or cultural or social conditions. Also, that it is enough to do what we think without any further concern about whether what we think is the truth or false. Likewise, our pleasing God does not depend on the truth of what we think of Him, but sincerely to believe in what we profess. It is equally indifferent to the truth, to consider it more important for man to seek the truth. Ultimately, this

¹ SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Speech to the General Chapter of the Augustinians* (08/25/1983).

inevitably escapes him and, consequently, confuses the respect due to each person, regardless of the ideas that he professes. This leads to the denial of an objective truth.

If the person just described is indifferent to the truth, he will not worry about forming his conscience. Sooner or later he will end up confusing the fidelity to his conscience with adherence to any personal opinion or the opinion of the majority.

Where is this most grave spiritual sickness born? The ultimate origin is pride, which is at the root of any evil, as the whole ethical Tradition of the Church says. Pride leads man to claim the power to decide. He becomes the supreme arbiter of what is true and what is false. That is, to deny the transcendence of the truth regarding our created intelligence and to answer, accordingly, the duty to open oneself to it and receive it as a gift which the uncreated light has made it, and not as an invention of its own.

The source of indifference to the truth lies in the depth of the human heart. One cannot find the truth if one does not love it; one does not know the truth if one does not want to know it. Live charity in truth.”²

Prayer:

Eternal God, who in your divine providence have given us Saint John Paul II as example and guide, grant that we may be grateful for this gift by being faithful to his magisterium, by living his teachings and by entrusting our prayers to his intercession.

May he, who in union with the bishops of the whole world consecrated the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, obtain for us the grace to be faithful to this kind Mother. And may we repeat each day as he taught us:

“Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!
Yours in life, yours in death;
yours in suffering, yours in fears and in misery;
yours on the cross and in painful discouragement;
yours in time and in eternity.

²SAINT JOHN PAUL II General Audience, Wednesday August 24th 1983 http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/es/audiences/1983/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_19830824.html

Virgin Mother of my God, make me all yours!”

Totus tuus Maria.

Amen.

Request the particular grace desired through this novena.

Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Then pray the litany.

LITANY IN HONOR OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy*

Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us

*Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us*

God the Father of Heaven
God the Son, Redeemer of the World
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, One God
Living Rosary
Gift from Heaven
Apostle of the End Times
Mystic of Great Heights
Greatest Son of the Polish Nation
Great Teacher and Doctor
Great Priest and Father

*Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us*

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Spare us, O Lord

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Graciously hear us, O Lord

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

