

Ninth Day
October 21st

Holy Man of Integrity

Preparatory Reading:

“The key word in Jesus’ teaching is a proclamation of joy: *Blessed are they ... People are made for happiness. Rightly, then, you thirst for happiness. Christ has the answer to this desire of yours. But he asks you to trust him. True joy is a victory, something which cannot be obtained without a long and difficult struggle. Christ holds the secret of this victory...*

Gathered around the Lord’s Cross, we look to him: Jesus did not limit himself to *proclaiming* the Beatitudes, *he lived them!* Looking at his life anew, re-reading the Gospel, we marvel: the poorest of the poor, the most gentle among the meek, the person with the purest and most merciful heart is none other than Jesus. The Beatitudes are nothing more than the description of a face, *his face!*

At the same time, the Beatitudes *describe what a Christian should be*: they are the portrait of Jesus’ disciple, the picture of those who have accepted the Kingdom of God and want their life to be in tune with the demands of the Gospel. To these Jesus speaks, calling them *blessed*.

The joy promised by the Beatitudes is the very joy of Jesus himself: a joy sought and found in *obedience to the Father* and in *the gift of self to others*.

By looking at Jesus you will learn *what it means* to be poor in spirit, meek and merciful; what it means to seek justice, to be pure in heart, to be peacemakers.

With your gaze set firmly on him, you will discover the path of forgiveness and reconciliation in a world often laid waste by violence and terror. ... We saw with dramatic clarity the tragic face of human malice. We saw what happens when hatred, sin and death take command.

But today Jesus’ voice resounds in the midst of our gathering. His is a *voice of life, of hope, of forgiveness*; a voice of justice and of peace. Let us listen to this voice!...

Blessed are you if, like Jesus, you are poor in spirit, good and merciful; if you really seek what is just and right; if you are pure of heart, peacemakers, lovers of the poor and their servants. *Blessed are you!*

Only Jesus is the true Master, only Jesus speaks the unchanging message that responds to the deepest longings of the human heart, because he alone knows “what is in each person” (cf. Jn 2:25). Today he calls you to be the *salt* and *light* of the world, to choose goodness, to live in justice, to become instruments of love and peace. His call has always demanded a choice between good and evil, between light and darkness, between life and death. ...

What call will *those on early morning watch* choose to follow? To believe in Jesus is to accept what he says, even when it runs contrary to what others are saying. It means rejecting the lure of sin, however attractive it may be, in order to set out on the difficult path of the Gospel virtues.

Young people listening to me, answer the Lord with strong and generous hearts! He is counting on you. Never forget: *Christ needs you to carry out his plan of salvation!* Christ needs your youth and your generous enthusiasm to make *his proclamation of joy resound in the new millennium*. Answer his call by placing your lives at his service in your brothers and sisters! Trust Christ, because he trusts you.”¹

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;

¹ SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *Welcome Address for the 17th World Youth Day* (07/25/2000). http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2002/july/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20020725_wyd-address-youth.html

yours in time and in eternity.
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
Man of Colossal Virtues
Friend of Beggars
Navigator through the Storm
Tsunami of Life, Truth and Love
Apostle to Young People and Families
Awakener of Vocations
Spiritual Father

*Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on 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

