

Jubilaicum



A call to conversion!

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[TO TRANSFORM MY LIFE, TO RENEW THE MISSION]

The First week

Forty days to leave your comfort zone.

Prayer Guide



Gospel Text

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK (1:12-15)

At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Pray with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience



Are you willing to personally participate?

Solitude
Temptations

Lent

2021



Meditation and text of St. Paul of the Cross

(FROM HIS SPIRITUAL DIARY)

Being the Son of God does not exempt Jesus from his human condition. That is why it is the same Spirit that he received from the Father at his baptism who brings him for forty days into the wilderness, a place of trial and decision-making. Like Moses (Ex 34:28), Elijah (1Kings 19:8) and the Servant of the Lord (Is 53:3-5), the Messiah does not shy away from trial and suffering but is prepared and clarified by it to be “God with us”.

To follow the Father’s project or the suggestions of the evil one? In the wilderness, Jesus chooses to show himself as who He is-- the Son of God. His coexistence with the beasts and the service he receives from the angels are the prophetic signs that indicate that God is inaugurating, through his Messiah, the time of definitive salvation (Is 11:6-9; Psalm 91, 10-13).

Unlike the Israelites in the desert who, as soon as they left Egypt on their way to the promised land, became involved in idolatry, the Messiah – because of his love and obedience to God – did not succumb to Satan’s temptation, thus making God’s victory over evil and oppression a reality, and He became for all of us, his followers, a source of hope.



When John the Baptist was arrested and silenced, Jesus goes to Galilee and makes his voice heard, passionately proclaiming a central event that he can no longer delay-- the arrival of the Kingdom of God. It is life as God wants it for us, and who does not want to leave us alone in the face of our problems, conflicts, and sufferings. When God reigns in the world, humanity progresses in justice, life, love, truth, holiness, solidarity, compassion, fraternity, peace. Furthermore, in light of the Kingdom that comes what we need to do is to become and believe in the Good News of Jesus; change the way we think and act. God cannot change the world without us changing.

To be converted is to rethink, to review who I am or what I am doing with my life and vocation in the different relationships of my life-- with ourselves, with others, with God and with the world in which we live. It is about a change of heart, taking a new stance on life, a healthier direction than the one we are following and to readjust what is necessary in order to live a fuller and more rewarding existence for me and for everyone, in which God reigns. This is good and healthy, it does us good, it makes us ready to enter into and collaborate with God’s project.

During this Lent/Jubilee Year let us seek the truth about what we are living. Let us not try to hide who we are and to look like what we are not. Let us not be afraid to be alone with ourselves and to sincerely ask ourselves the important questions of life: Who am I? What am I doing with my life and vocation? What is an obstacle in my life? From what fears, selfishness, and slavery, that prevent me from growing in a healthy and harmonious way, do I need to be freed? Is this all I

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want from life? What are my expectations for the present and the future?

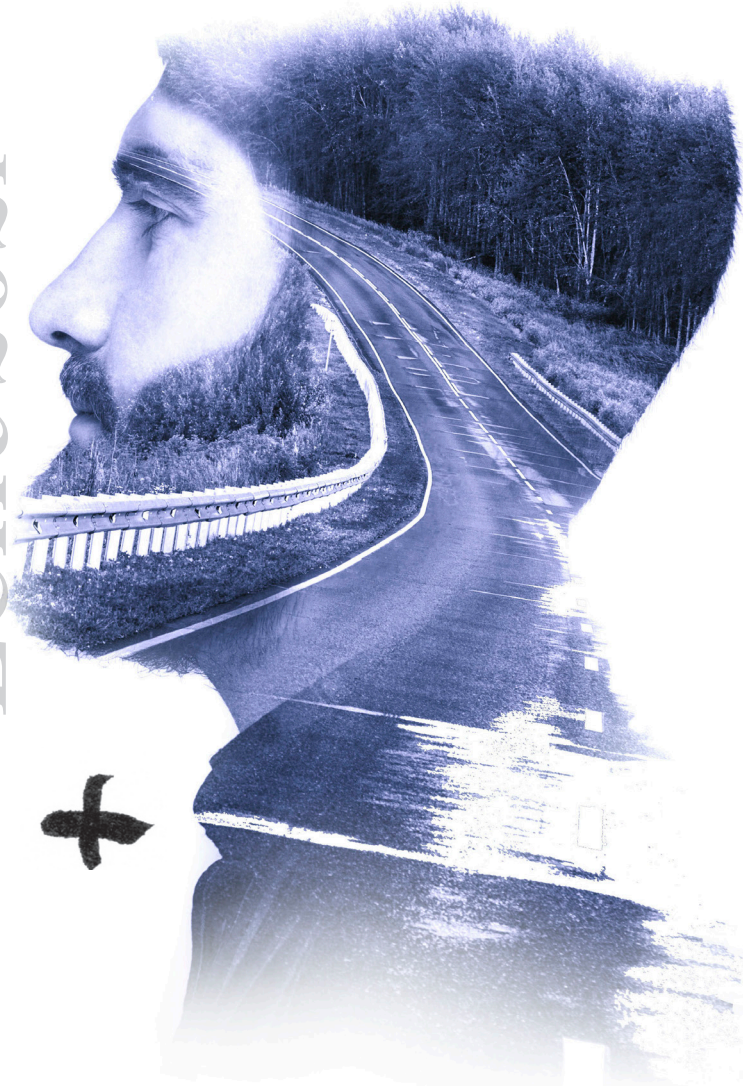
Of course not everything is bad in us. Within each of us there is a force that is always at work, that attracts us and impels us towards what is positive, noble, and just. It is God, who wants a more dignified, fuller, and happier life for all of us. What are the positive, noble, and just things in me (in us)?

St. Paul of the Cross was always attracted to solitude-desert. In the forty-day retreat, which was his spiritual retreat in preparation for his mission as Founder, that took place in the small room adjacent to the sacristy of the Church of San Carlo in Castellazzo (23/11/1720-1/1/1721), he lived an intense and important time of solitude, prayer, poverty, and penance, during which he prayed about his life and history and he clarified his personal identity. This mystical experience viewed from God's perspective, was recorded in a spiritual journal at the request of his bishop. The journal is written in the style of the spiritual literature of that time and has a witness value for us.

In the Diary entry of 28 December 1720, we discover how Paul understands himself, with his own personal reality (thoughts, feelings, omissions, aspirations...) at times, not pleasant for him. He advances in self-knowledge and seeks the meaning of his life based on the goodness and mercy of God. This inspires confidence in him, because he understands himself to be a gift from Someone, from God; everything in Paul is pure grace. "In the morning I was dry and suffered from headaches. I remained thus for a while, until the longed-for moment of Holy Communion had come, after which I was moved by the Infinite Goodness to deepest recollection and to intense loving aspirations and colloquies with our beloved Spouse [...] Later in the evening, I had a special sorrow for my great sins and failings, for my innumerable shortcomings, knowing myself to be an abyss of ingratitude [...] I know that I told my Divine Saviour that I could call myself nothing other than a miracle of his infinite mercy."

Prayer Guide

Pray with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience



What has been and how do you value your experience of understanding yourself, praying about your life, and reflecting on your identity?

Are you convinced that we all need continuous conversion/formation in life? Why?

What needs to be converted or renewed now in your life and mission?



Gesture

[PERSONAL CARE]

have three empty and transparent containers (glass bottles or glasses) ready and place them in the center of the assembly. Place the following text in each of them: HAVE NOTHING, POWERLESS, KNOW NOTHING.

Note your reactions and recognize:

1. What do I have that I do not need?
2. What am I willing to let go of?
3. What do I want to unlearn?

Pray with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience

Prayer Guide

Prayer

This Lent,
Walk while looking at Christ,
please do not be distracted,
in order to avoid tripping.

This Lent,
Walk while listening to Christ,
to consume his Word
stay very quiet.

This Lent,
Walk while imitating Christ,
his steps, ways, and styles,
his gestures and even his breathing.

This Lent,
Walk while consuming Christ,
The road is long and hard,
you need his food.

This Lent,
Walk while learning from Christ,
what the Spirit will teach you
the depth of his mystery.

This Lent,
Walk while helping Christ,
because He too is fatigued
in the poor little ones.

And this Lent,
Walk while loving Christ,
Delve into his heart,
Beating in sync with yours.

Lent



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