13 Day Fiat to Mary & Joseph



In the Spirit of the Child Jesus

By Geraldine Ryan "Joseph's Place Hermitage"



To Mary and Joseph In the Love of the Child Jesus



'He then went down with them to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His Mother stored up all these things in Her Heart. And Jesus increased in Wisdom, in stature and favour with God and Man."

The Thirteenth Day

On the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, Queen Esther obtained from her king freedom for her people from genocide and on the fourteenth day, all her people celebrated the victory in the Feast of Purim. (Esther 9) On the thirteenth of the month, beginning with the 13th May, feast of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, our Queen Mother appeared at Fatima to reveal Her Plan for Her triumph over the forces of evil threatening Her children, prophesying the onset of atheistic communism, which would "spread her errors" throughout the whole world resulting in the annihilation of several nations. Mary, our Mother, is the Divine "Esther" or "Star" pointing our way out of this impending disaster. In the plan of God there are no coincidences. The thirteenth day of the month is a Day of Victory of the intercessory power of our Queen Mother - the Esther of Heaven. The Word of God says,

"Celebrate these two days without fail – thus commemorated and celebrated from generation to generation, in each family in each province and in each city, these days of Purim shall never be abrogated among the Jews, nor shall their memory die out among their race. ... the ordinance of Esther fixed this observance of Purim and it was recorded in writing."

Esther 9: 20-32

Now Esther had a guardian in the palace of the King, Mordecai, who had adopted her after her parents had died. His advice guided her in her relations with the King and together they planned to persuade the King to change the evil Haman's edict regarding the slaughter of their people. Prayer and fasting played the biggest part in the king's conversion. The co-operation between Mordecai and Esther in regards the redemption of their people has eternal dimensions in the co-operation of Mary, the heavenly Esther and her guardian/husband Joseph, in order to bring the redemption of the entire human race, not just from physical death, but from the eternal flames of hell.

"But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil, which was unleashed upon the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Saviour began the Work of Salvation by this Virginal and Holy Union wherein is manifest His all powerful Will to purify and sanctify the family – that sanctuary of Love and cradle of Life."

(Custodian of the Redeemer – John Paul II)

For this reason, and much more, we consecrate ourselves into the protective care of Mary, our Mother and Joseph, our Abba in the Spirit of the Child Jesus. After a period of twelve days preparation outlined in this book, we enter, on the thirteenth day, the Spirit of their Virginal Nuptial Union, that they may, in union with the Holy Spirit, incarnate in us Jesus, that we may have His Life abiding in us and have It abundantly for the sake of others. The thirteenth day is our victory day.

The Twelve Ardours of Love

- 1. Ardour to descend from Heaven into the Womb of His Mother, live in the Temple of Her Body, be born from Her, feed from Her breasts and be nurtured by Her loving Acts for Him as the Word made Flesh.
- **2.** Ardour to live in obedience to Joseph, the obscurity of his humble home, the assiduity of his labors, the safety of his protective fatherhood.
- **3.** Ardour to enter the littleness, vulnerability and poverty of infancy and childhood entrusting all to their care, embracing all infants threatened and abused within Himself and giving them to the care of His parents.
- **4.** Ardour to live all the acts of human life, its struggles, its weaknesses, its temptations, its contradictions, its joys and sorrows in the spirit of humility and poverty, repairing for the pride of generations of self will.
- **5.** Ardour to live through the uncertainties, contradictions seductions and challenges of adolescence to redeem youth from selfish ambition, concupiscence, obsessions and addictions and

- reveal to them that devotion to one's family is of the essence of happiness.
- **6.** Ardour to live the contemplative life with His mother and father in Nazareth, in obscurity and assiduous labors and prayer within His family for the sake of family unity and its radiance upon its neighbors.
- 7. Ardour to give glory always to His Father, by living His Will and by demonstrating in His Life the Spirit of the Eternal Father, Who longs to redeem His children from fear, deception, hate and death.
- **8.** Ardour to announce to the world that, "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand Repent and believe the good news that the kingdom is among you" and "Blessed are the poor of spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven, etc ...".
- **9.** Ardour to unite all to Himself, the Truth, the Way and the Life, saying, "When I am lifted up I will draw all to myself" and "How I have longed to gather you to Myself" "that you may have Life and have it to the full."
- **10.** Ardour to establish on earth His Church and Her Sacraments as a living memorial of His abiding Presence among those He has saved, feeding His 'lambs' and His 'sheep' especially in the Holy Eucharist, the Gift of His Resurrected Body and Life giving Blood. (John 6: 48) (Rev 19: 7)
- 11. Ardour to suffer all the Father allows in His Life and to die in order that, by the Life Giving Seed of His Precious Blood, we may be reborn in Him entering the Joy of His Kingdom in His Resurrected Body.
- 12. Ardour to return to the Embrace of His Father in His Glorious Resurrected Body, causing the Holy Spirit to descend and sanctify His children restoring the Divine Order on earth as in Heaven. "Hallowed be Thy Name! Thy Kingdom come! Thy Will be done on earth as in Heaven. Amen. Fiat!"

First Day Divine Ardour To be Born of Mary



Prayer

Divine Infant Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You stand at the threshold of Heaven longing to descend into the Womb of Your Holy Mother in order to redeem me from my sins. Infuse me with that same ardour and allow me to descend in You, with You and through You into the Womb of my Mother Mary, allowing Her to nurture me into the fullness of Your Life. I remember Your words, "I have come that you may have Life and have it to the full". Without the nurture of my Mother Mary, I know I cannot have this Life to the Full. Take Me with You as You descend from Your Glorious Home in Heaven into the darkness of Her Womb, entrusting all the generations to Her Maternal Care. Amen. Fiat.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: **Humility** – Accepting the lowest place in all things, the darkness of not understanding and the humiliations of misunderstanding, of not seeing the way and not knowing the outcome - the *nada pura way* (St John of the Cross) - that is the way of nothing, of darkness, of unknowing, of total abandonment to the Will of the Father recognizing one's nothingness without Him. This practice in Jesus annihilates Pride that seeks its own will and way. "You have prepared a Body for Me! Father, I come to do Your Will."

Fruit of the Spirit: Love of God's Will alone, seeing that in Him one lives and moves and has one's being and that nothing exists except through Him.

Mystery: The Annunciation, "Be it done unto me according to Thy Word."

Litany of Our Lady: Praising & entering The Immaculate Conception of all God's Divine Lives.

Reading: from a book on Our Mother e.g. "The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will" by Luisa Piccarreta; "The City of God" by Venerable Mary of Agreda or "The Glories of Mary" by Alphonsus Ligouri

Scriptures: Ecclesiasticus 4:11 - 6:18 - 24, Wisdom 6:12 - 7:7, 22 - 8 & 9, Baruch 3:9 to 5:9, Proverbs 8 and Wisdom 8:9 which says,

"I therefore determined to take Her to share My Life, knowing She would be My counselor in prosperity, my comfort in cares and sorrow. Through Her, I shall be acclaimed where people gather and honoured, while still a youth, among the elders. When I go home, I shall take my ease with Her, for nothing is bitter in Her company, when life is shared with Her there is no pain, only gladness and joy."

Reflection

Our practice during this first day is to continually be in act of entering our Mother Mary in the littleness of Jesus, with a simple prayer of our own or the following.

Dear Jesus, I descend with You into the Womb of our Mother begging of Her the Food of Your Will and its Life - To die to myself and fall like a seed into the ground of Her Being, so that I may be reborn in You, with You and through You into the Divine Life You created in all Your Acts of Love for me and in Her create as many Divine Lives for all Your Conceptions of Life.

Imagine oneself to be with Jesus as He is about to descend into the Womb of His Mother. Enter His Ardour to bring salvation to all Mankind from Adam and Eve to the last one on earth. Remember His words, "I have come to bring Fire upon the earth and how I wish it were blazing already" and "How I have longed"

to gather you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wing!" Enter His thoughts at leaving the Peaceful House of His Father to enter the troubled state of humanity, to live amongst His rebellious children. Be confident that you can enter Jesus' own Acts for He said, "I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in Me will perform the same works as I do Myself. He will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask for in My Name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son." (John 14:12)

We do everything "in Him, with Him and through Him", as we pray in the Holy Eucharist, so that it be divinized and have infinite value for the conversion of souls. The words of the great Saint John Eudes should encourage us:-

From a Treatise on the Love of God

"Remember that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true Head and that you are one of his members. He is to you as the Head is to the members of the Body.

All that is His is yours. His Spirit, His Heart, His Body, His Soul, all His Faculties, all are to be used by you as if they were your own, so that serving Him you may praise Him, love Him, glorify Him. For your part, you are to Him as a member to the Head, and He earnestly desires to use all your faculties as if they were His own for the service and glorification of His Father.

Not only is He yours, He wishes to live and exercise dominion in you, just as the Head lives and rules in the members of the Body. He desires that all that is in Him may live and hold sway in you. His Spirit in your spirit, His Heart in your heart, all the powers of His Soul in those of your soul, in such a way that these words may be fulfilled in you, 'Glorify and carry God in your body', and 'Let the Life of Jesus be manifested in you'.



Moreover, you belong to God's Son. You should, therefore, be in Him what members of a body are to the head. All that is in you must be grafted on to Him, so that from Him you may draw Life and by Him be ruled. True Life is nowhere to be found by you except in

Him, who is the only Source of Life. Apart from Him you will find nothing save death and destruction.

Let Him be the only principle of all your actions, emotions, powers. You must live by Him and for Him, and so fulfill the words of the apostle, 'None of us lives unto himself and none of us dies unto himself. If we live, we live in the Lord and if we die, we die in the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord. For to this end Christ died and rose again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.'

You are One with Jesus as the members are One with the Head, so you must have with Him One Spirit, One Soul, One Life, One Will, One Intention, One Heart.

It is He Himself who is to be Spirit, Heart, Love, Life, everything for you. In the Life of a Christian all these marvels have their origin in Baptism, are increased and strengthened by Confirmation and the good use of the other graces in which God makes him share, and are perfected above all by the Holy Eucharist."

Second Day Divine Ardour To Obey Joseph



Prayer

Divine Infant Jesus, I immerse myself in You, as You long to live in Mary, obedience to Your Abba on earth, Saint Joseph. My God I am enthralled at Your Humility in wanting to serve your dear Abba as loving son, in perfect obedience – even as you do in every consecrated Host, gifting Yourself into the hands, heart and body of your creatures to have us do whatever we like with You.

You longed to reveal the Divine Order of Marriage and Family Life and waited centuries before choosing Your holy parents, Mary and Joseph, to be the first place Your Will restored the divine sanctity of Marriage. Infuse me with that same ardour and teach me to obey my Abba Joseph with that same attentive love as You and our holy Mother Mary did according to God's Law.

You begin to live the doctrine You taught to Your apostles "The One Who is the greatest of all must be the servant of all". (Mark 9:35) And "Go to Joseph and do everything he tells you." (Gen 41:53) May all marriages be made holy through the Virginal Nuptial Love of Mary and Joseph, so that children may grow up in the same Joy, Security and Peace as You did, dear Infant Jesus.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Obedience (which means to listen with the heart to another – to hear beyond words what their heart is longing for – for words sometimes belie the heart) This is not a blind obedience to anyone or anything – but only to the Will of God discerned in the practice of silent contemplation (the particular virtue of Saint

Joseph) who in the dark of night heard the call of God to "Get up, take the Child and His Mother and flee". Without this contemplative silence – one never hears this Voice of the Holy Spirit, which is as quiet as a gentle breeze. (1 Kings 19:13)

Fruit of the Spirit: Peace of Soul through Obedience

Mysteries: The Birth, Circumcision, Presentation, and Finding in the Temple

Litany of Saint Joseph

Reading: from a book on Saint Joseph e.g. "Joseph's Sorrows and Joys in the Divine Will" by Geraldine Ryan; "The Life of St Joseph" by Maria Cecilia Baij osb

Scriptures: Ecclesiasticus: 2, 3: 1-26, 14: 20 to 15: 10, 51: 13 - Wisdom: 7: 1-14 and 9 - Baruch: 3: 9 to 5: 9

"Children! Listen to me, your father, do what I tell you, and so be safe, for the Lord honours the father in his children – whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins.

Ecclesiasticus 3

Reflection

Jesus, in giving Himself and His Mother, into the custody of Saint Joseph is teaching us the form of obedience He wants us to live in Him. This obedience to Saint Joseph is a great mystery revealed to the saints, as the "narrow door" that gives us entry into the kingdom of Heaven – narrow because it requires the greatest degree of humility – God obeying his creature.

Saint Francis de Sales says, "When one is submitted to Joseph as to the Eternal Father, the most trying circumstances do not erode the Peace and the most unheard of turnabouts become possible. Let us suffice us to know that God wants us to obey without toying with the idea of assessing those we must obey."

Saint Francis de Sales draws from Holy Family Life three basic truths we ourselves are led to imitate, (1) *To live in the Shadow of the Holy Marriage of Mary and Joseph* (2) *To live in Holy Family*

Simplicity, Joy and Faith and (3) To live in obedience to Saint Joseph.

Many examples of this subjection to Joseph can be drawn from the Sacred Scriptures, particularly the story of Joseph of Genesis – and how, in the end Joseph's family, the tribe of Jacob, were redeemed by this obedience, his faithfulness to his masters, his perfect chastity and patient suffering of betrayals and humiliations. Pharaoh ordered that, "no one was to move hand or foot in his kingdom without Joseph's word". He was named Prime Minister of the kingdom of Egypt even as Jesus named our Joseph Prime Minister of His own Kingdom. (V24: The Book of Heaven) Jesus and Mary lived this obedience to Joseph, revealing in this, that the greater good is achieved when one is surrendered to the Divine Order of the Hypostatic Union – the Order of God's own Family, in which Joseph was head and father.

Third Day Divine Ardour

To Save the Innocents



Prayer

Divine Infant Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You compassionate with the sufferings of the little ones, especially those in the wombs of their mothers destined to be rejected and murdered. I immerse myself in You dear little Jesus and, with Your own Infant Heart, I beg the Eternal Father to save the little ones from death and to save the Divine Innocence of Your Life from being aborted in our families. May the Precious Blood You shed in Your Circumcision and the Precious Tears You shed hearing the cries of the slaughtered Innocents in the wake of Your flight into Egypt, open the compassionate Heart of our Father to

stop the slaughter of the unborn and the abuse of innocent children. Teach me Jesus to become little in You that I may learn from Your perfect abandonment to the care of Mary and Joseph, whose obedience saved your life when Herod threatened it. Amen.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Compassion for the vulnerable, exploited, imprisoned

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy in Union with the oppressed (Gal 5: 22)

Mysteries: The Circumcision, the Flight into Egypt, the Visitation

Litany of the Precious Blood

Reading: from a book on the Divine Infant e.g. "The Little Way of the Infant Jesus" by Caryll Houselander

"No-one having received a little child, could count the cost. They could not list what must be done and given and given up for an infant. Every twenty-four hours could not be a period of trial made up from ceaseless small tortures. But if anyone ... did count the cost in that way, turning the focus on self, their life would become insufferable. There would be that in it of which they must either rid themselves or else they would be broken by it." ibid p 64

"And He took a little child to Himself and said, 'I tell you solemnly that unless you change and become as little as this little child, you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes Me. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in Me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea with a great millstone round his neck. Alas for the world that there should be such obstacles. Obstacles indeed there must be, but alas for the one who provides them!" Matthew 18

Reflection

Jesus' words are not only plain, but solemn in the extreme, in regard to how God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love little children and regard their innocent love as the essence of the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus says we must not worry about anything and seek first of all the Kingdom of Heaven. If the nature of children id the Kingdom of Heaven, therefore, it is them we must seek to know, love and serve, for in knowing, loving and serving them we know, love and serve God. This is why Jesus rebuked his apostles when they tried to send the children away and instead drew them to Himself.

If this is so, then, the very essence of our lives as Christians needs to be first and foremost serving the children in our families, church and world, nurturing their faith life in every possible way. As children are most protected and nurtured in the shelter of loving marriages, tending the garden of our marriages should be our first priority. A famous anthropologist once said, after examining family life across many different cultures, "The greatest gift a father can give to his children is to love his wife." For in witnessing this love children feel secure in its shelter and see the image of Divine Love reflected. This being the case, we can see the full import of Saint Paul's words in Ephesians 5:25,

"Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her, to make her holy. He made her pure by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when He took her to Himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies - for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself."

Fourth Day Divine Ardour To become Human



Prayer

Divine Infant Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You ardently desire to experience all the joys and sorrows of our humanity, so that not one act will remain undivinized. Your divine reparations open to us the doors of the many mansions of our Father's Heavenly realms. You so longed to bring us to rebirth in Your Spirit that no labour, pain or sorrow was too great for You to bear. Every wound, every pain and sorrow in every fibre of Your Heart is a new entrance for us into Your Divine Life. Thank you Jesus! I fuse my 'I love You' into you from the womb to the tomb, believing and trusting as I enter each one of Your Acts to redeem my own and those of all humanity for our destructive wills. Amen.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Compassionate Love for the suffering and abandoned

Fruit of the Spirit: Mercy and Kindness (Gal 5 : 22)

Mystery: The Family Life of Jesus and His Life with His Apostles

Litany of the Sacred Heart and / or Divine Mercy

Readings: "The Virgin Mary in the Kingdom of the Divine Will."

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13 & 14; Hebrews 2:5-18 - Baruch 4

"My children, patiently bear the anger brought on you by God. Your enemy has persecuted you, but, soon you will witness his destruction and set your foot on his neck. My favourite children

have traveled by rough roads, carried off like a flock by a marauding enemy. Take courage, my children, call on God. He who brought disaster on you will remember you. As by your own will you first strayed away from God, so now, turn back and search for Him ten times as hard. For, as He brought down those disasters on you, so will He rescue you and give you eternal joy.

(Baruch 4:30)



"Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins and he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own. He shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father. He who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord." (Eccles 3)

All during His life on earth He offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the One Who could save Him from death and He submitted so humbly that His prayer was heard.

Hebrews 5:7

"Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but He had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father." Hebrews 5:5

"Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, He too shared equally in it, so that by His death He could take away all the power of the devil ... It was essential that He should ... become completely like His brothers, so that He could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because He has Himself been through temptation He is able to help others who are tempted."

The blood of humanity that Jesus shared was indeed that Blood He Himself first created in Adam and above all in His Immaculate Mother. Then, in the Eucharist It's Divine Essence purifies our own blood and enters the bloodline of our families and transforms us, not only into His brothers and sisters, but into Himself, that the Father may always look on us with Love.

Fifth Day Divine Ardour To Save Youth



Prayer

Beloved Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You live the years of your youth. Overcoming the same temptations all youth is afflicted with, you reveal that staying close to your parents, Mary and Joseph, is the way of safety and security. You "went down with them to Nazareth and lived under their authority". Therefore You "grew in wisdom, stature, grace and favour with God and with Man". You resisted the temple elders' desire for you to live under their tutelege by which they desired to 'possess' and 'exploit' your wisdom and talents. Instead, You chose the path of humble obscurity in the workshop of your father Joseph, making beautiful and functional things with wood and metal. You with your Abba were an artisan with your hands. Help our youth to discover Your Wisdom in all this and resist peer pressure to enter the world of ambition and popular culture, its maze of icons and idols, its slavery to various obsessions and addictions. Amen. Fiat.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Fortitude and Prudence in Friendship

Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness & self control (Gal 5:22)

Mystery: Life of the Holy Family in Egypt and Nazareth

Prayers: Fuse the acts and martyrdoms of all young saints such as St Maria Goretti, St Dominic Savio, St Aloysius into the Divine Will, thereby increasing their accidental glory.

Readings: View YouTube videos on young saints on Jerome Chong channel.

Scriptures: Proverbs and/or Story of Joseph of Genesis or King David

Let us follow the injunction "Give up the sin that clings easily" and meditate on what this sin is for each of us and why it has such a hold on us. Ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph to infuse us with their divine acts of fidelity, humility and love for each other.

"My son ... do not try to understand things that are too difficult for you or try to discover what is beyond your powers. Concentrate on what has been assigned you. You have no need to worry over mysteries. Do not meddle with matters that are beyond you. What you have been taught already exceeds the scope of the human mind. For many have been misled by their own presumption and wrongheaded opinions have warped their ideas. A stubborn heart will come to a bad end at last and whoever loves danger will perish in it ... Do not give your heart to money or say, 'With this I am self sufficient'. Do not be led by your appetites and energy to follow the passions of your heart. And do not say, "Who has authority over me?" for the Lord will certainly be avenged on you."

Ecclesiasticus: 4 & 5

Joseph resisting Potiphar's Wife

Genesis 39



The extraordinary virtue of Joseph of Genesis is an example for all of us especially youth today. Custodian of great wealth and power, he resisted innumerable temptations and was faithful only to God. Tempted by Potiphar's wife, he resisted. In anger she lied about him saying he had tempted her. He was thrown into jail and later released. From the time he attempted to be killed then sold into slavery by his envious brothers, to the frequent lies and false accusations placed upon him by malicious and envious persons; to his frequent imprisonments and sufferings on account of such lies, Joseph maintained his fidelity to God, to His Laws and during all this always worked assiduously for his masters proving himself to be an amazing organizer, architect and director of people and projects to the point that Pharoah appointed him as Administrator of the whole land of Egypt with his own royal authority.

Sixth Day Divine Ardour

To Deify Prayer



Prayer

Beloved Jesus, I immerse myself in You to make Your prayer my own for the sake of all. I enter into Your Infant Heart and its Divine Innocence and ask You to transform my heart into Your Purity and Ardour for the Kingdom to come on earth as it is in Heaven. Without You Jesus, I am nothing and without Your Divine Love, my prayers remain sterile. With Your apostles I say, "Lord teach us how to pray!" and "Lord to whom shall we go for You alone have the words of Eternal Life." Amen. Fiat.

Spiritual Exercises:

Virtue: Love of God above all things and all things for God's Glory

Disposition: Gratitude for all God's Gifts especially Himself.

Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness (Gal 5 : 22)

Mysteries: The Temptation in the Desert & the Sorrowful

Mysteries

Prayer: Fuse all one's desire for love into the Love of God

Readings: Gospel and Letters of John

"Do not worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds of the air, they do not sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields, they never have to work of spin, yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown in to the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith? ... Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Today has enough troubles of its own." (Matt 6:25)

Examine oneself to see how frequently one worries and what triggers these worries within oneself. What is it that one feels fear of losing? For all worry is the fruit of fear. Remember Jesus words, "Do not worry, little flock, for it has pleased your heavenly Father to give to you the Kingdom." And "Martha! Martha! You worry and fret about many things, but, few are needed – indeed only one, and Mary has chosen it and it shall not be taken from her."

Ask Jesus, Mary and Joseph what is that "one thing necessary" to have perfect Peace and make a commitment to seek only that one thing. Do as Jesus says, "Observe the birds of the air and the flowers in the field." Fuse one's continuous 'I love You' to God's amazing Love in all Creation.

Spend time observing these things that you will learn the sublime lesson of abandonment to everything that God permits in your life & give thanks. Living in a materialistic society we have great need to meditate over and over on this singularly beautiful scripture on the Providence of God.

Seventh Day Divine Ardour

To Glorify the Father and all Mankind in Him



Prayer

Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father, I immerse myself in You as You pray, "Now Father, it is time for You to glorify Me with that glory I had with You before ever the world was ... Father may they be One in Us, as You are in Me and I am in You, so that the world may believe it was You who sent Me. I have given them the Glory that You gave to Me, that they may be One as We are One." (John 17:21) "If I were to seek my own Glory that would be no glory at all. My Glory is conferred by the Father, by the One of Whom you say, 'He is our God'." (John 8:54) Jesus in You may we always seek only to glorify the Father's Will and lose all personal ambition, even in spiritual things. Amen. Fiat.

Spiritual Exercises:

Virtue: Sacrificing one's own will for the Father's Will

Fruit of the Spirit: Trustfulness (Gal 5:22)

Mystery: The Ascension: Jesus' victorious embrace of the

Father.

Prayer: The Glorious Mysteries

Readings: On fatherhood and/or the parable of the prodigal son

and/or "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen

Scripture: The Gospel of John and/or the Letters of John

"I do nothing of Myself. What the Father has taught me is what I preach. He who sent me is with Me and has not left Me to myself for I always do what pleases Him." John 7:27

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified and in Him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in Him, God will in turn glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him very soon." John 13:31

"To have seen Me is to have seen the Father. So how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? ... It is the Father, living in Me, Who is doing this work ... I tell you, most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself. He will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father." John 14:10

Jesus' words here are outstanding in their promise, that the one who lives in Him, with Him and through Him will do the same works as He and even greater works. — Why? Because, He is going to the Father. Today we meditate on how great a grace flows from Jesus reuniting with His Father at His Ascension into Heaven and the wonderful embrace of Love between Father and Son, from which flows the transforming Fire of the Holy Spirit upon souls. to bring about such fecundity as to astound everyone — for it is obvious its Source is Divine.

To read the Acts of the Apostles and see how this Fire of the Holy Spirit, not only inflames the apostles to evangelize all nations, but gives them the Faith to even raise the dead to life. Sometimes we pass over these scriptures as if they were not meant for our generation. We have to ask ourselves has our faith become so lukewarm that Jesus will "spew us out of His mouth" as He warns us in the Book of Revelation. Let us examine ourselves today to see in truth the depth of our Faith and respond to Jesus as He asks Martha, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25)

We beg the intercession of our Mother Mary by whose Faith on Holy Saturday, the day of Her greatest desolation, the power to raise Jesus from the dead, was activated. To honour the intense piercings of Her Heart on every Saturday in Holy Mass is to enter with Her into that Faith that raises the dead to life. "Destroy this Temple and in three days I will raise it up ... He was speaking of the Temple of His Body." Mary believed Jesus' words and the words the Holy Spirit spoke in Her Heart. Elizabeth praised saying, "Blessed are You because You believed that what God said would be so."

Eighth Day Divine Ardour

To Bring the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven



Prayer

Jesus, King of Mercy, I immerse myself in You as You pray, "Behold Father! You have prepared a Body for Me and I come to do Your Will that Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven, so all may see the Glory that You gave to Me before the world ever was made." You began to bring this Kingdom of Love and Peace in the world of the womb – the Womb of Your Mother, revealing that the first You came to redeem were the little ones, newly conceived. Always, Beloved Jesus, You go to the most forgotten, the least honoured and loved, to restore them to Your Love and Life. Zeal for Your Father's House, the 'Temple' of Your Body and the Body of Your Bride consumes You. May this same zeal consume me also. May all come to understand "the nuptial meaning of the body" so that a new era of holy marriages

may dawn for the protection and love of innocent children. I fuse all marriages into the Virginal Marriage of your parents Mary and Joseph, that all may be One in You Jesus as You are in the Father. Amen. Fiat!

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Divine Zeal – Ardour for the Kingdom to come on earth

Fruit of the Spirit: Increasing fidelity and divine energy

Mysteries: The Proclamation of the Kingdom & Luminous

Mysteries

Prayer: The Divine Praises

Readings: 1 Kings 18:20 – 19:9 - 2 Maccabees 6 & 7

Scripture: Letter to the Hebrews

"Every kingdom divided against itself is heading for ruin. And no town, no household divided against itself can stand ... So, if it is through the Spirit of God that I cast devils out, then know that the Kingdom of God has overtaken you ... He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters ... the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are revealed to you ... happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! ... The disciples came to Jesus and said, 'Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?' So He called a little child to Him and set the child in front of them. Then He said, 'I tell you solemnly, unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven." Matthew 17 and 18

Ninth Day Divine Ardour

To Unite with His Bride



Prayer

Divine Bridegroom Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You bless the Virginal Marriage of Your Holy parents that all marriages may be sanctified in theirs. In Your Pure Nuptial Love for Your Bride, the Church, I immerse all loving unions and sacred vows that they be lived out in the very Essence of Your own Love, which said, "I have come to ignite a Fire over all the earth and how I wish it were blazing already." May all division and hatred between spouses cease and all unholy unions be destroyed in the power of Your Love which is stronger than death. Teach us Jesus the true nature of Your Love. Allow us to experience the transforming power of your loving words and compassionate Acts within us. Help us to experience that "kingdom" of Your Love that is within us. Amen. Fiat.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Pure Love free of manipulation and exploitation

Fruit of the Spirit: Nuptial Love for one's spouse

Mysteries: The Wedding Feast of Cana & Pentecost

Prayer: To obtain the Gift of Nuptial Love **Readings:** From the Liturgies on Marriage

Scripture: Revelation and/or The Song of Songs or Tobit

"Haven't you read that the Creator from the beginning made them male and female and that He said: 'This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife and the two become one body? They are no longer two therefore .."

'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry, because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are the children of God'. Luke 20:27

'Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun. Let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the Marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints.'" Revelation 19:77

"The Marriage of Mary and Joseph brings to realization in full freedom the "Spousal Gift of Self" – Joseph and Mary are the summit from which Holiness spreads all over the earth." Pope John Paul 11 – "Guardian of the Redeemer" – para 7 "The Marriage of Mary and Joseph conceals within Itself, at the same time, the mystery of the perfect communion of persons, of the man and woman in the conjugal pact, and also the mystery of that singular continence for the Kingdom of Heaven – a continence that served, in the history of salvation, the most perfect 'fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit'."

Pope John Paul 11 – 24 March, 1982 – Rome

If the most perfect fruitfulness of the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Himself, flows from the Marriage of Mary to Joseph, then we must enter it and Jesus who "was subject to them". This extraordinary humility — this total self-annihilation — this commitment to family life for 30 years is the foundation stone we, and the architects of our societies, are rejecting time and again to the destruction of family life, nations and most sorrowfully the murder of millions upon millions of children.

Tenth Day Divine Ardour

To Establish His Church and Her Sacraments



Prayer

Divine Bridegroom Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You institute Your Church, that Mystical Body in which You continue all Your Acts as the Divine Bridegroom through the sacraments, those rivers of grace, light, love, life and mercy in which we bathe our bodies and souls. I want to always be bathing in that Living Water which purifies me and receive Your Divine Life and Love. I offer to the Eternal Father all Your Acts of Merciful Love in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Eucharist, Matrimony, Holy Orders & Extreme Unction, wherein You give Yourself to us in a hidden manner, yet real and potent for our transforming union with You

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Knowledge and Understanding Fruit of the Spirit: Peace (Gal 5:22)

Mystery: The Descent of the Holy Spirit

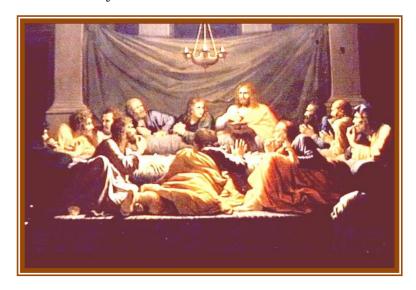
Prayers: The Luminous Mysteries

Readings: "The Sanctifier" by Archbishop Luis Martinez

Scriptures: Gospel of Mark & Acts of the Apostles

"These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers ... the faithful all lived together and owned everything in common. (Acts 2:42)

"Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always. Yes, to the end of time." Matthew 27:18



Today we reflect on what it means to be a member of the Mystical Body of Christ, His Church. We can ask ourselves what part of the Body of Christ are we, using 1 Corinthians 12 to help us in our meditation. We try to recognize the danger in comparing ourselves with others who we suppose have enviable gifts, or looking on others judgmentally as unworthy in any way. Every other soul is God's business not ours. The spirit of envy is what drove the Pharisees and Sadducees to crucify Our Blessed Lord and He told His disciples to "beware of the yeast of the Pharisees". Let us beware then of envy and the malice that flows from it that divides the Body of Christ and causes all manner of rupture and disease. Let us live the words of Psalm 131,

"Yahweh, my heart has no lofty ambitions, my eyes do not look too high. I am not concerned with great affairs or marvels beyond my scope. Enough for me to keep my soul tranquil and quiet like a child in its mother's arms, as content as a child that has been weaned."



Eleventh Day Divine Ardour To Suffer and Die



Prayer

Divine Saviour Jesus, I immerse myself in You and Your ardent desire to suffer and die to save souls. The cup that you found so difficult to drink Jesus, was not suffering itself, but that You should suffer so much and yet still, souls would reject this sublime Gift of Your Love and choose damnation rather than confidence in Your Love and Mercy. I pray You may increase in Me Your own Love in that of Mary, Joseph and Luisa for the Gift of Your Body and Blood — so that in my poor heart You will find some recompense for so many who reject You and Your Words. Amen.

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Consummating Love with One's Spouse open to Life

Fruit of the Spirit: Sacrificial Love (Gal 5:22)

Mystery: Instituting the Holy Eucharist

Prayers: The Hours of the Passion

Scriptures: Saint Paul to the Hebrews

"This is My Body given for you ... This is the cup of My Blood which will be poured out for you." Luke 22:19 "I tell you, most solemnly, if you do not eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, you will not have Life in you. Anyone who does eat My Flesh and drink My Blood has Eternal Life and I will raise him up on the last day. For My Flesh is real food and My Blood is real drink." John 6:52

Twelfth Day Divine Ardour

To Return to the Father



Beloved Jesus, I immerse myself in You as You ardently desire to return to the Eternal Father, having suffered, died and risen from the dead. Your desire to embrace the Eternal Father again is that longing to bring with You, in every fibre of Your Resurrected Flesh, the divine version of every soul as the eternal gift to the Father Who so longs for the return of all His children. I want to travel with You Jesus in Your Ascension and place myself and all humanity in that ecstatic embrace between You and our Father and receive His Blessing as He says, "This is My Beloved Son. All my delight is in Him". Amen. Fiat

Spiritual Exercises

Virtue: Longing for Unity

Fruit of the Spirit: Unity (Gal 5 : 22)

Mysteries: The Ascension and the parable of the prodigal son

Prayer: The Our Father: **Scriptures:** Gospel of John

Eternal Life is this!

"As I, who am sent by the Living Father, Myself draw Life from the Father, so, whoever eats Me will draw Life from Me." John 6:57 "Father! The Hour has come. Glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify You. And through the power over all mankind that you have given Him, let Him give Eternal Life to all those You have entrusted to Him. And Eternal Life is this: to know You, the only True God, and Jesus Christ Whom You have sent." In 17

Thirteenth Day Day of Consecration



Fiat with the Divine Infant Jesus

Divine Infant Jesus, I immerse myself in You, to become little, poor and abandoned to the Father's Will and to give myself fully docile into the united hearts and protective hands and wills of Mary and Joseph. In You, with You and through You, I take them to be my dearest Mother and Abba to nurture and teach me the ways of Your Wisdom and Precious Infancy, because Jesus said, "Unless you become as little as this little child you shall not enter the Kingdom of Heaven." Because I do not know how to become this little, I abandon myself to You, little Jesus and learn from Your humility and docility to Mary and Joseph. The world has covered me with layers of its influences. I beg you to remove these from me and clothe me in your nakedness, so that I may be cradled and clothed in the arms of our Mother Mary and Abba Joseph. I bring with me into this Fiat all the 'little ones' of every generation that they too may be cradled in the Love of Mary and Joseph and clothed in the Precious Virtues of Your Divine Innocence.

"I saw you struggling in your blood as I was passing, and I said to you, as you lay in your blood, "Live and grow like the grass of the fields. You developed - you grew you reached marriageable age. Your breasts and your hair both grew, but you were quite naked. Then I saw you as I was passing. Your time had come, the time for Love. I spread part of my cloak over you and covered your nakedness. I bound myself to you by oath and I made a covenant with you, and you became Mine – it is the Lord Yahweh

who speaks. I bathed you in water, I washed the blood off you, I anointed you with oil ... the fame of your beauty spread through the nations, since it was perfect, because I had clothed you with my own splendour – it is the Lord Who speaks." Ezekiel 16:6

Holy Mother Mary, in little Jesus, I give myself into the cradle of your arms and the mantle of Your Immaculate Love, that I may learn how to be little, poor and docile to the Divine Will in the Spirit of my Mother. Give me and all families the gracious gift of your Maternal Blessing as I receive from your priest, your scapular. Amen. Fiat.



Beloved Abba Joseph, in little Jesus, I give myself to you, into the protective cloak of your ardent labours for my salvation and the strong secure embrace of your paternal arms. Infuse into me your love for Mary and Jesus and the Divine Will above every other consideration in my life. Bring all families to Unity, Harmony and Peace through the gracious gift of your paternal blessing, as I receive from your priest, your scapular. Amen. Fiat.

Fiat with You, Beloved Jesus in Your Littleness abandoned in the Arms of Mary and Joseph

Clothing Ceremony for the Scapular of

Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Person kneels before the vested priest

Priest: Lord! Hear my prayer

People: And grant us Your Salvation

Priest: Lord! Hear my prayer

People: And let my cry come to You

Priest: The Lord is with you **People:** And also with you

Sprinkling the habit with holy water the priest prays:

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race with Your own hand sanctify this habit, which your servant is to wear for love of your Virgin Mother Mary of Mount Carmel. Through the prayer of our Holy Mother may he/she who wears it be protected from the enemies of his/her soul and remain in Your Grace until death. All Glory be to You Jesus Christ, King of Mercy, Who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit forevermore.

Clothing each one separately the priest prays:

Take this holy habit of Carmel. Pray to the Virgin Mother of Carmel that through Her merits you may wear it and never dishonor it, that it may keep you from all evil and bring you to the 'Holy Mountain of Glory' where She reigns with the Blessed Trinity in Eternal Glory forevermore. Amen.

Using the power given to me. I make you a sharer in all the spiritual good works, which, by the Mercy of Jesus Christ, all Carmelites have ever done or ever shall do. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Merciful God bless you. He Who made heaven and earth and has now numbered you among the Confraternity of our Lady of Mount Carmel Of Her we ask that, when you come to die, She will crush the head of the serpent of old that your birthright, the palm of victory and the crown of glory of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of Mercy be yours. Amen.

Consecration Prayer to The Immaculata

By Saint Maximilian Kolbe



O Immaculata! Oueen of Heaven and Earth! Refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother! God has willed to entrust the entire Order of Mercy to You. I ... A repentant sinner cast myself at Your feet humbly imploring You to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to Yourself as Your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and whatever eternity. pleases You. Use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of You, "She will crush your head," and "You alone have destroyed all

heresies in the whole world." Let me be a fit instrument in Your Immaculate and Merciful hands for introducing and increasing Your Glory to the maximum in all the strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed Kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For, wherever You enter You obtain the Grace of conversion and growth in Holiness. Since it is through Your hands that all Graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Clothing Ceremony for the

Scapular of St Joseph

Rubric: Any priest with a simple sign of the Cross and Holy Water may bless The Centennial Medal. However for full investiture and consecration in the Scapular, the priest may formulate a blessing suitable to the occasion or the individual person. He may likewise use one or both of the following blessings:

- ♦ O God, Provider of all good, You willed that Your only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Immaculate Mother Mary be committed to the care of Saint Joseph.
- ♦ Bless this Scapular (and/or Medal) for the protection of all who trust in him, and for fostering Unity in family and Church, and loyalty to the Holy Father.
- ♦ May your children imitate Joseph's Love for Jesus and Mary, and his fidelity to Grace and the Interior Life.
- May your children follow him who always relied on Divine Providence and obeyed the Holy Spirit.
- ♦ Guided by Joseph's powerful example and under the shield of his protection, may your humble children walk safely and surely along the paths of our earthly journey to the everlasting joy of Union with You in our heavenly home. Through the same Jesus Christ in the Unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SHORTER VERSION OF BLESSING

♦ Almighty and Everlasting God, from whom all fatherhood descends, bless this Scapular (Medal) of Saint Joseph, Protector of the family and of the Church, so that we may win more surely the fatherly care of him whom the Holy Spirit gave to care for Jesus and Mary. Bless it for the joy of our Blessed Mother, the honor of Saint Joseph, the good of the Church, and the Unity of all Christians.

♦ Make it more fruitful in presenting to our times, as a powerful guide, guardian and helper, the humble workman who was head of the Holy Family. Through Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen

RECEPTION FORMULA

(Priest places scapular on shoulder of recipient)

Receive (Name) this Scapular (and/or Medal) of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Protector of the family and the Church, so that under his watchful care, you may be defended from the snares of the devil and the deceptions of selfishness, and come to everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Recipient: Saint Joseph, our Protector, pray for us!

It is recommended that those who use the Medal or Scapular say daily the following two prayers and a Consecration Prayer following investiture. See next page for a Consecration Prayer to Saint Joseph

- ♦ That all may be One, Saint Joseph Our Protector pray for us!
- May the Spirit of the Lord guide and sustain our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II with the Flame of His Divine Love

Consecration to Saint Joseph

As composed by Jean Jacques Olier Reformer of Seminary Life – 17th Century France Spiritual Son of the great Cardinal Berulle and Charles Condren Director of Saint Sulpice – of whom Saint Francis de Sales prophesied would fulfill his mission to perfection.

- ♦ Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Catholic Church! O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God, and Guardian and nursing father of the Incarnate Word! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you, this day, to be my guardian and father.
- ♦ O most loving of fathers, whom God has constituted head of the Holy Family, accept me, though utterly unworthy, to be a poor little servant in your Holy House.



- ♦ Present me to your Immaculate Spouse. Ask Her also to accept me as a servant, and to adopt me as Her child. With Her, teach me, you who are master of the Interior Life, how to converse constantly with Jesus and how to serve Him faithfully in all things to the end of my life.
- To your custody was committed the Living Bread of Heaven, to be dispensed to your starving brethren. O, with Mary, help me to prepare the poor stable of my heart, worthily and often, to receive the Bread of my Salvation.
- ♦ O my tender and watchful father, I, hereby, consecrate myself to you. And, I firmly resolve never to leave you, and never to say or do anything, nor to suffer anyone under my charge to say or do anything against your honour.
- ♦ O head of the House of God upon earth, in faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself, and all my concerns, under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul with all their faculties, my spiritual progress, my home and all my affairs and undertakings. Do not forsake me, but adopt me as a servant and a child of the Holy Family.
- ♦ Watch over me at all times, but especially in the last awful hour of my life on earth. Then visit, console and strengthen me with Jesus and Mary, that with Them and thee I may praise the Adorable Trinity for all Eternity. Amen. Fiat!

"Come Holy Spirit! Renew the Face of the Earth" In the Virginal Nuptial Union of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Through the Virginal Nuptial Union of Jesus, Mary and Joseph with Our Father's Will

- ♦ May our marriages be restored to full Unity of Love and Peace
- ♦ May we come to understand that in Christ there is no longer male and female but the two become One in the Love Mission of Christ
- ♦ May we live all our acts in the Divine Will of Holy Spousal Love
- ♦ May we understand and live the nuptial meaning of the Body
- ♦ May we embrace the Nuptial Bed of Suffering of our Spouse Jesus
- ♦ May the Holy Spirit flood the earth with the Fire of His Love
- ♦ May the Holy Family restore the Divine Order in all families
- ♦ May our children be saved from death to the Faith Life in their souls
- ♦ May and end come to the slaughter of the newly conceived
- ♦ May our children become the saints who will defend all life
- ♦ May our Holy Mother the Church be honoured, obeyed and loved
- ♦ May our Holy Father be honoured, obeyed and loved
- ♦ May we always be found in our Father's House, His Holy Will
- ♦ May we always be cloaked in the Holiness of our Father, His Holy Love
- ♦ May mothers and fathers imitate the union and parenting of Mary and Joseph
- ♦ May all the abandoned, lonely and despairing be cared for by holy families
- ♦ May we come to value and use the paternal and maternal blessings
- ♦ May all souls come to know their true vocation in God
- ♦ May Peace be restored in the Sanctity of God's Holy Will
- ♦ May Saint Joseph be recognized as the Guardian of Life,

- of the Church, Her Sacraments and Her children
- → May a new era of childlike holiness be restored on earth the Divine Innocence of the Christ Child fully abandoned to the Father and Mother
- ♦ May we all be One in Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Holy Family life
- ♦ May the angelic realms inspire us to always act in the Divine Will
- ♦ May the Eternal Three, Holy and One, possess us
- ♦ May our marriages be restored to full Unity of Love and Peace



