

Reflections on The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

By Father John Bertão



The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Introduction

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In 2021 the NCBC provided two new programs:

- Reflections on the Way to the Cross with Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick was shared with the Daily TV Mass community on Good Friday
- Reflections on The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary by Fr. John Bertão on Holy Saturday.

This guide is the transcript of the Luminous Mysteries Mission. To watch this National Catholic Mission or any of the past Missions please visit [**www.dailytvmass.com/yearly-mission**](http://www.dailytvmass.com/yearly-mission).

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How to use this Guide

On October 16, in the year 2002, Saint John Paul II introduced the world to five new meditations on the rosary. In addition to the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries, the Holy Father, after much prayer and consultation, gave us five new mysteries, and named them Luminous Mysteries, or mysteries of light. Father John Bertão will be our guide through these mysteries, using Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Letter as our roadmap for our journey.

For each of the five mysteries, we start with a scripture passage and then a reflection from Fr. John Bertão. To use this guide with your Rosary we invite you to pray the Our Father, a Hail Mary (or a full decade), a Glory Be and conclude each mystery with the prayer requested by the blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, which begins, "Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins."

When our journey through these five Luminous Mysteries has concluded, we suggest the prayer Hail Holy Queen in honour of Mary and listen to or read the words of Salve Regina.

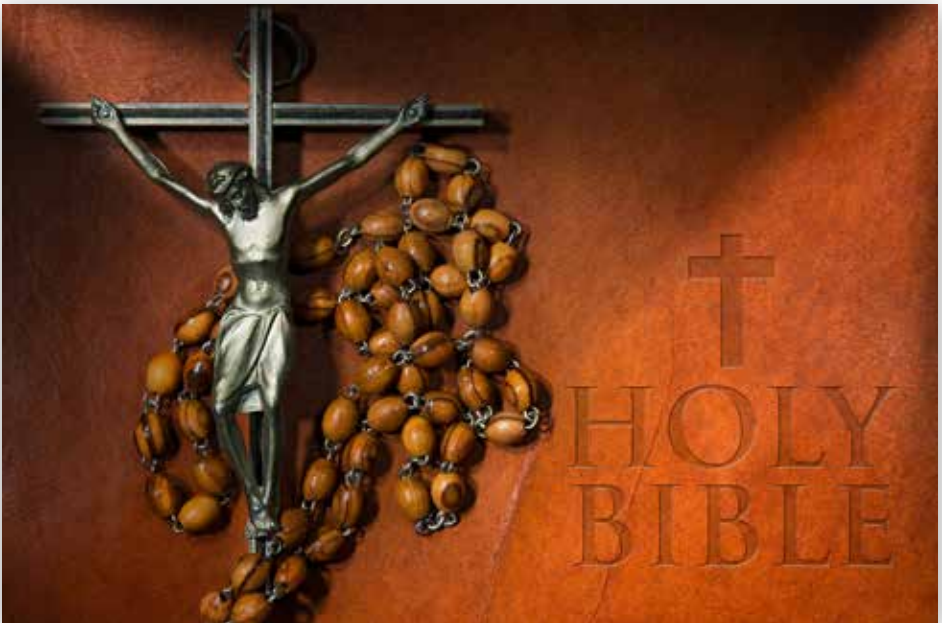
Opening Prayers:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.



The Baptism of Jesus



In the words of Saint John Paul II:

"The Rosary is my favorite prayer. A marvelous prayer! Marvelous in its simplicity and its depth. In the prayer we repeat many times the words that the Virgin Mary heard from the Archangel, and from her kinswoman Elizabeth."



The Baptism of Jesus

In those days, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart, and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my son, the beloved. With you, I am well pleased.

Mark 1:9-11 NRSV

REFLECTION

The baptism in the Jordan is the first mystery of light. In the Navarro Bible commentary we read, "The mystery of the Holy Trinity is revealed in the baptism of Jesus. The Son is baptized, the Holy Spirit descends on him in the form of a dove, and the voice of the Father gives testimony about his Son. Saint John Paul II writes, "with the rosary the Christian people sits at the School of Mary and is led

to contemplate
the beauty
on the face of
Christ, and to
experience the
depths of his
love.”

Through the
rosary, the
faithful receive
abundant grace
as though from
the very hands
of the Mother of
the Redeemer.



Imagine sitting with our grandmother,
listening to her loving wisdom, talking about
Mary and Jesus and how we too, like Jesus,
were baptized and took on the new title –
the title of Christian after Christ. Let us be
thankful to our parents or guardians who
initiated our baptism whereby we become
Christians and members of the Mystical Body
of Christ.

Join us as we pray:

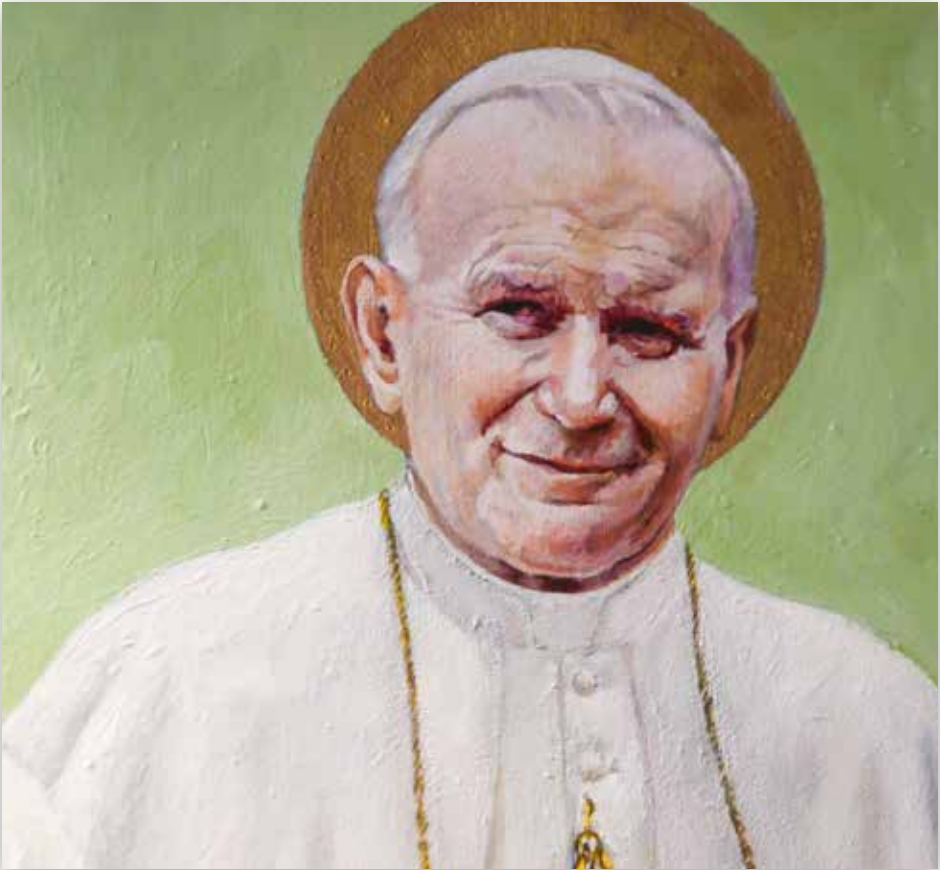
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. Amen.

The Wedding of Cana



In the words of Saint John Paul II:

"To pray the Rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His mother."



The Wedding of Cana

On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee and the mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now, standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. He said to them, "Now, draw some out, and take it to the Chief Steward." So they took it. When the Steward

tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew, the Steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk, but you have kept the good wine till now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:2-11NRSV

REFLECTION



In the second Mystery of Light, Saint John Paul II, in love for and devotion to Mary,

gives credit to her as the first among believers for her intervention when Christ changes water into wine, and opens the hearts of the disciples to faith. The Navarre commentary states that Jesus blessed marriage between a man and a woman and raised it to the dignity of a Sacrament. Also, and very meaningful to our lives, Mary acts as Jesus' true mother.

She is at that these two pivotal moments in Jesus' life, both at Cana and at Calvary. At Cana, Mary says, "Do whatever he tells you." At Calvary, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son," then he said to the disciples, "Here is your mother." Some commentaries state that all Christians are children of Mary. By giving us his mother to be our mother, Christ demonstrates his love for his own to the end. Through Mary, we are his own. At our Baptism, we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ. At Cana, we celebrate with him in the institution of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Let us pray for married couples to always be faithful to one another, as Jesus is faithful to his bride, the Church.

Join us as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God



In the words of Saint John Paul II:

"To believe in Jesus is to accept what He says, even when it runs contrary to what others are saying."



Now, after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

Mark 1:14-15 NRSV

REFLECTION



In the third Mystery of Light, we reflect on Christ's teaching on the proclamation of the kingdom of God as a call to conversion. We just heard in the Gospel reading from Mark Chapter 1 that Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God.

To successfully proclaim God's word, one must lead a humble, honest, and sincere life, and be ready to always forgive as Jesus teaches us in the Lord's Prayer, in Matthew Chapter 6. There are some among us who are mistakenly of the opinion that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an imagination of the church. In Luke Chapter 7, we learn of Jesus

addressing the Sacrament of Forgiveness in relation to a sinful woman who had sinned much. Our Lord tells those who are eager to stand in judgment of this woman, "I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven. Hence, she has shown great love, but the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

This woman could represent any one of us who allow our sinfulness to accumulate without receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. No matter what popular opinion states about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Navarre Commentary reminds us that we need the Sacrament of Penance, in which God forgives us by virtue of the infinite merits of Jesus Christ. In short, repentance is a sign that we love God, but it was God who first loved us. It can be a humbling experience to sit or kneel in the presence of a priest, and confess our sins, our most guarded secrets. We need the grace of our baptism, the embrace and comfort of Mary at Cana and Calvary, to be open to a conversion of heart.

Join us as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. Amen.

The Transfiguration



In the words of Saint John Paul II:

"In prayer you become one with the source of our true light – Jesus Himself."



Jesus took with him Peter, and James, and John, and led them up a high mountain, apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white such as no one on Earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us make three dwellings. One for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then, a cloud overshadowed

*them, and from the cloud there came a voice.
"This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him."
Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw
no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.*

Mark 9:2-8 NRSV

REFLECTION



“The Mystery of Light par excellence is The Transfiguration,” wrote Saint John Paul II. In witnessing the transfiguration of Jesus, the apostles are being prepared to experience with him the agony of the Passion so as to come with him to the joy of the Resurrection, and the life transfigured by the Holy Spirit. In other words, the joy of the Resurrection far surpasses the temporal sufferings of this world. Gospel scholars state that the transfiguration was a sacred moment when heaven and Earth met through the person of Jesus.

On meditating on this mystery, I suggest adapting one of St. Ignatius’ methods of meditation. To place yourself on the mountaintop observing the events that the apostles experienced, perhaps the look on their faces filled with awe and wonder, as they gazed upon Jesus’ face, shining like the sun. Like the apostles, the voice of the Father tells us to listen to him and prepare ourselves for the challenges that life has to offer us.

Count yourself among the chosen through the grace of your Baptism. Consider yourself invited to the wedding banquet. Be reconciled through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and transformed and ready to listen to him in the days ahead.



Join us as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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The Institution of the Eucharist



In the words of Saint John Paul II:

"The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christ-centered prayer. It has all the depth of the gospel message in its entirety. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb."



While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take. Eat. This is my body." Then he took the cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:26-30 NRSV

REFLECTION



We come to the final Mystery of Light, the Institution of the Eucharist, and I quote a beautiful phrase made by blessed Carlo Acutis. "The Eucharist is my highway to heaven." This Italian teenager, who died at the age of 15 in 2006, was beatified in Assisi, Italy, on October 10th, 2020. He has been described as a young man who brings holiness in the third millennium.

In this fifth Mystery of Light, we reflect on the gift that Jesus left us as a living memory of him at the Last Supper. The gift of the Eucharist, that is at the very core of our faith,

has nourished humanity of all ages, from the very young, to those in their later years. This expression of great love from Jesus continues to nourish Christians of every age and walk of life. The gift of the Eucharist, along with the rosary, enriches our love for the eternal God, who has given us Mary, and her beloved Son, whom we love and venerate on our final journey to heaven. I close with another quote from blessed Carlo Acutis, "Mary is the only woman in my life." How is your relationship with Mary, the mother of Jesus?

Join us as we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. Amen.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy

Our life, our
sweetness, and
our hope. To
Thee we cry,
poor banished
children of
Eve. To thee
we send up
our sighs,
mourning and
weeping in this
vale of tears.
Turn then,
most gracious
advocate, thine

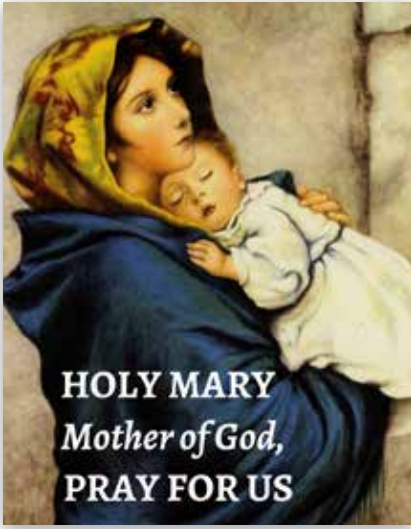


eyes of mercy towards us, and after this, our
exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy
womb, Jesus. O Clement, O loving, O sweet
Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of
God, that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ. Amen.

Salve Regina (English Translation)

Queen, mother of mercy:
our life, sweetness, and hope, hail.
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you we sigh, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.
Turn then, our advocate,
those merciful eyes
toward us.
And Jesus, the
blessed fruit of
thy womb,
after our exile,
show us.
O clement,
O loving,
O sweet
Virgin Mary.





My Prayer List

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The Mysteries of the Rosary

Saint John Paul II wrote that the rosary is “a prayer for peace, it is also, and always has been, a prayer of and for the family.”

Joyful Mysteries prayed on Monday and Saturday

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation
5. The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple



Luminous Mysteries prayed on Thursday

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The Institution of the Eucharist





Sorrowful Mysteries prayed on Tuesday and Friday

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion



Glorious Mysteries prayed on Wednesday and Sunday

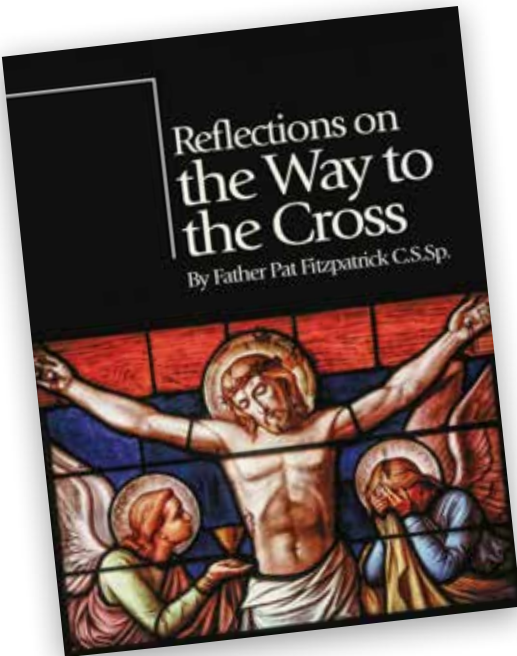
1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven

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For more information contact us at
1-888-383-6277.

Reflections on the Way to the Cross

Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick



We come face to face with Christ in those who suffer. Through these Stations of the Cross, we follow in Jesus' footsteps from Pilate's palace to Calvary. We mark ourselves with the sign of the cross and walk with Fr. Pat Fitzpatrick on the way to the

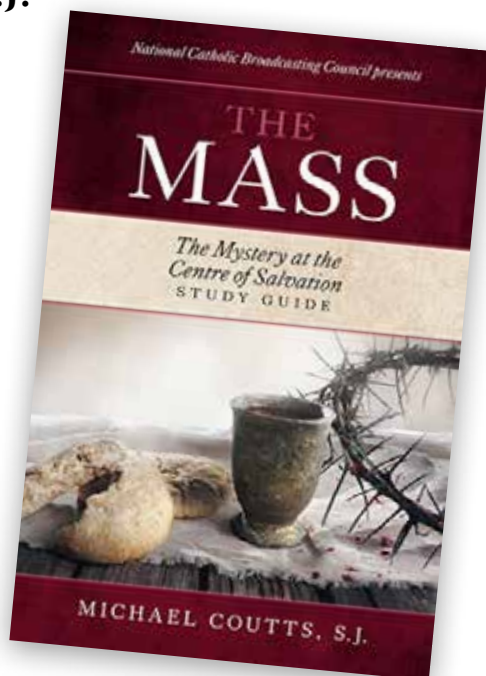
cross. This is not the traditional Way of the Cross, as it invites us to join with the faithful followers of Christ, especially his mother, and to enter into the passion and death of Jesus our saviour.

The Mass: The Mystery at the Centre of Salvation

Father Michael Coutts, S.J.

Pope Francis recently shared that:

“The Eucharistic Celebration is much more than a simple banquet: it is exactly the memorial of Jesus’ Pascal Sacrifice, the mystery at the centre of salvation... every time we celebrate this Sacrament we participate in the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.”



The Mission is divided into four talks:

- Talk 1: An Invitation to the Lord's Supper
- Talk 2: Behold the Lamb of God
- Talk 3: The Word of My Lord
- Talk 4: The Gifts To and From God

Touching God's Compassion: Most Reverend Gerard Bergie Bishop of St. Catharines



Pope Francis said that "In virtue of the Holy Spirit, baptism immerses us in the death and resurrection of the Lord, drowning the old [person] in the baptismal font, dominated by the sin that divides us from God, and giving birth to the new [person] recreated in Christ."

Pope Francis also shared that the Anointing of the Sick, "enables us to touch with our hand God's compassion" and helps to "widen our look on the experience of sickness and suffering, in the horizon of God's mercy."

The Mission is divided into four talks:

- Talk 1: Be Not Afraid: Mary is Our Mother
- Talk 2: Baptism: The Gateway to Our Salvation
- Talk 3: Anointing of the Sick: Christ Who Brings Healing and Life
- Talk 4: The Road to Emmaus: Life Everlasting

Sin, Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto



Pope Benedict XVI shared, “Lent is a period of spiritual ‘combat’ which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism.”

There are four talks each about 12 minutes in length that make up this mission.

- Talk 1: The Psalms
- Talk 2: Psalm 51: The Miserere:
Prayer of Repentance
- Talk 3: Conscience
- Talk 4: The Sacrament of Reconciliation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks to:

Father John Bertão for allowing us to use these meaningful reflections.

Melanie Vaartjes and Lynda Clayton for editing and proofreading.

Len Churchill, LenArt Design Markham ON, for the design and production of this booklet. www.lenartdesign.com

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