

## INSPIRED WORD May 25, 2016

### EXHORTATION / SUMMARY

This evening we are going to begin with praise and worship where we open up our hearts to God, and let that praise come from deep within our hearts. Our Lord is worthy of all praise!

Following that, we are going to have a talk on “Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.” Then we are going to have a little procession where we and the children will go to the chapel and crown Blessed Mary. She is a very special person; her ‘Amen’ brought the Lord Jesus into this world for our salvation. She is our Mother, she is the prime intercessor, she prays for us, and we honor her. This month of May is also the month of the Holy Rosary. After that we are going to continue with praise and worship, always being open to the Charismatic Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts build up the Church and it is God manifesting Himself because of His love for us. It is our gifts touching a need in another person; so we do this out of love.

### SHARING / SCRIPTURE

Before we get started, I want to share something with you. I don't know if you remember the first reading from this past Sunday. But as I was listening to it, and I felt like I had never heard it before. When I got home, I looked it up in my Bible and that translation used different words, so it didn't touch me as much. I have my husband's Bible here and I will read this part of it in case you don't remember it. It is from **Proverbs 8**: “When He established the heavens, I was there, when He marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when He made firm the skies above, when He fixed fast the foundations of the earth; when He set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress His command; then I was beside Him as His craftsman, and I was His delight day by day, playing before Him all the while, playing on the surface of His earth; and I found delight in the sons of men.” (**Reference: Verses 27 – 31**) I love that image of ‘playing on the earth’. That Sunday we were celebrating the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity. The footnotes at the bottom of the page in the Bible say: “Wisdom is of divine origin. It is here represented as a being which existed before all things and concurred with God when He planned and executed the creation of the universe. Here the plurality of divine Persons is foreshadowed which was afterward to be fully revealed when Wisdom in the Person of Jesus Christ became incarnate.”

### CONFIRMATION

I confirm that because I also felt as if I had never heard that scripture before, prior to Sunday's readings.

### PRAYER

Lord, we thank You for Your holy Presence here with us in this place. We are Your people, Your flock, Lord, and You gather us together here in this place. We thank You for that, Lord! We thank You for the love which You pour forth upon us in this place. We

thank You, Lord, for Your salvation, for Your resurrection, for Your redemption, for Your love – for strengthening us on this walk, Lord. O Jesus! O Jesus, we give You praise in this place! Jesus, send Your Holy Spirit down upon us that we would give You that praise that is due. Come, Holy Spirit, come!! We open our hearts to You now! Come, Holy Spirit, we ask; come, Holy Spirit, we seek; come, Holy Spirit, and have Your way in this place tonight! Pour forth Your gifts, Lord, for ministry, and praise and worship; pour them out on every person here. We say, “Amen!” to that, Lord. Glory to You, Lord!!

### **IMAGE**

After Denise shared her thoughts about last Sunday’s reading, I saw an image of the Child Jesus. He was maybe about three or four years old. He took me by the hand and pulled me closer - to play with Him.

### **SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

**Philippians 2:** “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the Name that is above every name, so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father.” **(Reference: Verses: 5 – 11)** Lord, because of what You have done for us, and Who You are, **we can’t stop praising Your Name!!! Amen!!**

### **PROPHECY / EXHORTATION**

Jesus’ Name is above every name – that is the highest of the highest. I think that sometimes we forget how much power is in the Name of Jesus! As we were singing that last song, I really felt the Holy Spirit saying, “Don’t forget the power that is behind the Name of Jesus!”

### **CONFIRMATION / EXHORTATION**

I confirm that totally because the song that was going through my mind was: ‘Break every chain – there is power in the Name of Jesus. There is power in the Name of Jesus!! **There is power in the Name of Jesus – break every chain!!** There is power in that Name, power in that Name to heal, and power in that Name to cast out evil. **There is power in the Name of Jesus and we proclaim it here in this place tonight!!!**

### **CONFIRMATION**

I am confirming what everyone has been saying about ‘Who Jesus is’. The song that was going through my mind (I don’t know the title of the song), but it is the one that says He wears the Victor’s crown. We often think of the Crucifixion, and we often think of the meek and humble Jesus, which is true, but we can’t forget that He is the Victor and He wears the Victor’s crown.

## SHARING

We are going to have the talk now on the Blessed Virgin, who really has presented the Lord Jesus to us, to the world.

Cathy speaking: I wanted to share with you about 'my Mama'; a beautiful lady who is very special to me. You already know that I am talking about the Blessed Virgin Mary; she is the mother to all of us. My relationship with Mary is relatively new, so that is why I feel like I am talking to people who know a lot more about her than I do. I became Catholic when I was 20; I was Methodist before that time. But the Real Presence of the Eucharist is what brought me into the Catholic Church. Blessed Mary didn't have a lot of importance to me at that time. About four years ago I was pregnant with baby # 4; it was my fourth pregnancy in six years, and people who knew me back then knew that I was not happy about it at all. The joy that I should have felt about that pregnancy just wasn't there; I felt so overwhelmed. During that pregnancy, I was led to the total consecration to Jesus through Mary, and that began my journey walking very closely with Mary. Mary has many titles: she is a child of God the Father, as we all are; she is also the mother of God, and she is the spouse of the Holy Spirit. God placed this on my heart - that Mary does for the Holy Trinity what the prism does for visible light. We can see visible light, but we can't really appreciate it until it is perfected through a prism. We can then understand the light so much better and it is so much more magnificent and beautiful because of it shining through the prism. So is the same thing that Blessed Mary does in helping us to understand the Trinity and in her relationship with God, we can come to a better understanding of the Trinity. That has really helped me to draw closer to God in all Three Persons.

I found a Carmelite father whose name is Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen and he wrote a book titled "Divine Intimacy", which is on my Christmas list. Saint Augustine said, "The Blessed Virgin Mary was the only one who merited to be called the Mother and Spouse of God. She became the Mother of God because she was the Spouse of the Holy Spirit." In **Luke 1: 35** it says: "The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you'." Saint Augustine continues: "This explained the mysterious, divine manner in which she would become a mother, the Mother of the Son of God. At that moment, the Holy Spirit, Who had already possessed Mary's soul from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception, came upon her with such exceptional plenitude that He formed within her the Sacred Body of Jesus. Justly, therefore, does Mary deserve the name of Spouse of the Holy Spirit: she is His possession, His sanctuary and His temple." In all of this, Mary's 'Yes' was so important; and the best thing we can learn from this is that our 'Yes' is equally as important because the Holy Spirit wants to come into our hearts as well. When we say 'Yes' to the Holy Spirit and let Him come upon us, then we are capable of being that channel and having Christ live in us to take it out to the world.

## TEACHING

As we go back to the 1600's, a devotion arose in the Universal Church and it spread like wild-fire; this devotion was of honoring Mary in a specific way during the month of May. But the Church has always honored Mary, she has always been important to the Church

way back to the beginning. But back in that time period, they decided to make the devotion formulized and so May became the month of Mary. At the beginning of May, a 'May Crowning' of Blessed Mary would be done. Even though we are now in the latter part of May, we are still claiming it. So we have a bunch of flowers and we are going to bring the children in here. They each will pick a flower, as will each of us adults, and then we will go into the side chapel (Divine Mercy Chapel) and place our flowers in front of Mary and place a crown of flowers on her head. For those who don't understand what we are doing, or those who misunderstand what we are doing for Mary, **this is not 'worshipping Mary'**, that is not what this is about. Just like we honor our families whom we love, and display photographs of our loved ones, we honor the family that is present through time and space as part of our family today. The image of Mary just helps us to remember and to focus on that prayer, because we are human, and we are touchy-feely people who need touchy-feely things to help us to remember. So we are going to go back to that tradition, and we will let the children lead us. So everyone take a flower and the children will lead us to the chapel where Mary's crowning will take place. As this is happening, we will sing a hymn to Mary.

### **SCRIPTURE / PRAYER**

**Revelation 5: 11 – 14 and 6: 1 – 3:** "Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, 'To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshiped. Then I saw the Lamb open one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures call out, as with a voice of thunder, 'Come!' I looked and there was a white horse! Its rider had a bow; a crown was given to Him, and He came out conquering and to conquer." Jesus, You do wear the Victor's crown, and You conquer everything - our fears, our loneliness, our sorrows; You are with us in our joys. You are the Conqueror and You do indeed wear the Victor's crown!!

**(Praying for those in need of prayers)**

