

PENTECOST

LIVING IN THE RHYTHM OF THE SPIRIT, IN THE RHYTHM OF THE RUAH

LOOKING AT OUR PRESENT:

MEANING OF CONSECRATION AND IDENTITY OF ADORERS



SEPTENNIAL

Saint Maria Micaela, accompany us in our experience of the Holy Spirit who transforms our lives.

A REFLECTION FOR EACH DAY.

Today we begin our 7 days of prayer in this Easter time, In this time of congregational grace; 7 days that will lead us to live in the gifts of the Spirit to the full. 7 days in which we unite to continue asking to revitalize our Charism. allowing ourselves to be enlightened by the gifts of the Spirit; in the Ruah of God which is the Breath and the Strength of God.

God; if we allow Him, prepares us with all His love. This is a very special gift for each one of us, who form our community, together with all the people who discover and live the shared Mission with us. God wants to make us aware of Him, so that we may live in His Spirit and enjoy his gifts.

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.^{[b]3} And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. (Is. 11:2-3).

We are consciously preparing ourselves, just as Saint Maria Micaela did, to have an experience of the Spirit that will lead us to transform our lives and the life of the congregation. We want to prepare ourselves, to experience personally and as a community the CONGREGATIONAL PENTECOST, which will lead us to revive our Charism through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

"I saw Him so great, so powerful, so good, so loving and merciful, that I resolved to serve only one Lord, who gathers all things together to fill my heart".

DAY 1.- GIFT OF WISDOM



Commentary on the Gift

The Gift of Wisdom helps us to discern what we have to do, and how to live each moment. To deepen ourselves in this Congregational life in the genuineness of our Identity and Charism. The gift of God to the church and society is every historical moment. It gives us clues to move from mediocrity to living in fullness; from the superfluous to the

transcendental; from selfishness to love and from slavery to liberation. To lead a Risen Life in God is The gift of wisdom that enables us to see things as God sees them, to taste and know according to the Heart of God. The gift of Wisdom is a gift and a task. We can attain it by conscientiously seeking, and discovering God's will, through encountering Him in prayer and the reading of the Divine Word. Wisdom directs us to live everything according to God's perspective.

(A Song to the Holy Spirit.....)

Thoughts of Saint Maria Micaela

"Ask the Lord for light and you will see how, without miracles or being a saint, He will let you know what you should do. With faith, you gently oblige Him to help you".

(Letter of 23rd January 1860 To Sister Caridad)

How faithful God is in His promises! And much vigilant in fidelity to prayer and everything together with much love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He loves each one of us as if we were alone and the only ones, He has in His heart.

(Letter of 17th November 1862 To Sister Corazon de Maria.)

Prayer

Pour out, God of Goodness, on your Church, on our Congregation, on each one of us, the Gift of WISDOM, so that, through it, we may taste and savor what You are in essence and the works that You do within us. May we know how to discover your Love, preferably poured out, on those who suffer the most and upon all the women to whom we have been called to serve, and may we reflect you in those who seek you in their journey of liberation.

Through this Gift may we learn, like Saint Maria Micaela, to savor Your experience of infinite Love, *"When I thought of the Lord's act of love, I desired to love Him, and this desire made me happy"*, and to live as brothers and sisters.

Holy Saint Maria Micaela, intercede that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of Wisdom.



DAY 2.- GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING

(Commentary on the Gift)



The Gift of Understanding allows us to discover the presence of the Father in the things that happen to us in our daily lives. To discover what he expects of us and how we can achieve His promises. Understanding gives us the necessary knowledge to walk in greater fidelity to the vocation to which we have been called.

Understanding is the gift that gives us a better and deeper vision and knowledge of our charismatic

living in our congregation today to be faithful to our Identity. It helps us to have a clearer understanding of the needs of each of our communities within the church and the women we accompany. The Gift of Understanding gives us great confidence in the Word of God and leads us to live it with greater authenticity and coherence.

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

Thoughts of Maria Micaela

"I went to ask the Lord to resolve it for me, as I do all my things. With the Blessed Sacrament, I resolve everything.

I wish I knew what God wants of me; however painful it might be, I would not hesitate to do it".

Prayer

God of Life, Risen God, grant us the Gift of Understanding, that through Him we may understand Your Word in depth. Through it, may we discover what Your Will is for us, and may we work to make it a reality in our lives and in the lives of the women we accompany in our communities around the world. May we set ourselves in motion, so that like the disciples of Emmaus, we may feel our hearts burning when we understand the Scriptures, that we may live in You from within our hearts and listen to our brothers and sisters. Like Saint Maria Micaela, may we be able to say: *"How faithful God is in His promises! But much vigilance, much faithfulness in everything, much prayer, and finally much love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He loves each one of us as if we were alone and the only ones he has in his heart".*

Holy Saint Maria Micela, intercede for us that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of Understanding.

DAY 3.- GIFT OF COUNSEL



(Commentary on the Gift)

Experiencing the Gift of Counsel requires of us, full trust in the inspirations of the Spirit, and a readiness to allow the Spirit to speak through us and to pass on valuable advice to those close to us. It helps us to discern what to say, and what to do.

In this moment of congregational grace for the 165th anniversary of our foundation, the Spirit of Counselling leads us to listen and discern what is being said to us from the different networks, and groups to which we belong. It invites us to welcome the newness that comes to us from the lives of the women we accompany and from the sisters and brothers with whom we journey. This Gift allows us, through it, to find the word that guides us correctly in moments of doubt, in moments of change, and in the transformation to remain faithful to the Charism.

The Gift of Counsel gives us the intuition to do the right thing in difficult circumstances.

“The Lord God has given me

the tongue of those who are taught,

that I may know how to sustain with a word

him that is weary.

Morning by morning he wakens,

he wakens my ear

to hear as those who are taught”. (Is.50,4). It enables us to practice and perfect the virtue of prudence, and to know what to do and what to avoid in different situations. The second book of Exodus states; "The Holy Spirit speaks to the heart through the gift of counsel and shows those he loves what to do".

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

Thoughts of Saint Maria Micaela

God admirably helps me, as God who is great and generous and overcomes us out of love.

"And the Lord made me see the care and love he had for me. This is so true, that after so many years, I still feel it well in my soul, and not a day goes by that on one occasion or another I do



not feel this special care that He has for me, which is, in my opinión, the motive of all my actions, and gives me the great faith that I always have". (AXXXIV 5)

"I am going to the classroom to see if I can set fire and teach them to love God since I know nothing more than to talk about it" (Crp III, n. 1344).

Prayer

God our Father, Mother of Mercy, grant us to receive the gift of COUNSEL. Through Him, may we continue to accompany each of the women who come to our communities, to our projects. Through Him, may we know how to guide people who need to discover the paths you want them to follow. Through the Gift of Counselling, Father, may we know how to give a full account of our Hope to those who ask for it.

Like Saint Maria Micaela, may we listen to your Voice before carrying out any action and initiating any congregational change. May we feel as co-founders, in this moment of congregational grace.

Holy St. Maria Micaela, intercede for us that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of Counsel.

DAY 4.- GIFT OF FORTITUDE



(Commentary on the Gift)

The gift of FORTITUDE sustains us in times of uncertainty, doubt, and pain. It gives us the certainty that God made Humanity, stays with us every day, and accompanies us in our lives, sending us His Holy Spirit. Fortitude is the gift of strength, perseverance, and courage that allows us to follow God's will at all times.

It helps us to overcome obstacles and to persevere in our faith and trust, like Saint Maria Micaela. In God's Divine Providence He equips us with the necessary attitudes at every moment. **"My Providence and your faith will keep the house going"**.

In this year of congregational grace, we ask for the Gift of Fortitude to be bold and courageous to take risks in fidelity to the Charism, from our Identity; and welcome all the changes, and the promptings of the Spirit for our Congregation, living and trusting in the security of God's actions in our lives.

(Song to the Holy Spirit....)

Thoughts of Saint Maria Micaela

"These things leave a mark or impression that lasts for many days and give strength and courage to suffer and suffer martyrdom for the love of God if necessary" (A XXI 1).

"It helped me a lot to have this assurance that when I did not see or feel Him, it gave me great sorrow, and I felt a mortal emptiness that afflicted me because with Him I feared nothing and I felt courage and strength for everything, and I always did everything with Him in view. This is an inexplicable joy, and to this, I attribute the fact that I have never had a thought of vainglory because I know that all my things are done by the Lord, and I only have to let myself be guided by His inspirations; because it happened to me that if through my fears or human respects, I resisted something, first I felt it seriously and sometimes it was absent, and I had to confess, ask forgiveness, and beg the Lord with tears not to leave me, because without Him I am lost, incapable of anything on my own. So I studied little by little the way the Lord had of telling me what He wanted from me so that I could do it immediately because the Lord puts so much of His love in the sorrows that one suffers them gladly". (A XXIX 3)

"With the Lord, I feared nothing, and I felt courage and strength for everything."

Prayer

Prepare our hearts, God of Tenderness, so that we may receive the gift of STRENGTH. May our hearts be prepared to receive strength from above, that it may keep us firm in the task of evangelization in the Mission of accompanying processes of liberation, and in the defense of their rights; which so often takes place in adversity and their difficulties in the trials of life.

With the strength of your Holy Spirit, may we travel the new paths that our society and our church are asking of us today, based on charismatic fidelity to the gift of your Call.

Holy St. Maria Micaela, intercede for us so that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may accept the Gift of Fortitude.



DAY 5.- THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE



Commentary on the Gift)

The Gift of Science or knowledge brings us closer to God's vision of his creation and his creatures. It helps us to see and, above all, to experience love and beauty in those around us, and in what surrounds us. People and things do not have to be perfect, they are, and they have a mission. This Gift of God allows us to understand this in its depth.

Laudato Si' has clearly shown that there is an intimate connection between the poorest people and the hardening of climatic conditions and the care of creation. So today, our option for women who cry out must also be a decisive option for the Earth. In this year of congregational grace, we want to put the accent on the care of creation, on the care of the environment, as a matter of justice and solidarity with the women to whom we are called.

The Gift of Science or knowledge helps us to identify what is credible, and created by God, in human lives and to use it for the common good. With the Gift of Knowledge, we can discern and discover God's will in all things and perceive everything according to God's "reason".

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

Thoughts of St. Maria Micaela

All for the greater glory of God and the salvation of young girls, which is our mission in this world.

We only have to work at God's work so that He may bear half of the burden, and even all of it if we truly give ourselves to Him.

Would that I knew what God wants of me; however painful it might be, I would not hesitate to do it."

Prayer

We want to receive from your Goodness, Father, the Gift of SCIENCE to know the mysteries of your Heart, your designs, and projects for our Congregation in this year of grace. From our Charismatic Identity may we continue to build a world where we can live as brothers, and sisters; a world without obstacles, and where we all have a place to live and grow as persons.

Like Maria Micaela, may we discover that **"The world is a tabernacle for me"** May we enjoy your creation. We want to walk safely, and securely on the path of love, justice, and peace.

Holy Saint Maria Micaela, intercede so that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of Knowledge.

DAY 6.- THE GIFT OF PIETY

Commentary on the Gift



Through the Gift of Piety, we enter into an intimate connection with God, from Him we live our surrender to His Will to be instruments, transmissions of His Love. The Gift of Piety is the Gift of the Grace of God; of gentleness with God. It impels us to offer God all reverence and veneration, to live concelebrating life with Him. It is the gift that makes us feel, men and women as His workmanship,

"I am God's! How much this word says to me, how gladly I say it and how loudly it sounds to me!" (Notes from the Exercises and Retreats, 132). It makes us live as brothers and sisters.

The Gift of Piety defines our love for God, makes us develop this love for Him as our Father God, Mother of immense tenderness, and makes us walk trusting fully in His love for His sons and daughters, especially for those who suffer most from lack of love.

In this year of Congregational grace, and looking at the life of piety that St. Maria Micaela lived, we want to continue developing in a conscientious way our Identity and Charism, to have the experience that she had **"I am so united with my beloved Jesus, that I am too happy with Him"**.

(Song to the Spirit)

Thoughts of Saint Maria Micaela

"I felt [...] a continuous presence of God, without study or violence, an eagerness that devoured me to pray so that I prayed 5 and 7 hours a day, and I was always very fervent in it, and outside of it, [...] without knowing afterward in nine years what was dryness or lukewarmness" (A.III 4).



I went to communion and thought of the act of love that the Lord was making with me by coming to my breast, I desired to love Him, and this desire made me happy with vehemence. Notes from Spiritual Exercises and Retreats, 58 Zeal for the glory of God devours me and steals my time, my heart, and my life.

Ask the Lord for light and you will see palpably how, without miracles or being a saint, He warns you what it is good for you to do. With faith, you gently force Him to help you. Letter of 23 January 1860 To Sister Caridad.

How faithful God is in his promises! But much vigilance, much fidelity in everything, much prayer, and finally, much love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He loves each one of us as if we were alone and the only ones he has in his heart". Letter of 17th November 1862 To Sister Corazon de Maria.

Prayer

"Blessed are you God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in your great mercy, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, gives us a new birth to a living hope"(1 Peter 1:3) May your Spirit of mercy lead us to live as chosen, holy and beloved. Clothe us with your sense of deep compassion. May we practice benevolence, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Thank you, God Father and Mother of immense tenderness and affection, for showering on each member of the Congregation the gift of mercy. We want to live as your sons and daughters! *"Thank you because you make History of Salvation and Fidelity, and you invite us to live in your Presence from that same Holy Spirit who joins our lives, to give witness that we are children of God; And if children, then heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him."* Rom. 8 -16 "

St. Maria Micaela intercedes for us that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of Piety.

DAY 7.- THE GIFT OF THE FEAR OF GOD



(Commentary on the Gift)

"The gift of the fear of God concludes the series of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. It does not mean to be afraid of God: we know well that God is Father, and that He loves us and wants our salvation, and always forgives, always; so there is no reason to be afraid of Him. The fear of God, on the other hand, is the gift of the Spirit that reminds us how

small we are before God and his love, and that our good lies in abandoning ourselves humbly,

with respect and trust in his hands. This is the fear of God: abandonment to the goodness of our Father who loves us very much... The fear of God makes us aware that everything comes from grace and that our true strength lies only in following the Lord Jesus and in letting the Father pour out his goodness and mercy on us. To open our hearts, so that God's goodness and mercy may come to us. This is what the Holy Spirit does with the gift of the fear of God: He opens hearts. Open hearts so that the forgiveness, the mercy, the goodness, the caress of the Father may come to us because we are infinitely beloved children." (Pope Francis, general audience 11 June 2014).

In this year of Congregational grace, may we have the courage to give the answers and to make a congregational discernment that leads us to believe in more fidelity to our Charism.

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

Thoughts of Saint Maria Micaela

"I do not understand how a Slave of so powerful a King can fear anything but offend her Lord.

Do I fear my best friend, whom I never separate from me, whom I carry in my heart, whom I always have in my sight, whom I do nothing without His permission, I fear nothing that the world finds to be feared ... Fear God? It is impossible for me today... In 1846, in Paris, on the day of Pentecost, I saw Him so great, so powerful, so good, so loving, so merciful, that I resolved to serve only a Lord who brings everything together to fill my heart... Let us be mad with divine love and not be afraid. Blessed are our sins which give a whole God a reason to exercise such virtue as it shines in God with the sinner, who no longer wants to be!"

Prayer

May we, God our Father, Mother of Confidence, be open to accepting your Holy Spirit's gift of the FEAR OF GOD. That through Him we may value more and improve the actions that you create in each one of us. May we develop your Grace and may your Presence make us feel the presence of your Holy Spirit in our inner being and may we experience that "we are temples of your Spirit". Through the Fear of God, we want to distance ourselves from sin, from that which makes us desist from the task of building the Kingdom of God from our Charismatic Identity. May the acceptance of this Gift make us feel that *"we have not received the spirit of*



slavery to be in fear again, but we have received the spirit of adoption, by which we cry out: Abba Father"

Saint Maria Micaela intercedes for us that in this new Congregational Pentecost we may welcome the Gift of the Fear of God.

PENTECOST VIGIL

LIVING IN THE RHYTHM OF THE SPIRIT, TO THE RHYTHM OF THE RUAH:

Looking at our present: meaning of consecration and identity of an adorer.

Maria Micaela, accompany us on this vigil to make room for the Spirit to transform our lives. We want to live in the rhythm of the Spirit, to the rhythm of God's Ruah, and enter into the invitation that the liturgy, prepares us consciously; just as Saint Maria Micaela did, to have an experience of the Spirit that will lead us to transform our lives.

We prepare ourselves to experience personally and communally the CONGREGATIONAL PENTECOST, which will lead us, with joy and hope, to revive and revitalize our charism of adoration and liberation, keeping us on our journey and growing from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who will lead us. To approach through prayer, encounter, and discernment, to welcome and walk with the women who today, live in so many situations of exploitation.

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

We keep silent and open our hearts to listen to the reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke in chapter 4, verses 16 to 21

"¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day.^[a] And he stood up to read;¹⁷ and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

*¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,*

¹⁹ to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

²⁰ And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."



(Silent Prayer)

This year in which we are celebrating the 165th anniversary of our foundation, we want to provoke in our large family the experience that transformed the life of St. Maria Micaela during the solemn Mass in the parish of Saint Philippe du Roule (Saint Philippe). She experienced her new Pentecost, and she tells us about it in detail:

" At the Church service in the parish on the day of the Holy Spirit (23 May 1847), I felt a very great disturbance, and an interior light that worked in me with very marked effects; a special devotion to this feast on which I have always since then received from the Lord some special favor; a very clear light of this mysterious coming and the effects it produces in the soul, which with faith and love prepares itself for it. Since then I have been doing all I can to prepare myself for it in advance.

I felt a change of inclinations and a superior strength to overcome me in everything, a continuous presence of God, without study or violence; a craving that devoured me to pray, so that I did it 5 and 7 hours a day and I was always very fervent in it, and outside of it, which gave me great pain for my sins, very often I wept bitterly for them, without knowing after nine years what was dryness or lukewarmness. I do not know what I felt, but I have never erased from my soul the impression I felt on that day, which is for me one of the most important days of my life."

(Prayerful Silence)

(Song to the Holy Spirit)

ASKING WITH ST MARIA MICAELA FOR THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Prayer

Come, Creator Spirit, enter into the depths of our lives in each one of our communities; and flood with your grace the hearts that you created, with Saint Maria Micaela. We want to have



the experience of your Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that transforms us and leads us to live in Fidelity to the Charism of our Identity in this year of congregational grace.

Spirit of Wisdom, who knows our most secret thoughts, and our most intimate desires; enlighten us and make us know the new Congregational paths that you want us to follow to give the answers that the Church and the women to whom we have been called need today.

Intensify our interior life, by the gift of understanding so that we may discover what you expect from the Congregation after 165 years of foundation.

May we trust you in our doubts and hesitations, through the gift of Counsel, and may we know how to give the word that comes to us after listening to your Word.

Give us, like Saint Maria Micaela, the necessary energy on the path of charismatic fidelity, through the gift of Fortitude.

Envelop us, through the gift of Science, in your will for the care of creation, so that we may discover that "the world is for me a Tabernacle", and work for the construction of a juster, more human, more open, and more welcoming society.

Grant that, like Saint Maria Micaela, we may feel that we are your daughters and sons and that we may turn to you in all the events of life, and live in you, with filial affection, through the gift of mercy.

Grant that we may adore You and love You as You deserve; that we may walk in the paths of goodness, that we may let ourselves be guided by the gift of the Fear of God; that, like Mary Michael, we may fear to stray from Your Will; that we may place our whole life, and the life of the Congregation, before Your Presence. May we be enlightened at every moment by your Risen Light, God of Life. May it be so.

(Song to the Spirit)

Concluding prayer

O God, who loves us and grants us your forgiveness, stir up in us a spirit of generosity and love which, nourished and strengthened by the Eucharist, in imitation of St. Maria Micaela, may impel us to find you in the poorest and those most in need of your protection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God forever and ever Amen.