



Apostles for Today

Reflections and prayers - October 2011

God the Infinite Love **Meditation 25 (OCC XIII, pp. 152-156)**

God, in giving us his own divine Son, incarnate for us as our first-born brother, gave us also as our mother the same blessed mother of his divine Son. As brothers [and sisters], he gave us all the saints – this is the reason why all the angels look up to us.

Prayer

May love be enkindled in you,

May the great fire of God be enkindled.

Receive the Holy Spirit, says the Lord.

And enjoy a truly profound peace,

Enjoy an unparalleled peace.

Receive the Holy Spirit, says the Lord.

Understand and love my Word,

Understand my Gospel of love...

Merciful Father, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, to proclaim to all people the Gospel of Salvation.

We thank you for the gift of life, of faith, and of your love, in particular for having called us to follow the ideal of Saint Vincent Pallotti in the Church ...

Reflection

Dear brothers and sisters, following the sequence of reflections, we will now reflect on the infinite and merciful love of God, who gives us Mary as our Mother and her Son, Jesus, as our brother.

Because of his love, he has given us gifts, favours and graces which we will never fully understand. Through faith, we know that Jesus is our Brother and Mary our Mother.

Because of these gifts and graces, we have always been and will for all eternity be brothers and sisters in Christ, who hears our petitions, responding in his merciful love. We are all welcomed by God with love. Pallotti asks himself, “How will I be received before the heavenly court of my brother Jesus and my Mother Mary, Queen of Apostles?”

“Oh, my God, I do not understand!...

Oh infinite and incomprehensible love, infinite mercy of my soul, enlighten me so that I may understand how ungrateful I have been; rather, how I abused Your gifts; how guilty I am for having worked contrary to what I

should have done in order to Correspond to Your infinite love and mercy with love, humility and a grateful heart. Oh how foolish I have been in not profiting by the intercession of the Angels and Saints and my most beloved mother, Mary, as I could and should have, especially in order to obtain the grace to imitate Mary and all the Angels and Saints in all their virtues as You wish. But through Your infinite mercy I am sure that You will help me now and forever (OCCC XIII, pp. 154-155).

Suggestions for reflection and sharing

- *What is Pallotti saying to me in this reflection?*
- *What must I change in my life so that the infinite and merciful Love of God may bear fruit in me?*
- *What values of Mary, Christ and Pallotti should I imitate, in order that my being and my acting may bear fruit in my mission?*

Closing prayer

O, Lord, who became bread to feed me with your wisdom and your holiness, destroy my ignorance and my sins through your presence, so that only your wisdom and your goodness remain in me.

Lord, who are the substantial image of the Father and became my food to nourish me with your Divine Essence, destroy everything in me which offends you, so that the image of God, which you gave me as a gift by becoming human, will shine ever more vividly in me.

O, Lord, who are Infinite Love and who became my food to feed me with the love of the Holy Spirit, through your presence destroy all loves which have distanced me from you, so that it is no longer I who love you, but the same Holy Spirit who loves you and all creatures in me, Amen.

Offering

I give you thanks, my God, for the benefits received during my life, particularly for the gift of this day.

United to the most holy hearts of Jesus and Mary, I offer the intentions and affections, the prayers and work of this day, the acts of virtue and of love done by me and by all creatures in time and in eternity for your infinite glory and for the good of souls, Amen.