

Day 8. #2: Consoling Jesus in Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with St. Faustina

Day 8 = Consoling Jesus in Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet with St. Faustina

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"O Jesus, as I—contemplate You in the Most Blessed Sacrament I—kiss your majestic forehead, but in kissing You I—am pierced by your thorns. O my Jesus, in this Sacred Host, how many souls impress thorns upon You. They come before You and, instead of offering You the homage of their good thoughts, offer You their evil thoughts. You, in turn, lower your head as You do in your Passion to receive and bear the thorns of these evil thoughts. O my/and our love, I—draw close to You to share in your sorrows: I—fuse all of my/and our thoughts in your mind to remove these thorns that deeply sadden You; may each one of my/and our thoughts flow in each one of your thoughts to offer reparation for each evil thought and to alleviate your afflicted thoughts." DW Prayer Book)

🧠 My composed Prayer

🎵 Song # 8
This is Jesus

YouTube Link:

<https://youtu.be/ymXizxnIT98?si=GjMRmUq-j4KrevMn>

👉 Another great way to console Jesus is by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. This devotion, which our Lord gave Himself to St. Faustina (see Diary 687), is often my

favorite devotion to pray every day.

The Chaplet is a prayer in which we first offer Christ's Passion and Death on the Cross to His heavenly Father: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son..."

Having presented this most precious sacrifice to the Father, we ask in return the most precious gift of all: "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 On the first day of the Divine Mercy Novena intentions that Jesus gave St. Faustina, Jesus tells her: "Today, bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me" (1210). This prayer for the conversion of sinners brings great consolation to Jesus.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Jesus revealed this to St. Faustina when He said to her: "The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness. You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know, My daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered" (1397).

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 The Divine Mercy chaplet is a great way to pray for the conversion of sinners. Jesus Himself told St. Faustina to "say unceasingly the chaplet" (687) and promises great graces to the souls who pray this Chaplet with great trust (see 687, 754, 848, 1541, 1731). In the context of our book on the Eucharist, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a great way to unite yourself to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. In both the offering of Jesus and the reception of mercy, the Chaplet is like a "Mini-Mass: an extension of the Eucharist to each moment" (Fr. Kosicki, quoted in 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy by Vinny Flynn, 172).

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Vinny Flynn goes on to explain: "By this offering, we are simultaneously uniting ourselves with Christ's sacrifice on the Cross two thousand years ago, with His

Eucharistic presence now in all the tabernacles of the world, and with His eternal presence in Heaven, where He perpetually offers His once-for-all sacrifice to the Father” (172).

What a powerful devotion! And what a great way to console Jesus. Next time you pray the Chaplet, try to imagine yourself at Calvary standing beside Mary in front of Jesus on the Cross and you are both praying the Chaplet to offer Jesus to His Heavenly Father.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Reflection Questions: How often do you pray the Chaplet?

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Have you ever envisioned the Chaplet to be like a Mini-Mass?

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 9. #3: Consoling Jesus through Holy Communion with St. Faustina

#3: Consoling Jesus through Holy Communion with St. Faustina

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"Jesus, my love, I—kiss your beautiful eyes.

I—see you lovingly gaze upon those who come into your presence, eager to receive in exchange their gazes of love. But how many come before You who, instead of looking at You and searching for You, look at things to distract them, thereby depriving You of the pleasure You would have received from an exchange of loving gazes! You cry, and as I—kiss You I—feel my lips wet with your tears. Beloved Jesus, do not cry. I—fuse my eyes in yours to share in your sorrows and cry with You, and to offer reparation for all distracted gazes, I—offer You my gazes that are always fixed on you" (DW Prayer Book)

🗣️ My composed Prayer

🎵 Song # 9
Anima Christi

YouTube Link:

<https://youtu.be/4O5L31XRzaM?si=s04ISIS2VbmYCiLo>

👉 Imagine if the next time you went to receive Holy Communion, instead of hearing the priest say, "The Body of Christ," you heard a female voice say, "Take my Dearest Treasure." You open your eyes and behold, the Blessed Virgin Mary is standing before you with the baby Jesus in her arms! With a radiant look of love on her face, she says to you once again: "Take my Dearest Treasure," and places her Son gently in your arms and then disappears.

🗣️ My Meditative Response

👉 This imaginary experience actually happened in the life of St. Faustina one day during Mass. She writes: “[W]hen Mass began, a strange silence and joy filled my heart. Just then, I saw Our Lady with the Infant Jesus... The most holy Mother said to me, ‘Take my Dearest Treasure,’ and she handed me the Infant Jesus. When I took the Infant Jesus in my arms, the Mother of God and Holy Saint Joseph disappeared. I was left alone with the Infant Jesus” (608). When I read this in St. Faustina’s Diary, I had another experience of God telling me: “Awake from being hypnotized, Fr. Richard!” Yes, how easily I can be hypnotized into behaving like a consumer at Mass. How easily I can go to Holy Communion with the expectation or hope that Jesus might give me some feelings of consolation. And how easily I can be disappointed if I don’t “feel” anything. And tragically, without consolation from God, how easily I can turn into a black hole, and try to fill that God-sized hole in my heart with the things of this world, and end up even more frustrated and disappointed. How about you?

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 How do you approach Holy Communion?

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Do you approach the reception of the Eucharist like a consumer? Or like a consoler?

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Regardless of our answer to this question today, we can all grow as consolers. To inspire us to start approaching Holy Communion more as consolers, here is what Jesus revealed to St. Faustina about the pain He experiences when people receive Him in Holy Communion like consumers rather than consolers: “Oh, how painful it is to Me that souls so seldom unite themselves to Me in Holy Communion.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 I wait for souls, and they are indifferent toward Me. I love them tenderly and sincerely, and they distrust Me. I want to lavish My graces on them, and they do not want to accept them. They treat Me as a dead object, whereas My Heart is full of love and mercy. In order that you may know at least some of My pain, imagine the

most tender of mothers who have great love for her children, while those children spurn her love. Consider her pain. No one is in a position to console her. This is but a feeble image and likeness of My love" (1447).

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 To build upon these powerful words of our Lord, imagine for a moment the Blessed Virgin Mary's love for her children – for you and for me. The mystics reveal that if you added up all the love that every mother in the world has for their children, it wouldn't even come close to Blessed Mary's love for each one of us. Wow! Now, imagine Blessed Mary, with a radiant look of that kind of love on her face, say to you: "Take my Dearest Treasure," and you say, "No!" and you "spurn her love."

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 "Consider her pain," Jesus says to St. Faustina, "no one is in a position to console her." The sword of sorrow would truly pierce her soul again (see Luke 2:35). And yet, this sword of sorrow for Blessed Mary "is but a feeble image and likeness of [Jesus] love."

Wow! Out of all the revelations that our Lord has given to Saints, this is the most powerful one that continually wakes me up from being hypnotized into behaving like a consumer at Holy Communion.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 In a very real way, every time we come to receive Holy Communion, Blessed Mary is saying to us, "Take my Dearest Treasure." Whereas many might say "Amen" as consumers and try to use this Treasure for their own benefit, we are being invited today to receive Blessed Mary's "Dearest Treasure" as consolers, and take care of Jesus with our tender love and devotion. When Jesus comes to us as a little baby, totally vulnerable, in need, dependent, it becomes clear to us that we shouldn't ask Him for anything but rather give Him whatever we can.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 St. Faustina said: "It is only in eternity that we shall know the great mystery effected in us by Holy Communion. O most precious moments of my life!" (840).

Yes, the time we spend with Jesus after receiving Holy Communion is the most precious moment we have in our lives. Until the veil is removed in eternity as we see the great mystery effected in us by Holy Communion, we are called to choose today to live in faith and really believe that Blessed Mary is saying to us every time we receive Holy Communion: "Take my Dearest Treasure."

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 The invitation to spend at least 15 minutes in thanksgiving after your next reception of Holy Communion, meditating upon today's reflection. Try to really envision Blessed Mary saying to you, "Take my Dearest Treasure."

The challenge is to try to imagine Blessed Mary saying to you as often as possible: "Take my Dearest Treasure." This can be a beautiful expression of a spiritual communion prayer throughout the day.

St. Faustina, pray for us!

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 10. #1: Holy Hummingbirds through Daily Holy Mass with St. Teresa of Calcutta

Day 10= Holy Hummingbirds through Daily Mass with St. Teresa of Calcutta

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"Jesus, my/and our love, I—kiss your most sacred ears. I—now see You, eager to console souls, listening intently to what it is they ask of you. But they offer your ears prayers that are poorly recited, without any trust and out of habit. In this Sacred Host your hearing is offended more than in your very Passion. O my Jesus, I—take all the harmonies of heaven and fuse them in your ears to offer You reparation; I—fuse my ears in yours, not only to share in your sorrows, but to offer You my/and our continuous acts of reparation to console You." (DW Prayer Book)

🧠 My composed Prayer

🎵 Song # 10

Now we remain

YouTube Link:

https://youtu.be/kmg4n7XHPtw?si=9pDlt59eZx_GOqi4

👉 The first way that we can grow in becoming "holy hummingbirds" for Christ like St. Teresa of Calcutta is through devout participation in daily Holy Mass. When Jesus celebrated His first Mass on Holy Thursday, He was confronted with a very difficult choice. Let me explain. After three years of public ministry with His Apostles, pouring His life into training these twelve men to develop the "eyes of faith" and carry on His saving mission throughout the world, Jesus finally arrived at the event He "desired" the most of all: the Last Supper (see Luke 22:15).

On this holy night, Jesus had planned to institute both the Sacrament of His Love, the Holy Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Priesthood, to continually make present God's redeeming love throughout the world until the end of time.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 And yet, on the verge of such an extreme act of love, as He sat at table with His Apostles, Jesus knew full well that He had two options before Him. On the night He was betrayed.... Would our Lord choose to live like a vulture and focus on what was dead, smelly, and lifeless? Like the betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, and the abuse of the Eucharist from so many hardened hearts for the centuries to come?

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Or would our Lord choose to live like a hummingbird and focus on what was beautiful, life-giving, and sweet? Like the heartfelt devotion of John the Beloved, the faithfulness of His Blessed Mother, and the ardent love of so many Eucharistic Saints for the centuries to come?

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Stay with these two options for a minute. Allow the difficulty of the moment to sink in. If you were our Lord, what option would you have chosen? '

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 If I'm honest, it would have been very easy for me to stop the whole thing and wait until the Apostles proved themselves worthy of such a great act of love. But thankfully, our Lord is not me and He chose the second option.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 "On the night He was betrayed, He gave thanks." The Last Supper, Carl Heinrich Bloch, late 19th century Wow. Gratitude in the face of betrayal. Thanksgiving in the midst of heartbreak. What a heroic decision from our Lord to live like a "holy hummingbird" during one of the most difficult moments of His life.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Jesus certainly had the “eyes of faith” to look for what was beautiful, life-giving, and sweet on Holy Thursday. I’m confident that the celebration of this first Holy Mass gave Jesus the strength to live as a “holy hummingbird” throughout the remainder of His passion and death. And this same grace – this same ability to live like a “holy hummingbird” and seek that beautiful and life-giving nectar of God’s loving presence and influence in the harsh environment of this world – is waiting for us to receive at every Holy Mass.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 For Mother Teresa, this was certainly a grace she eagerly desired to receive every time she went to Holy Communion.

Speaking of her life with the MC sisters, Mother Teresa said that “[t]he most important part of the day is our Holy Mass” and that their entire “lives are very much woven with the Holy Eucharist.”

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Another time Mother Teresa said: “Jesus deliberately left us the Holy Eucharist, lest we forget all that He came to show and to do” (WTL 53). As a result, Mother Teresa’s decision to live as a “holy hummingbird” in the midst of one of the most difficult places in the world: Calcutta, India, was simply a choice to imitate Jesus, who lived as a “holy hummingbird” during one of the most difficult moments in His life: Holy Thursday.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 How about us? Has the celebration of the Holy Mass transformed us into “holy hummingbirds” for Christ?

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 When we go forth and Holy Mass is ended, do we have the “eyes of faith” to see what is good, beautiful, and life-giving in the harsh environment of this world?

🧠 My Meditative

👉 To conclude: What is 1 thing you want to remember from this reflection?

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 11 #2: Holy Hummingbirds through Gratitude with St. Teresa of Calcutta

#2: Holy Hummingbirds through Gratitude with St. Teresa of Calcutta

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝️ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"Jesus, my/and our life, I—kiss your most sacred face. I—see it bleeding, bruised and swollen. O Jesus, souls come before You in the Most Blessed Sacrament and, with their indecent postures and evil conversations, instead of giving You honour, offer You slaps and spittle. You receive them with complete peacefulness and patience, and You bear everything as You do in your Passion! O Jesus, I—want to place my face close to yours, not only to kiss You and receive the insults your children thrust upon You, but to share in all of your sorrows. With my hands I—caress You, wipe off the spittle and press You tightly to my/and our heart. I—also offer You the many tiny particles of my/and our being by placing them before You like genuflected statues, and my/and our movements as acts that continuously prostrate themselves before You in reparation for the irreverence You receive from all souls." (DW Prayer Book)

🧠 My composed Prayer

🎵 Song # 11
To be your bread

YouTube Link:

https://youtu.be/wU6U6G0e_SU?si=fE_0EM4Eb8f-mlwf

👉 A 2nd way that we can grow in becoming "holy hummingbirds" for Christ like St. Teresa of Calcutta is through practicing the virtue of gratitude. In my daily celebration of the Holy Mass, one of the most heart-stirring lines of the Eucharistic

Prayer for myself is right before the words of consecration: "For on the night he was betrayed, he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks."

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 As mentioned in the reflection above, Our Lord's deliberate choice of "giving thanks" in the midst of betrayal has always left a deep impression on my soul. On a practical level, we can say that gratitude is an essential virtue that should be practiced in order to develop the "eyes of faith" and see Christ in His distressing disguises in this harsh world is gratitude.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 It makes sense, right? Since the word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving" in Greek, living gratefully should be a virtue all Eucharistic saints practice. Commenting on the practice of gratitude in her own life, Mother Teresa once said: "The best way to show gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy." This choice – to accept everything, even our problems, with joy – is at the heart of the battle between living as a vulture and living as a "holy hummingbird".

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 On the one hand, vultures do not live gratefully. They protest and rebel against the problems they see in the harsh environment of this world. Vultures live in a world of competition and are compulsive in their constant need to find "more" in this world – more work, more money, more friends, more of anything this passing world has to offer to fill that inner void. As a result, vultures are angry when their ego is injured and greedy when their desires are frustrated. This might not be immediately perceivable by others, especially for "holy" people like you and me who read and write these types of Catholic books but the inner dispositions of our souls always has a way to emerge in a numbing of the heart and a cynicism at the state of things in this world.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 In direct contrast to this vulture way of life, "holy hummingbirds" live gratefully. They consistently discover the sweet, life-giving nectar of God's loving presence in the harsh environment of this world. They choose to live by the words of St. Paul: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus" (1

Thessalonians 5:18). They can thank God for everything – good and bad – because they “know that all things work together for good for those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Just as we know the truth that no one is really excited to see a vulture because it sends a message that something dead and smelly is close by, we know that no one really enjoys – or at least is encouraged – by spending time with those who always focus on and talk about the bad and ugly things of life. By contrast, just as we know the truth that everyone is excited to see a hummingbird because it sends a message that something beautiful and sweet is close by, we know that everyone really enjoys – or at least is encouraged – by spending time with those who focus on and talk about the good and beautiful things of life.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Jesus Himself warned us about vultures in Matthew 24:28 when He said: “Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.” Need any more persuasion to no longer be a vulture? Today, let us choose to live gratefully like “holy hummingbirds” for Christ.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 On a practical level, one of my favorite daily devotions that helps me to live more gratefully is called “Ten Finger Gratitude”. In this practice, I simply count one thing that I’m grateful for on each finger and express my gratitude to Jesus: “Jesus, thank you for _____.” Whether I do this during a time of Eucharistic Adoration, after Mass during my thanksgiving, or while trying to fall asleep at night, I always find this practice to be spiritually fruitful. And the more difficult it is to express gratitude, especially on those tough days, the more powerful this practice becomes in developing our “eyes of faith” and allowing the Lord to transform us into “holy hummingbirds”.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 To conclude: What is 1 thing you want to remember from this reflection?

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 12 #3: Holy Hummingbirds through the Law of Legacy with St. Teresa of Calcutta

#3: Holy Hummingbirds through the Law of Legacy with St. Teresa of Calcutta

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝️ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"Beloved Jesus, I—kiss your most sacred lips. I—see that in descending Sacramentally into the hearts of your children, You are forced to rest on many sharp, impure and evil tongues. Oh, how embittered You are! You feel as though poisoned by these tongues, and it is even worse when You descend into their hearts! O Jesus, if it were possible I—would enter the mouths of each soul to turn into praises all of their offenses against You!" (DW Prayer Book)

🗣️ My composed Prayer

🎵 Song # 12

Thank you Lord Jesus

YouTube link:

https://youtu.be/AktaB1oNojU?si=zqJ_fYYtwnUeTaRa

👉 A 3rd way that we can grow in becoming "holy hummingbirds" for Christ like St. Teresa of Calcutta is through living out the Law of Legacy. In his book, The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, John Maxwell concludes this fantastic book with my favorite law of them all: "The Law of Legacy." Using Mother Teresa as an example, John Maxwell states that "a leader's lasting value is measured by succession" (257).

🗣️ My Meditative Response

👉 Mother Teresa was not only someone who lived the legacy that she wanted to leave as a “holy hummingbird” for Christ but she also ensured that this legacy was passed on through an entire order of thousands of men and women who have continued to live as “holy hummingbirds” for Christ. On a personal note, I was blessed to be in Calcutta during the death of Mother Teresa’s successor, Sr. Maria Nirmala Joshi on June 23, 2015. From talking with the MC sisters, I could tell how grateful the MC sisters were to have Sr. Maria Nirmala as Mother Teresa’s successor.

🧘 My Meditative Response

👉 In the book, *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission*, the authors capture the profound impact Mother Teresa and her MC sisters have had as “holy hummingbirds” in the harsh environment of our world today: “Mother Teresa did more than personally care for those on the fringes of life, as beautiful as that was. She went on to establish an order of Sisters whose life and way of being witnessed to a whole vision of the world (think “eyes of faith” as “holy hummingbirds”). By their homes, their prayers, their chastity, their simplicity of life, their cheerfulness, and their labor on behalf of the poor, the Missionaries of Charity have compellingly incarnated and expressed to others a different way of seeing everything.

🧘 My Meditative Response

👉 They have made common witness to the great treasure to be found in Christ, to the superfluity of riches, to the love of God for every person no matter how obscure; and for millions around the world, Mother Teresa’s blue and white sari has become an icon of the love and mercy of God. In an apostolic age, the Church’s most potent and truest witness comes in this fashion, in her communal life, all aspects of which point to the reality of the invisible world” (66-67).

🧘 My Meditative Response

👉 Indeed, Mother Teresa is one of the great evangelists of our time because she lived as a “holy hummingbird” for Christ. In the harsh environment of this world, Mother Teresa “compellingly incarnated and expressed to others a different way of

seeing everything.”

Using Mother Teresa and her MC sisters as models for evangelization today, the authors further emphasize that “[t]he great apostolic task of our time is to gain a genuine conversion of mind and vision” (73-4) in which we “see everything differently” (79) through a Christian lens.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Mother Teresa had this genuine conversion of mind and vision. She saw everything differently through the lens of her five finger Gospel – “You did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). She saw everything with the “eyes of faith”. And her MC sisters continue to carry on this legacy today throughout the whole world, serving Christ in the poorest of the poor with “the love and mercy of God.”

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 How about us? Do we compellingly incarnate and express to others a different way of seeing everything?

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 Have we undergone this genuine conversion of mind and vision?

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 To conclude, John Maxwell states: “Life is fleeting. When all is said and done, your ability as a leader will not be judged by what you achieved personally. You can make a blockbuster film, but it will be forgotten in a few generations. You can write a prize-winning novel [or Catholic book!], but it will be forgotten in a few centuries. You can create a masterpiece of art, but in a millennium or two, no one will remember that you created it. No, our ability as leaders will not be measured by the buildings we built, the institutions we established, or what our team accomplished during our tenure. You and I will be judged by how well the people we invested in carried on after we are gone.” This is the greatest challenge a lifelong pursuit of leadership will face, but it is also the only thing that will matter in the end.

🧠 My Meditative Response

👉 To conclude: What is 1 thing you want to remember from this reflection?

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 13 Holy Candles through Confession with Blessed Carlo Acutis

#1: Holy Candles through Confession with Blessed Carlo Acutis

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝️ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

My weary and good Jesus, I—kiss your most sacred neck; I—see it is tired, exhausted and completely absorbed in your crafting of love. Tell me/and us, what do You intend to do?

Jesus replied: "My child, in this Host I work from morning until evening forming chains of love. As souls approach Me, I bind them to My Heart. And do you know what they do to me? Many forcibly wrest themselves free and shatter My loving chains. Since these chains are linked to My Heart I feel tortured and become delirious. In breaking My chains such souls render My crafting of love useless, as they seek [to be bound by] the chains of souls; and they do this in My very Presence, using Me in order to achieve their own ends. This grieves Me so much that I undergo a violent fever, and I grow faint and delirious." (DW Prayer Book)

💡 My composed Prayer

🎵 Song #13

Song of the body of Christ

YouTube link:

https://youtu.be/hI_Oz_PpejU?si=569GkTy9YCj26WMI

👉 One practical way Blessed Carlo became a "holy candle" for Christ was through his weekly practice of going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His parish priest, Fr. Mario Perego, who was one of his privileged confessors, said of Carlo: "His was a

soul of exceptional transparency – so very lucid. He wanted to improve in every aspect of his life – his love towards his parents from whom and with whom he learned the love of the Lord by actively participating in community meetings, and in the Eucharist; in perfecting his friendships with his peers and classmates; in giving more serious attention to his studies – academic, religious, cultural and technical.

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 Because he was taken ill, which led to a rather unexpected death, Carlo would meticulously frequent the confession hall every weekend. My memory of him remains so vivid that I always feel him close to me.”

Carlo’s spiritual director, Fr. Carlos Carbonell, whom Carlo visited once a month for counsel, said of him: “It was a regular habit of Carlo to visit me every month in Bologna. Almost always, at the end of such visits, the young boy would also receive the sacrament of reconciliation. His severity of judgment towards himself and his desire to be totally free of all stains, made him confess even the slightest oversight.”

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 When asked why he was so determined to be free from all sin, Blessed Carlo said, “What does it matter if you can win a thousand battles if you cannot win against your own corrupt passions?”

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 It doesn’t matter. The real battle is with ourselves.” Carlo, who often used metaphors and analogies to explain the truths of the faith, used the image of a hot air balloon when he taught Catechism to explain the importance of frequent Confession: “In order for a hot air balloon to float high, its weight must be unloaded; likewise the soul, in order to rise to Heaven, needs to be rid of venial sins. If by chance, there is a mortal sin the soul would fall back to the earth and confession is the sacrament that helps it to rise again to Heaven like the balloon rid of the hot air. We need to confess often because our souls are so vulnerable.”

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 When asked why he went to Confession so frequently, Blessed Carlo explained that “asking for forgiveness and being reconciled with God is like rekindling the fire of your hot-air balloon and discarding the stones that are weighing your basket

down.” Carlo thought that even the smallest sins were like cords that reattached to the ground and prevented him from taking off. What a powerful image for us to keep in mind, especially since we desire to set ablaze with God’s fiery love in this dark world and become “voices of hope” for others. May the frequent practice of Confession rekindle the fire of our love for Jesus on a regular basis!

💡 My Meditative Response

👉 To conclude: What is 1 thing you want to remember from this reflection?

💡 My Meditative Response

Day 14. Holy Candles through Eucharistic Adoration with Blessed Carlo Acutis

#2: Holy Candles through Eucharistic Adoration with Blessed Carlo Acutis

33 Days Total Consecration to Jesus in The Blessed Sacrament

✝ In the name of the Father, Elohim, Elohim, Elohim, our Abba, and of the Son Jesus, our Yehoshua-ah-ah-ah, and of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, Ruach Hako'desh, Amen.

🙏 Let us pray

"Beloved Jesus, my Divine archer, I—kiss your bosom. The fire You contain is so great that in order to lightly vent your flames and seek the slightest respite from your labour, You begin to play, shooting loving arrows from your bosom at souls who approach You. Your game is to form loving arrows, darts and javelins and, with these, pierce their hearts, which causes You to rejoice. But many reject them, O Jesus, by sending You in return arrows of insipidness, darts of lukewarmness and javelins of ingratitude, thus leaving You so afflicted that You weep bitterly...O Jesus, here is my/and our bosom ready to receive not only your arrows destined for me/and us, but those destined for but rejected by others, so that You will no longer lose at your game of love. I—offer You reparation also for the insipidness, lukewarmness and ingratitude of souls."
(DW Prayer Book)

🧠 My composed Prayer

🎵 Song 14
Behold the lamb

YouTube link:

<https://youtu.be/FP8oOvGed-8?si=qyyoislucljZ9GAN>

👉 A second way that we can grow in becoming “holy candles” for Christ is through Eucharistic Adoration. Blessed Carlo Acutis loved to go to Eucharistic Adoration on a daily basis. In the presence of our Eucharistic Lord, Carlo was slowly but surely transformed by the light and warmth of God’s fiery love into a “holy candle” for Christ.

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👉 Speaking about the effects of Eucharistic Adoration, Blessed Carlo said: “When we face the sun we get a tan, but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints.” So simple yet so profound. Just as we are confident that when we spend time in front of the sun we will get a sun tan, so too should we be confident that “when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become saints.”

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👉 When asked what he did during his time of prayer and Eucharistic Adoration, Blessed Carlo said: “Sadness is looking at yourself. Happiness is looking at God.” Another brilliant insight into the spiritual life from our young saint. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Forget about yourself. Focus on our Eucharistic Lord. Gaze at Him with loving faith. All that Jesus wants is just our hearts to be open to His light and warmth. He will do all the rest. How comforting and how encouraging!

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👉 When asked about her son’s daily practice of Eucharistic Adoration, Carlo’s mother, Antonio, described it in this way: “Carlo loved to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist. He used to say that in order to be happy we have to put God in first place, and that’s what he did by going to Adoration every day. He even made a schedule for himself, organizing his homework and other activities around his time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.” What a beautiful witness to truly loving God with all his heart.

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👉 To organize your daily schedule around your time of Eucharistic Adoration rather than fit in prayer if your daily schedule permits – that’s a holy habit that is

guaranteed to set us on fire with God's love!

As a result of organizing his schedule around Eucharistic Adoration for several years, Blessed Carlo's heart remained soft and receptive to the transformative love of God and he rapidly spread that light and warmth as a "holy candle" for Christ to everyone he came into contact with.

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👉 Another time, when Carlo's father, Andrea, offered his son the amazing opportunity to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, Carlo replied: "I prefer to stay in Milan because there are tabernacles in the churches where I can go to find Jesus at any moment and therefore I do not feel the need to go to Jerusalem. Since Jesus remains with us always, in the consecrated Host, what need is there to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to visit the places where Jesus lived 2,000 years ago? Instead, tabernacles ought to be visited with the same devotion!"

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👉 What a great example of truly believing in the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. And what inspiration for us to imitate this young Saint and do likewise.

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👉 To conclude: What is 1 thing you want to remember from this reflection?

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