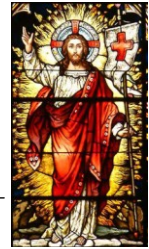


Resurrectionist Spirituality Center

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Materials for monthly day of recollection

JUNE A.D. 2010

Eighth Principle of the Resurrectionist Spirituality:

MARY: OUR MODEL AND MOTHER

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Preface

The last “Materials for the Monthly Day of Recollection” deal with the eighth principle of the Resurrectionist spirituality: “Mary: our model and mother”.

According to our Constitutions, one of our daily duties is „a Marian devotion, for example, the rosary” (70), and in our parishes we will “foster devotion to Mary, the Mother of the Church” (217). We also remember, that “Her aid and intercession are important if the apostolic activities of the Congregation are to be fruitful” (217). Article nr. 78 underlines, that “the feasts of the Resurrection, the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption and our Lady of Sorrows are considered Community feasts and are to be celebrated in a solemn manner. On the vigil of these feasts each religious should offer some form of mortification”.

I would like to say ‘thank you’ to all the C.R. Fathers and Brothers for your collaboration and encouraging words during this year. I invite you also to the **Resurrectionists’ Internet Library** (<http://www.biz.xcr.pl/english.html>).

Happy summer time!

Fr. Wojciech Mleczeko, C.R.

Director of the Resurrectionist Spirituality Center in Rome

PART I – Morning prayers with half-hour meditation

Outline

1. Morning prayer: Morning prayer with meditation.
2. After Reading – meditation (30 min).
Text for meditation: p. 2 (as well as ready-to-print handout at the end of the materials).
3. At the end: Beatification Prayer.

Preparations needed

1. Books for The Liturgy of the Hours.
2. Meditation handout (a copy for everybody - last page of the materials contains ready-to-print handout).

Text for meditation:

“We believe that Mary is our model for all that we are called to be and do as Resurrectionists” (Charism Statement).

“We call others, especially youth and families, to communities of the Risen Christ in which faith, hope and love radiate as a sign of union with Christ and his mother, Mary, in the Church. We are convinced that to do this our Congregation must be a model of Christian community in which people are one in heart and mind” (Mission Statement).

“God has honored Mary by choosing her to be the mother of our savior. She is also the mother of the church, which is his body. In our tradition we have claimed her as the mother of our Congregation and have been dedicated to promoting her honor. She is the model of what salvation is for each of us. In her Immaculate Conception she was freed from sin. As the Mother of Sorrows she shared in the sufferings of her son. In her Assumption she was raised up to share in the risen life of Jesus. If we follow her as our model we learn to share in the passion, death and resurrection of her son and we, too, will be freed from sin and will share in his new life in the Spirit” (Constitutions, 8).

Beatification Prayer

O Risen Jesus, you called Bogdan Janski, Peter Semenenko and Jerome Kajsiewicz to proclaim your unconditional love for all people and witness to the Resurrection by dying to self in order to live a new life by the power of your Spirit. Glorify your servants by the way of beatification so that the example of their lives after conversion may bring the hope of Resurrection to all who continue to struggle with sin, error and their own human weakness. Amen

PART II – Prayer meeting with conference

Outline

1. Common prayer, e.g. part of the Liturgy of the Hours (suggested: *Midday Prayer*)
2. Prayer to the Holy Spirit (e.g. song, hymn, etc.)
3. Conference – to be read by the superior or a house member
4. Distribution of meditation handouts (could be used during adoration)
5. Exposition
6. Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
7. Adoration in silence (1/2 h, occasion to reflect on the conference)
8. Prayer for vocations for our Congregation
9. Song of Praise
10. Benediction
11. Prayer to Our Lady of Mentorella

Duration: app. 1 hour 15 min.

Preparations needed

1. Books for The Liturgy of the Hours
2. Printed text of the conference (pp. 6-10)
3. Everything what is needed for Exposition

Course of the meeting

- 1. Common prayer: Liturgy of the Hours (Midday Prayer).**
- 2. Prayer to the Holy Spirit (e.g. song, hymn). (Proposal:)**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

3. Conference:

Eighth Principle of the Resurrectionist Spirituality:

MARY: OUR MODEL AND MOTHER

(Notice to reader: it would be worthy to read this text first in private as well as to pray to the Holy Spirit, that the text which will be proclaimed would find its way to the hearts, minds and will of the listeners.)

“God has honored Mary by choosing her to be the mother of our Savior. She is also the mother of the Church which is his body. In our tradition we have claimed her as mother of our Congregation and have been dedicated to promoting her honor. She is the model of what salvation is for each of us.”

(1988 Constitutions, Article 8)

By referring to Mary as Mother of the Congregation our community tradition wishes to recognize that she is interested in our welfare and assists us, individually and communally, to fulfill our vocational goals. Her role in the development of the life of Jesus and the early Church is repeated once again for us. She intercedes on our behalf for the graces we need to live out our call to be disciples of Jesus by living the paschal mystery, and she serves as a source of support and encouragement for us in a manner that surpasses that of all other members of the communion of saints. This is succinctly captured by one of the titles given to Mary, namely Mother of Divine Grace. It is by this title that Our Lady of Mentorella is honoured. This, as well as the fact that the Marian shrine at Mentorella was the first permanent apostolate and property given to the Congregation in its own name, spoke clearly to our founders and early members about the role of Mary in the life of the Congregation. She is our collaborator, anxious to assist us as a loving mother. Peter Semenenko referred to Mary as the new Eve, the mother of the new life that we acquire through living the paschal mystery.

Mary was not only the mother of Jesus, she was also his first and perfect disciple and thus a model for our discipleship. She lived her life as a totally faithful response to God's word and shared in the paschal mystery of her son. This openness to God's word and willingness to set aside her own concerns is clearly manifested in the gospel accounts of the annunciation and infancy narratives. Her presence at the crucifixion of Jesus is a confirmation of her fidelity to Jesus and his mission.

Marian feasts, especially the three which the Congregation has adopted as community feasts, are times to celebrate communally Mary's role in the life of the Congregation. On these days the liturgy receives special attention, the homily offers an occasion to speak of Mary, additional Marian devotions are celebrated, the community meal can have a festal quality, symposia or talks on Marian theology are held and profession of vows may be celebrated. As suggested by art. 78 of the *Constitutions*, the vigils of these feasts are times of special mortification and all should be reminded of this as the feasts approach.

The three Marian feasts chosen by the Congregation to be celebrated in a special manner have a relatedness to the paschal mystery and Mary's personal sharing in that mystery. The feast of the Mother of Sorrows celebrates Mary's own acceptance of suffering which followed upon her total dedication to the Father and his Son, Jesus. It reminds us of her willingness to surrender herself into the hands of the Father despite the suffering and death incurred by doing so. In the Assumption we celebrate the Father's acceptance of that self-giving and we celebrate her sharing fully in Jesus' victory over death. She is drawn to the Father and united with him. In the Immaculate Conception we celebrate the new life that results from the paschal mystery and we celebrate Mary's sharing fully in Jesus' victory over sin. Mary participated fully in that new life after her assumption, but even from her conception she had a share in the redemptive value of her Son's paschal mystery. As we live out the paschal mystery we too begin living the new life more and more fully until complete self-giving and total resurrection occur.

As an expression of our Marian devotion each local community has a communal devotion to Mary on a daily basis, such as the angelus,

a Marian hymn or the rosary. In addition, each individual is asked to develop a personal Marian devotion through reading, study and prayer. It is especially appropriate for members to have a devotion to Mary under the title of “Our Lady of Mentorella - Mother of Grace”.

In the general chapter of 1857, Peter Semenenko spoke of the threats of evil in the world: deification of self-indulgent pleasures, self-sufficiency (secularism), and materialism (socialism). As a response against the first he recommended “an intensified devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary with its consequent elevation of the dignity of woman” (*The Rule and Constitutions*, Iwicki, ed, 10). There are two important points here. First, the designation of Marian devotion as an antidote to self-indulgent pleasures. If our Marian devotion is to have a true intrinsic value in this regard it needs to centre on Mary as our model of true discipleship as well as on her intercessory role. Her trust in God’s word and in the power of the Holy Spirit allowed her to forget herself and to surrender to the Lord’s loving invitation to die to self. The second point to notice in Semenenko’s statement is his association of Marian devotion with the elevation of the dignity of woman. Many good things have occurred since these words were spoken to elevate the dignity accorded to women. However, more needs to be done.

Marian devotion must not be a pious appendage to our lives, but an integral part of our Resurrection spirituality and apostolate.

Text taken from:
International Formation Commission,
Formation in Resurrectionist Spirituality,
Rome 1993, pp. 89-92.

4. Distribution of pages with points to reflect on

(Notice: After the conference reflection points should be distributed. They can be printed in needed amounts using the ready-to-print handouts, located at the end of the materials).

Points to reflect on after listening to the conference (to use e.g. during adoration)

1. “Mary's life of prayer is a model for our life of prayer. She teaches us how to hear God's word, ponder it in our hearts and act upon it. She teaches us how to intercede for the needs of others and to pray for the outpouring of the Spirit upon the church. As mother of our Congregation we honor her by imitating her life of prayer, by praying to her and by observing her feasts in the liturgy” (Constitutions, 55).

2. “In the formation of the religious, as is the tradition of the Congregation, Mary will be presented as a model. She is the perfect disciple of Jesus and is the model of all who are called to discipleship. Her faith enabled her to accept the gift of God's love and to trust that all the promises made to her would be fulfilled.¹ Her hope enabled her to rely upon the power of the Spirit to form Jesus within her. Her love enabled her to live a life of self-denial and joyful service. Her obedience enabled her to cooperate with all of God's plans for her. Her humility led her to accept her own lowliness even while she acknowledged and proclaimed the great things God was doing in her and through her. Our religious will become more perfect disciples of Jesus if they follow Mary, rely on Mary and tend to Christ through Mary” (Constitutions, 150).

¹ “Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled” (Lk 1:45).

5. Exposition. Eucharistic Hymn.**6. Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us

Christ, hear us .

Christ, graciously hear us

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin
Mother,
Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,
Heart of Jesus, of Infinite Majesty,
Heart of Jesus, Sacred Temple of God,
Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle of the Most High,
Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven,
Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,
Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,
Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,
Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,
Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,
Heart of Jesus, in whom are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge,
Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of divinity,
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased,
Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,
Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,
Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,
Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke Thee,
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,
Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,
Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium,
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,
Heart of Jesus, obedient to death,
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,

Heart of Jesus, our peace and our reconciliation,

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints,

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

spare on us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us, O Lord.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

R. Make our hearts like yours.

Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of Thy most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which He offers You in the name of sinners; and to those who implore Your mercy, in Your great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You forever and ever. Amen.

7. Half-hour adoration in silence.

8. Prayer for vocations to our Congregation:

Lord we are deeply aware of your words to your disciples:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,

therefore ask the Lord of the harvest
to send laborers into his harvest” (Mt. 9:37).

We ask you at this time when we, your laborers,
are fewer and the harvest is more plentiful,
to inspire through your Holy Spirit
the men to whom you are calling to join
us in the Congregation of the Resurrection.
Also Lord inspire us, your present laborers,
to live out our charism and mission with the enthusiasm and joy
which will attract new laborers.

We make this prayer in your name
our Risen Lord and Saviour.
Amen.

9. Song of Praise.

10. Benediction and Reposition.

11. Prayer to Our Lady of Mentorella:

Mother of Graces, we believe that you are the model for all that we are called to be and to do as Resurrectionists. Our Lady of Mentorella, you won for us our first recognition as a religious community in the Church. You were with the Chapter Fathers in defining our apostolate. You inspired generations of seminarians to live the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Help us today to be faithful to our charism and our traditions – faithful disciples of the Risen Christ, and faithful sons of you, our God-given Mother. Amen.

(composed by Fr. Frank Grzechowiak, CR)

PART III – House meeting

Outline

1. Prayer.
2. Current issues.
3. “Resurrection Prayer”.
4. At the end superior will bless the community.

Preparations Needed:

1. Coffee, tea, cookies, fruit, etc.
2. List of discussion points / agenda.

Monthly Day of Recollection – JUNE A.D. 2010

Our monthly day of recollection
will take place on June 2010.



***Topic: Eighth Principle of Resurrectionist Spirituality –
Mary: our model and mother.***

I. Morning prayer with meditation:

time: place:

II. Prayer meeting with conference:

time: place:

III. House meeting:

time: place:

OUR DUTIES,

who is responsible for:

Morning prayer with meditation	
Leading the Liturgy of the Hours	
Conference will be read by	
Exposition of Eucharist + prayers during exposition	
Preparation of place for house meeting	

Points for morning meditation

Monthly day of recollection: June 2010

Mary: our model and mother

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Points for morning meditation

Monthly day of recollection: June 2010

Mary: our model and mother

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Points to reflect on after listening to the conference

June 2010

1. "Mary's life of prayer is a model for our life of prayer. She teaches us how to hear God's word, ponder it in our hearts and act upon it. She teaches us how to intercede for the needs of others and to pray for the outpouring of the Spirit upon the church. As mother of our Congregation we honor her by imitating her life of prayer, by praying to her and by observing her feasts in the liturgy" (Constitutions, 55).

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