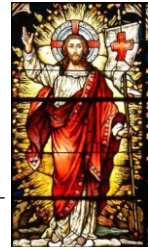


# *Resurrectionist Spirituality Center*

*Congregation of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

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## **Materials for monthly day of recollection**

**MAY A.D. 2010**

*Seventh Principle of the Resurrectionist Spirituality:*

***GOD CALLS US TO WORK***

***FOR THE RESURRECTION OF SOCIETY***

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### **Preface**

With paschal joy I share the next installment of “Materials for the Monthly Day of Recollection”. They concentrate on the seventh principle of the Resurrectionist spirituality: “God calls us to work for the resurrection of society”.

In the 26<sup>th</sup> article of our Constitutions it can be read: “As a Congregation, which is called to work for the resurrection of society, the issues of social justice are very important to us. We will strive to raise our own social consciousness and speak out against all forms of social injustice and through our practice of social justice to be a model and challenge for others.”

I would like to say ‘thank you’ to all the C.R. Fathers and Brothers for your collaboration and encouraging words. All comments are warmly welcomed. You can write to: cdz.rome@gmail.com. I invite you also to the Resurrectionists’ Internet Library (<http://www.biz.xcr.pl/english.html>).

Let the Risen Lord endow us with his gifts: peace, joy and hope. Alleluia!

Fr. Wojciech Mleczo, 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 God calls us to work together for the resurrection of society, bringing his life and love to all: through our personal witness, through the witness of our life in community, and through our community apostolates, primarily through parish work and teaching. This also requires that we build, and teach others to build, a Christian community in which all can experience the hope, joy and peace of Christ's Resurrection.

(CR's Charism Statement)

In its apostolic life, the Congregation shares Christ's own mission of teaching and sanctifying, establishing his kingdom in the hearts of people. In carrying out its mission, the members of the Congregation will always be open to the needs of the church and society in our times. True to the spirit of the founders, the Congregation strives for the resurrection of society, especially through the parish and educational apostolates. We zealously strive to overcome sin, ignorance, injustice, and misery. Our work should help people build community in which they experience the hope, peace, and joy which the Risen Christ desires to share with them. The Congregation carries out this mission in submission to the Holy Father, holding him in filial regard, and acknowledging him as its highest superior through the vow of obedience.

(CR's Constitutions, 9)

### **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 Holy Spirit
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. Antiphon to Virgin Mary (e.g. song, hymn)

**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:)**

Breathe into me, Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.

Move in me, Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.

Attract my heart, Holy Spirit,  
that I may love only what is holy.

Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may defend all that is holy.

Protect me, Holy Spirit,  
that I may always be holy.

*(Prayer of St. Augustine)*

### 3. Conference:

***Seventh Principle of the Resurrectionist Spirituality:***

***GOD CALLS US TO WORK***

***FOR THE RESURRECTION OF SOCIETY***

(**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.)

*“In a word, what the Congregation proposes as its end - if not in effect, at least in desire - is the resurrection of the whole of human society, its eternal salvation and material prosperity, which is to be found nowhere else except in the search and effort to achieve eternal salvation. In the words of Christ: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all things shall be given you besides” (Mt. 6:33). To attain this end, the Congregation shall use the means indicated and provided by Christ: teaching and baptizing, that is, the word of God and His holy sacraments. By the former we understand all the means of propagating the divine truth; by the latter, the various means of distributing God’s blessings and His holy grace.”*

*(The Rule of 1850, Article 168)*

The Congregation was founded to assist members to grow in holiness. Our founders and members always believed that the apostolate is an integral part of achieving one’s own sanctification and happiness (cf. *Constit.*, 192). Each member, and the life of the Congregation, is directed to create a new society by working “to overcome sin, ignorance, injustice and misery” (*Constit.*, 9). In general, this involves two approaches towards society. First, it calls members who have become aware of their own brokenness through the call to conversion to have an experiential knowledge of people suffering from sin, ignorance, injustice and misery. These are the “poor” of society, to whom we are called to minister. Members need to associate with them, to experience their life, to appreciate their suffering at least

empathetically and to join in solidarity with people diminished by unjust structures (Mission Statement). Secondly, through its apostolates, the Congregation strives to assist them and to change society and these unjust structures. In its apostolates the Congregation recognizes that ministry is mutual, that is, its members receive as well as give when ministering according to the gospel. For this same reason, the Congregation attempts to have all strata of society work together to change society. The gospel values we promote are in the best interests of every one and not simply the “poor”. Class distinctions and conflict between groups are contrary to these values.

The apostolate of the community is much more than a social program. It flows from the salvific work of Christ and is guided by the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit. The principles of the paschal mystery are used as a guide for what is happening in the lives of both members and those they touch by their apostolates. Thus, it is not simply a matter of eliminating suffering but rather of practicing a love of neighbour that leads to union with God our Father. Members by their lives and their words help others to change their lives and the life of the whole of society insofar as that is possible, but more importantly they teach people of God’s love for them. “We share Christ’s own desire to enkindle the fire of divine love in the heart of every person on this earth” (Mission Statement). It is this love which is to be their support and guide, since the appreciation of God’s love draws a person to personal conversion and enables him to labour peacefully and faithfully for the elimination of all unjust structures.

For most members apostolic work is a very rewarding experience, a source of affirmation and joy, an activity to which they feverously give themselves. This is proper provided the apostolic works are integrated into one’s religious life, so that the calls of baptism and religious vows mature and bear fruit through the apostolate. In this way the apostolate is not self-activity, but a prophetic statement to society. The work done is guided by the Holy Spirit and promotes the coming of the kingdom of the Father. This means that we follow the example of Jesus whose dedication to the establishment of the kingdom was steadfast despite rejection and death leading to resurrection. Similarly, the religious must find his deepest satisfaction not in the acceptance of himself and his message by others, but

in knowing that he is proclaiming the Word, the source of truth and charity. The apostolate like all other aspects of his life invites him to live the paschal mystery.

Resurrectionists are attentive to the needs of the Church according to our charism. This charism has involved us in the apostolates of parish ministry and education. Rooted in history and tradition, a community charism takes on different expressions according to the needs of society and the gifts of members. All members should be concerned about new expressions of our mission, however it is up to chapters and community leaders to determine when and if new expressions should be adopted.

Our charism also calls us to work closely with other groups: lay, clerical and religious. These groups are seen as collaborators and not as competitors and subservients. The concept of external brethren was not simply a part of the dream of Janski, but something he actually brought about (cf. J. Iwicki, *Resurrectionist Charism*, v. I, 58). This aspect of the Congregation disappeared after his death, and only recently attempts are being made to revive it. The Sisters of the Resurrection have a special place among the many groups of religious sisters with whom we work. Not only do we share the same name and related histories, but the same spirit imbues the two congregations.

When a religious prepares himself for the apostolate he needs to have attitudes that differ from a person preparing for a career. While seeking professional expertise, he needs to integrate his knowledge and skills with his evangelical vocation and the community traditions. At the same time he must remember that the community through obedience calls him to develop his gifts and assigns him to the apostolate. This same obedience keeps him open to changes in his place of ministry and even in the nature of the ministry he performs. His formation must assist him to grow in this openness to the Lord who speaks to him through the Congregation, and to avoid focusing solely on professional skills and his own preferences.

We should be especially well versed in the Church's social teachings in order that these may form the basis of our efforts to change society. In general, all Church documents should be well received and thoroughly

studied as an expression of our desire to be allied with the apostolic and ministerial efforts of the Pope and the Bishops (cf. *Constit.*, 11 and 149). Because of our historical link and also because we work together in some localities, it is important to learn the basic history of the Resurrection Sisters.

Text taken from:  
International Formation Commission,  
*Formation in Resurrectionist Spirituality*,  
Rome 1993, pp. 79-87.

#### **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. “In a word, what the Congregation proposes as its end - if not in effect, at least in desire - is the resurrection of the whole of human society, its eternal salvation and material prosperity, which is to be found nowhere else except in the search and effort to achieve eternal salvation. In the words of Christ: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all things shall be given you besides” (Mt. 6:33). To attain this end, the Congregation shall use the means indicated and provided by Christ: teaching and baptizing, that is, the word of God and His holy sacraments. By the former we understand all the means of propagating the divine truth; by the latter, the various means of distributing God’s blessings and His holy grace.” (The Rule of 1850, Article 168)

2. “As a Congregation, which is called to work for the resurrection of society, the issues of social justice are very important to us. We will strive to raise our own social consciousness and speak out against all forms of social injustice and through our practice of social justice to be a model and challenge for others.” (CR’s Constitutions, 26)

#### **5. Exposition. Eucharistic Hymn.**

## 6. Litany of the Holy Spirit

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Father all-powerful, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world, save us.

Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless life of both, sanctify us.

Holy Trinity, hear us.

Holy Spirit, Who proceedest from the Father and the Son, enter our hearts.

Holy Spirit, Who art equal to the Father and the Son, enter our hearts.

Promise of God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

Ray of heavenly light,

Author of all good,

Source of heavenly water Consuming fire,

Ardent charity,

Spiritual unction,

Spirit of love and truth,

Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

Spirit of counsel and fortitude,

Spirit of knowledge and piety,

Spirit of the fear of the Lord,

Spirit of grace and prayer,

Spirit of peace and meekness,

Spirit of modesty and innocence,

Holy Spirit, the Comforter,  
Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,  
Holy Spirit, Who governest the Church,  
Gift of God, the Most High,  
Spirit Who fillest the universe,  
Spirit of the adoption of the children of God,

Holy Spirit, inspire us with horror of sin,  
Holy Spirit, come and renew the face of the earth,  
Holy Spirit, shed Thy light in our souls,  
Holy Spirit, engrave Thy law in our hearts,  
Holy Spirit, inflame us with the flame of Thy love,  
Holy Spirit, open to us the treasures of Thy graces,  
Holy Spirit, teach us to pray well,  
Holy Spirit, enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations,  
Holy Spirit, lead us in the way of salvation,  
Holy Spirit, grant us the only necessary knowledge,  
Holy Spirit, inspire in us the practice of good,  
Holy Spirit, grant us the merits of all virtues,  
Holy Spirit, make us persevere in justice,  
Holy Spirit, be Thou our everlasting reward,

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
Send us Thy Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

V. Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,

R. And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, forever and ever.

R. 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. Antiphon to Virgin Mary.**

## **PART III – House meeting**

### **Outline**

1. Prayer.
2. Discuss and establish date for monthly day of recollection in June.
3. Current issues.
4. “Resurrection Prayer”.
5. 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 – MAY A.D. 2010

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



***Topic: Seventh Principle of Resurrectionist Spirituality –  
God calls us to work for the resurrection of society.***

### **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<br>+ prayers during exposition |  |
| Preparation of place for house meeting                 |  |

## **Points for morning meditation**

Monthly day of recollection: May2010

### ***God calls us to work for the resurrection of society***

“We believe that God calls us to work together for the resurrection of society, bringing his life and love to all: through our personal witness, through the witness of our life in community, and through our community apostolates, primarily through parish work and teaching. This also requires that we build, and teach others to build, a Christian community in which all can experience the hope, joy and peace of Christ's Resurrection.”

(CR's Charism Statement)

“In its apostolic life, the Congregation shares Christ's own mission of teaching and sanctifying, establishing his kingdom in the hearts of people. In carrying out its mission, the members of the Congregation will always be open to the needs of the church and society in our times. True to the spirit of the founders, the Congregation strives for the resurrection of society, especially through the parish and educational apostolates. We zealously strive to overcome sin, ignorance, injustice, and misery. Our work should help people build community in which they experience the hope, peace, and joy which the Risen Christ desires to share with them. The Congregation carries out this mission in submission to the Holy Father, holding him in filial regard, and acknowledging him as its highest superior through the vow of obedience.”

(CR's Constitutions, 9)

## **Points for morning meditation**

Monthly day of recollection: May2010

### ***God calls us to work for the resurrection of society***

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(CR's Constitutions, 9)

## **Points to reflect on after listening to the conference**

May 2010

**1.** “In a word, what the Congregation proposes as its end - if not in effect, at least in desire - is the resurrection of the whole of human society, its eternal salvation and material prosperity, which is to be found nowhere else except in the search and effort to achieve eternal salvation. In the words of Christ: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all things shall be given you besides” (Mt. 6:33). To attain this end, the Congregation shall use the means indicated and provided by Christ: teaching and baptizing, that is, the word of God and His holy sacraments. By the former we understand all the means of propagating the divine truth; by the latter, the various means of distributing God’s blessings and His holy grace.”

*(The Rule of 1850, Article 168)*

**2.** “As a Congregation, which is called to work for the resurrection of society, the issues of social justice are very important to us. We will strive to raise our own social consciousness and speak out against all forms of social injustice and through our practice of social justice to be a model and challenge for others.”

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