

Keynote: God's Kingdom Under Attack—Fighting Fire with Fire
("Behold, the Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:21)

Opening Prayer of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (NB: Saint Joseph added)

Merciful Father,
in the name of our lovable Jesus,
of the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph,
and of the Saints,
I ask you to set me on fire
with Your Spirit of Love
and grant me the grace
of making You deeply loved. Amen.

KEYNOTE

- I. God's Kingdom Under Attack:
"We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. I do not think that the wide circle of the American Society, or the whole wide circle of the Christian community realizes this fully. We are facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-Church, between the Gospel and the anti-Gospel, between Christ and the Antichrist. The confrontation lies within the plan of Divine Providence. It is, therefore, in God's plan, and it must be a trial which the Church must take up, and face courageously" (Cardinal Karol Wojtyla—now Pope Saint John Paul II—1976 Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia).
- II. Our Response to the Firestorm of Infidelity, Despair, and Malice: Burning Faith, Hope, and Charity
 - A. The Essential Battlefields:
 1. **Vanity** of the World (Mammon) versus **Almsgiving**:
 - a. Selfishness versus self-giving
 - b. Greed versus giving until it hurts
 - c. Popularity versus humility (hiddenness—the "little way")
 2. **Sensuality** of the Flesh versus **Fasting**:
 - a. Pleasure versus fasting/Abstinence
 - b. Possessiveness versus simplicity/detachment/mortification
 3. **Pride** of the Devil versus **Prayer** of Christ:
 - a. Power versus dependence
 - b. Dominance versus total surrender
 - B. Christ's Gospel versus the Masters of Suspicion and of Erroneous Ideologies—Purity of Heart triumphs over Hardness of Heart:
 1. Christ's Kingdom conquers Marx's Materialism/Secularism (Mammon/Vanity)
 2. Christ Crucified conquers Nietzsche's Ubermensch (Power)
 3. Christ's Fasting and Chastity defeats Freudian Libido (Sensuality)
- III. Pure Hearts = Hearts Ablaze with Devotion in God's Kingdom of Truth and Love
 - A. Hearts of the Holy Family:
 1. Mary, the Immaculate Heart
 2. Joseph, Chaste and Just
 3. The Sacred Heart of Jesus

- B. The Father of Lights and of the Pure of Heart
 - C. The Holy Spirit, the Fire of God's Love
- IV. "We must be prepared to undergo great trials in the not-too-distant future; trials that will require us to be ready to give up our lives, and a total gift of self to Christ and for Christ. Through your prayers and mine, it is possible to alleviate the tribulation, but it is no longer possible to avert it. How many times has the renewal of the Church been brought about with blood? It will not be different this time" (Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, 1976 Eucharistic Congress, Philadelphia).

QUESTIONS

- I. What tempts us to focus on money more than on grace?
- II. What tempts us to imitate the pride of the Devil rather than the humility of Christ?
- III. What tempts us to give in to the pleasures of our senses rather than to embrace the Cross of Christ?

MISSION

- I. Morning: Prayer of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus
- II. Mental Prayer: 5/5/5 (children) or 10/10/10 (teen/adult)
 - A. Gospel of the Day or Any Passages from Scripture
 - B. Stories or Writings of Saints
 - C. Passages from Theological or Catechetical Writings
 - D. Particular Decades of the Rosary
 - E. Visual Images
- III. Examination of Conscience followed by an Act of Contrition: Did I Live According to The Practice of the Presence of God?
 - A. When I arose this morning, was I aware of God and did I sincerely offer my day to Him? Did I entrust my greatest joys and fears to Him, inviting Him to join me in what I find enjoyable and to help me in what I find difficult or even dreadful?
 - B. Did I practice being aware of the Presence of God in each activity of the day? In what places and during what activities do I tend to ignore Him or to fear that He is not available?
 - C. When I fell in weakness or sin during the day, did I turn to God in my mind and heart, tell Him I was sorry, and re-dedicate myself to following Him and to remaining aware of His Presence and assistance?

D. What must I ask of God to help me do better tomorrow?