

## **ABLAZE KEYNOTE 1-21-17**

### **PRAYER**

Our Father Who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **KEYNOTE**

#### **The Heavenly Father of the King, Burning Devotion to the Father of Lights**

“Every good endowment and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of Truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.” (James 1:17-18)

- I. Exitus-Reditus: We come from the Father to earth that we may return to Him in Heaven.
  - A. Creation—Exitus
    1. “Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God” (Luke 3:38)
    2. Each conception of a human person —“The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God—it is not ‘produced’ by the parents—and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection” (Catechism of the Catholic Church #366).
  - B. Exile: By the sins of angels and men, death, confusion, and darkness were introduced to the world by a false father of lies.
    1. Satan:
      - a. “your father the devil” (John 8:44)
      - b. “a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44)
      - c. “the father of lies” (John 8:44)
      - d. Reigns over “the dominion of darkness” (Colossians 1:13)
    2. By sin, our likeness to the Father is wounded, distorted, and darkened.
  - C. Preparation for our Reditus, in Grace and Mercy, for eternal Life, Light, and Truth: “the Father [. . .] has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” (Colossians 1:12-13)

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

1. Re-creation begun by the New Eve and the Last Adam, by the Woman Clothed in the Sun and the Light of the World
2. Call for Christians to become perfect light in the perfect Light: “Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

D. Lights Coming down from the Father of Lights

1. God: “Let there be light.” (Genesis 1:3)
2. Jesus Christ, “The Light of the World”
3. Queen and Mother Mary, the Woman Clothed with the Sun
4. Angels and Saints

E. Stages on the Journey Back to the Father of Lights

1. Adoption
2. On-Going Conversion: Enlightenment and Sanctification
  - a. Likeness restored and developed
  - b. “He who has seen me has seen the Father.” (John 14:9)
3. Completing the Creative and Fruitful Works of the Father: “The Father Who dwells in Me does His works. [. . .] Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father.” (John 14:10, 12)

II. The Father of Lights Shares His Work, Glory, and Power with Us as:

- A. Priests—Offering a Fruitful, Creative Sacrifice
- B. Prophets—Proclaiming the Glory of the Gospel Message and Living Word
- C. Kings—Wielding Power by Grace and Mercy to Conquer Sin and Enemies

III. In Communion with God the Father in the Flesh and Blood of His Son and the Grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians assist in fulfilling the Father’s command: “Let there be light.”

- A. Completion of a Radiant Creation
- B. Fulfillment of His Glorious Plan (Divine Providence)

## QUESTIONS

- I. Where do we find the greatest darkness in our culture, and what types of light must we bring to dispel this darkness?
- II. What causes us and others to fear the Light of God our Father? In your life, has the Father ever “blinded” you with His Light, or has His Light in your life increased gradually over time?

## MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer to the Sacred Heart
- 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:
  - A. Was my interior life—all that is hidden from others, except from the Father Who sees in secret—radiant or dark, or a mixture of the light and darkness? What must I do to increase the light and dispel the darkness in my soul?
  - B. When encountering and engaging others at home or in any other situation, did I increase the light or increase the darkness? What must I do to bring light to others?
  - C. How did I please the Father as a child of light, and how did I disappoint Him? In the Light of His Truth and Mercy, for what do I need to express contrition, and for what do I need to give thanks?
  - D. What especially do I need to ask my Heavenly Father to help me overcome or change to become more radiant in holiness and charity?