

Part I starts on May 12. For those of you readers who have been following this, the new part begins July 20, 2008.

GOD ALONE! SOLO DIOS BASTA!

Messages Received

by

Ronda Chervin

May, 2008-

Nine days before Pentecost I prayed a novena to the Holy Spirit each day. In the middle of the night after the Pentecost Liturgy I woke up suddenly at 1:30 AM. It seemed as if the Holy Spirit was speaking to me in my heart.

Since I believe that these are true, I am placing them before the reader. However, it is important that you know that in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church of which I am a member, there is no obligation to believe in the validity of any visions or words, audible or “in the heart.”

Such phenomena come under the title “Private Revelation.” Approval of such by Vatican authorities means only that they contain no doctrinal errors or viewpoints dangerous to the faith, not that they are considered to be certainly from God. In any case, private revelation never has the status of Biblical Revelation. For

example, Catholics are not required to believe the messages given even in approved apparitions such as those at Lourdes or Fatima.

A distinction is also made between messages allegedly given to an individual for their own use and general messages designed to reach the public. Recipients of messages supposedly from God or others not on earth are always subject to the judgment of a spiritual director. Clearly, however, a message such as “God loves you dearly,” is less questionable than one such as “ Tomorrow leave our family forever and go to Jerusalem!” And both of these also differ greatly from ones such as “Tell, the world, the second coming will be in the year 2000!”

Another important note: there are at least two types of visions given to humans: 1) apparitions – these are experienced as outside of the viewer, just as we see natural objects and the people around us. 2) interior visions – these we see within the mind but they are strong, strong images, not like floating, fleeting images from memory or imagination. The same distinctions can be made between audible words that sound as if coming from without, and words inaudible to the ear but seeming to form themselves within the mind.

Here are the messages starting on May 12, 2008 which I alleged received as though they were meant to be shared with other. To avoid repetition I will not use the word “alleged” in every paragraph. I will assume the reader understands that I do not think I am infallible in thinking it is really the Holy Spirit or other Presences. Note also that when the Holy Spirit says “Us” or “We” I interpret that to mean a reference to the Trinity. Some early readers found that Us and We and Our disconcerting, seemingly more impersonal than I or Me. I wondered if I should substitute the word God for those words as in change a sentences such as “We want you to become more open to Us” to something like God wants you to become more open to God.” I asked the Holy Spirit about this and seemed to get the reply: “No, we want you to become more accustomed to see each member of the Trinity as speaking with one voice for the three, therefore, as We.”

Technical Note: In parentheses are comments of mine to explain something that might not be clear. Please forgive as typos any references to the Holy Spirit or the Trinity that are not capitalized.

May 12, 2008

Holy Spirit:

We want to give you a separate set of messages. (Note from Ronda: At the time this began I had for 6 months been writing down messages as given primarily to another person. See www.thespiritualtransition.com.)

(The words “Nada te turbe...” came to me in Spanish in the song, as if sung by St. Teresa of Avila. Here is the web-site version in English and Spanish):

<p>Nada te turbe</p> <p>(Letrilla que llevaba por registro en su breviario)</p> <p>Nada te turbe; nada te espante; todo se pasa; Dios no se muda, la paciencia todo lo alcanza. Quien a Dios tiene, nada le falta. Solo Dios basta.</p>	<p>Santa Teresa de Avila (1515-1582)</p>  <p>Carmelo Teresiano Nada te turbe Oraciones Diversas</p>	<p>May nothing disturb you!</p> <p>(St. Teresa of Avila had these verses written in her <i>breviary</i>**)</p> <p>May nothing disturb you. May nothing astonish you. Everything passes. God does not go away. Patience can attain anything. He who has God within, does not lack anything. God is <i>everything!</i>*</p> <p>(Translation by Jorge W. Suazo) (*This last verse may be interpreted as "God is <i>enough.</i>")</p>
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(note: each interior locution begins with a title)

Divorce

Holy Spirit:

(Note from Ronda. When I first started getting these locutions I didn't realize that they were often directly related to matters I would be dealing with the next day or soon. I was much surprised that a series would start with this very painful subject of divorce, but it happened that I was in close relationship to someone considering a divorce just at this time.)

I want you to write to the divorced:

You have knots of bitterness and anger. The love you had when you wanted to marry was not a mistake. We gave you insight into the unique preciousness of another human being to bring you close. We wanted you to fight for the true self of your beloved, that the true self (of your spouse) would win the battle against the darkness in that person.

When you felt the darkness in your spouse winning, you wanted to flee and you wanted to rush toward the light in some other person and you could repeat that pattern over and over again.

Only in deep forgiveness will light and love triumph over the darkness of bitterness and anger in you. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the darkness in you that needs forgiveness.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it.” (John 1: 5)

Preparing for Eternity

May 13, 2008

Holy Spirit:

To prepare for eternity we want you to appreciate the beauty of creation and life even more, but also to relax your grip on it. Let yourself be wafted a little bit above everything, as if you were levitating.

Moral Law

St. Paul:

“Straight is the gate and narrow the way....” (Matthew 7:14)

Sin seems like liberation but turns to dust. You experienced this. In these times on the globe there is a clearer understanding of this because of the publicly viewed excesses and catastrophic penalties in the flesh. The hope of joy in procreative marital sex has been veiled because of divorce where the children can become pawns. So, the young people don't feel the secure nest.

There is need for strong open witness about the brambles on the strayed path and the goodness of the straight path. This is being done in some contemporary Christian teaching on chastity where the witnesses are open about their experience.

You need freedom in the Spirit to be honest... for the sake of liberation from a society as crazed on this as the pagan societies I preached to.

To be chaste people have to cleave to Jesus as I did with passionate constant prayer.

May 14, 2008

More About the Moral Law

Holy Spirit:

We need the moral law because humans are so greedy about trying for heaven on earth in following their illusions that worldly goods will make them happy, such as stolen possessions or the pride of fame.

Just the same, it is not as if once someone sins we give up on them and totally reject them. No. We let them live in the consequences of their wrong choices.

The “righteous” want to see a clearer punishment, such as the immediate destruction of the body of the sinner. This is because the “righteous” are tempted and jealous of the seeming good the sinner got by breaking the code. The “righteous” then feel frightened that the other sinners “got away with it.”

In this way, concupiscence (greed for bodily satisfactions such as lust, gluttony, possessions) and pride make a vicious circle.

Both the concupiscent and the proud are motivated by fear: fear of not having enough, leads to covetousness. The fear of being a wretched coveter instead of a proud Stoic (self-sufficient person) leads to sins of anger and desire for vengeance, and trying to be victorious through denunciation.

Do you see how Jesus tried to unmask these double evils by condemning greed and lust but also condemning self-righteousness?

What is the way out of the circle? “Perfect love casts out fear.” (1 John 4:18) By offering you the perfect love of the Trinity and, through the centuries, the comfort of the love of your spiritual mother, Mary, and the model of so many saints and Holy Communion (communion with us) we try to reach in to you to open the knots of fear.

As our love finds a place in you, we build a well in the depth of you in which to gradually pour in grace which over time overflows so you can love your neighbor as yourself.

You see? When your well of love is fuller you can love yourself and reach out to your neighbor with loving concern as you see them grabbing out of fear and judging out of fear.

This takes a long time to workout. The process is called “life.”

It is our “job” and our joy to see how to overcome the obstacles in you that come from original sin, childhood wounds, social formation, and your “fright-ful” choices.

“But, be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

May 15, 2008

The Family

Holy Spirit:

Out of individualism, you think too much as if each individual has to have every virtue to be complete, whole and perfect. Your critical eye focuses on each one in a family and you think about each ones defects and your mind works on how you would like each one to be. The same with your family in the Church.

You have not really understood the mystical body image we gave you in Scripture. (Jesus is the head, you are the body or the idea that a hand is not a leg.)

It would be better if you look at each one and be grateful for every virtue, talent and good personal way each one has, and see how it contributes to the family and others places this person is: school, work, Church. They need the help of the Spirit to perfect those qualities to bring them under the umbrella of love.

In their areas of defect, when some capacity is needed by the Spirit, they need to call for help on those who are better in this area and to seek Divine help.

But they don't need to berate themselves constantly for not being everything. That comes from a proud, competitive, envious, spirit.

This teaching is part of the goal we have for greater appreciation for your own gifts and the gifts of others. It will take away tense striving and make "the burden light." You will be without so much tension to be perfect in a worldly way.

The fierce desire to control others and yourself must give way to giving yourself and others to us in prayer and becoming encouragers and affirmers of the good.

May 16, 2008

(I woke suddenly with images of war. I have been reading about the Vietnam War and the Iraq war).

Jesus:

Wars are a shock treatment (we permit) to break through the dreadful complacency of worldliness. What is important is not your analysis, but the cracking of the shell – the breaking through the illusion that you and others can make a paradise out of combined selfishness.

In the soul open to the need for God's love and for salvation, those instincts (for survival) are transformed in solidarity with others as you see in magnified form in the saints who didn't choose evil as a desperate means for survival.

Shame

Jesus:

You are inclined to feel shame because you are vulnerable, instead of shame because you sin. The healing is to accept your creatureliness with childlike simplicity: "O, my Father in heaven, your little child feels weak, uncertain, and miserable. Lord have mercy," and then toddle along through your day as we strengthen you."

May 17, 2008

Healing

Jesus:

In healing try to see what the demon is of that problem. When I was on earth I often cast out demons. I didn't act as if "demons" was only a symbolic name for vague human forces.

So, in asking for healing for yourself and for others of sin, it is helpful to ask to be delivered from that demon say of drugs or anger. It keeps you from belittling the problem or from acting as if these problems are just natural and inevitable reactions to exterior events in your lives.

About Conversation

Holy Spirit:

There is a roughness in your talk, not only as in talk among embattled soldiers full of vulgarity and cursing, but also within your families.

Teasing can be a form of fondness, but I am advising you to avoid harshness or the indifference of not greeting each other with words or gestures or smiles of welcome.

It leads people to become shut up in cold defensiveness and then to seek relief sometimes in the comradeship of shared addictions or in solitary addictions where there is a note of tenderness toward the self: such as “poor me. This drink will make me feel better, or this masturbation, This over-indulgence in food makes me feel good.

(Note from Ronda: I did not interpret the Holy Spirit to mean ordinary pleasures in life but addictions.)

Politeness is good when it is an expression of respect, but it is even better when it overflows from solidarity and goodness of heart towards others in daily life.

Watch the way genuinely loving people conduct themselves in these small aspects of life such as light humor, affection, affirmation. Don't write this off as convention but learn from it and plunge yourself into the source: God the Father, “from whom comes all good gifts” (James 1:17)

May 18, 2008

Hospitality

Holy Spirit:

Your homes, your doors, your arms, should be open wherever possible. How sad. So many locked houses and locked up personalities, as you say. Yes, sometimes, locks are necessary. We know that, but it should be a sadness for you that this is so.

The house of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph was always open. The heart of Mary was wide open to the incarnation in her constant prayer; she let God stretch her – now you are rightly calling her the spiritual mother of the world.

Are some of you even self-protected against God your Father, your Creator? Like Adam and Eve after the Fall, do you hide from God rather than walk with him?

We miss you. A mother of a large family always knows when one does not come to the dinner table. We miss you when you don't come to the Eucharistic table. Unless you respond to the call with an open heart, how can you receive the Eucharist?

You have a thousand reasons to be locked in on your self. We understand. But we knock. This time, open the door.

May 19, 2008

Expectations

Holy Spirit:

Go back to the teaching on expectations in the Mary Rose messages. (This refers to the locutions of Mary Rose that I transcribe into the web-site www.thespiritualtransition.com) You felt a jolt of uncertainty at the thought, suppose very few read The Spiritual Transition? You think “if only one person, plant seeds, etc.” is a cliché bromide. This is because your culture is dominated by statistics and cynicism. This is not a PR campaign. It is a transition for hearts. Have you not been changed? Was it so easy for you to become more loving that you want to doubt that the Source is directly working on your transition? “Love is patient, love is kind...you are all too inclined to impatient harshness.

Yesterday you had a day of grey fear of the void. You became anxious. We told you that it was okay and to move slowly into what would be sent to you to fill your time. You are in training.

May 22, 2008

Our Church

Holy Spirit:

Those working to heal divisions in the Church sometimes want to minimize the splits so they can have hope. We want, through love, to open each side to the truths which will enable each of you to let go of attachments to errors and half truths.

The truths that set you free are known to you already, but are veiled, not only by false philosophies, but also by lack of deep spirituality. Notice that in the midst of all the ecumenical and interfaith dialogues, John Paul II called leaders together in Assisi for a retreat.

If you are called to help heal divisions, you must become closer to those around you. Before you would feel too angry with them to want to get to know them better.

(Note from Ronda: a reader wondered if this locution could be seeming to say the errors that divide don't matter. I replied that I thought it meant that experts should work on those thorny issues in ecumenical dialogue but that some of us, I included, would be better off trying simple love and prayer.)

May 23, 2008

The World Around You

Holy Spirit:

...Begin to link your own heart to all the pain and joy in the world in a cosmic yet personal sense. We don't want our children to be insular or global but deep and at the core and in touch with the hearts of others suffering and joyful.

You tend either to groveling despair or grandiose pride. But Jesus is high and lifted up on the cross with the seed of resurrection real but hidden.

When you cleave to Jesus, Mary and Joseph in prayer, you are mystically in touch with everything at the core. You are not narrowly chained to the local or

national, but this is not for the sake of making theories about the past, present and future, but to be able to love everyone through loving each individual who appears in your life.

By talking to you in this way, we want to unite your head and heart and will, imagination, and spirit. We can simultaneously stretch and deepen you when you truly surrender in trust.

Fear constricts and pride of ambition gives a false transcendence. Trustingly walk slowly, taking in, responding and then, as Jesus proclaimed, all will be one as I and the Father are one.

May 24, 2008

Poverty of Spirit in Battle

Holy Spirit:

When you are in a battle for the cause of truth, for Christendom; or to witness to your own personal values, you have an arsenal of words, your favorite weapons, that worked when others tried to convince you; that give you symbolic victory, words of Ours to bolster your truth with authority, sometimes taken out of context.

I am the Spirit of Truth. When in conflict, I want you to come to Me with the openness of the poor in spirit. This is not because there is no truth, but only what works in the present (that is Pilate's 'what is truth?')

There is personal truth as well as present day application. But, to let the truth shine through you, you have to be less defensive and really seek Me to give you the words that pierce, not like a dagger of hate, but like a two edged sword of LIGHT.

May 27, 2008

Light and Darkness

Holy Spirit:

(Context: I have been trying to be more silent at the instruction of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the locutions to Mary Rose. I think when I am being my usual chatterbox self it keeps me from seeing things in other people and in myself I don't like to see. So, whereas silence is generally positive for many people, for me it has the difficulties that the Holy Spirit is addressing.)

When you become more silent you can see in yourself and in others the twisted rays of light and dark in ways of life and character. You feel frightened, as you would say, alienated, from others and from yourself.

When you feel alienated from others, you want to hide in yourself, but then when you feel alienated from yourself, where do you go?

You have to run past any limiting images of us, to the real God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and Mary, to our real presences so that you can hide in us and become more like us to get light and love for others with less darkness and fear (defensiveness).

This process of transforming you, doesn't take place in a way that is clear to you. That is why trust is so important.

Often what you consider darkness is shadow and what you run to as light is glitter.

But we don't sit on high laughing at your struggles. We are cheering you on for each tiny victory when you see goodness where previously you were too defensive to notice or where someone you think is critical and unappreciative ratifies what you are doing.

The closer you come to us, the Light, the greater will be your yearning that others and you, yourself, can be only light. This is the Cross of those who are given more of a foretaste of heaven. Don't "kick against the goad." Trust.

May 28, 2008

Together

Holy Spirit:

Much of the time my children are knotted up in power struggles because of fear and pride. That makes it hard for you to benefit from all the ways you can help each other.

In your generation, where so many live very long, but in a weakened condition, you are forced into greater inter-dependence. This rankles, but gradually opens you to greater detachment from this earth and eagerness for total dependence on heaven.

The Church is a school of good inter-dependence because you need the self-donation of the priest for your daily heavenly bread in the Eucharist and he cannot fulfill his ministry without you coming to receive and all your works of love.

But, why is it so hard, you ask? For those of you who work in the parish, the more you want it to be heaven on earth the harder it goes. It can be the healing of your individual family wounds as you grow in love, but it can never satisfy you that way full union with us, the Trinity, the angels and saints will be in heaven.

We want you to cultivate gratitude for the tiniest gifts you receive each day from others in every part of your life. Yes, even for the charm and comfort of your pets. And, then, to let us in the sacraments and prayer fill you with Our love. This way you can be healed of all that pride and fear that pushes you to over-react to every annoyance, frustration and set-back.

To come into this good way of being together in preparation for heaven, doesn't require a plan. It is rather a yielding to impulses throughout the day and the leadings of your angel.

"The fruits of the Spirit are love, patience, joy..."

May 30, 2008

Breaking Down Barriers

Holy Spirit:

In the Trinity and in Paradise there were no barriers. Satan created the first barrier in his revolt and then Adam and Eve set up a barrier by disobeying God. They exiled themselves from Us in this way. The physical exile was an outward barrier, the closed gates guarded by angels.

Jesus' "all will be one" prophecy and vision removes the exile. "The veil of the Temple cracks" at the moment of His crucified death.

You, as humans experience this pattern in microcosm. You begin a friendship with joy, feeling kinship and openness. Then come the surprising negatives and you exile yourself from each other.

Instead you are to run to the heart of Jesus, dragging your image of your friend with you, and beg for healing love. Beg that the love of God in both your hearts can leap over the barriers or break them down.

Simply, you could pray: O God, I delighted so much in the light and goodness I saw in my friend. Now he or she seems like a knot of anger and fear with no room for me. I feel pushed out. I don't know how to be with this person.

And, perhaps, you could hear Us say something like: Keep lifting him or her into our light and trust that either now, soon, or in eternity, the love you had for one another will be purified and free of all barriers. Then forgive whatever part the other one has in that barrier and ask forgiveness if you are at fault, also.

Then ask simply: Today is there anything I can do to show love and understanding to my friend? A prayer, a word of empathy if nothing else?

And when you see your friend, ask Us for a clue about what is still possible between you. For example, you might not be best friends, but occasionally you can be an oasis of understanding for each other.

Love is a gift from Us, not a bargain the other failed to fulfill, where you got damaged goods for a high price! In a way it is like that, but you were also damaged

goods. (As the poet Auden wrote) “Thou shalt love thy crooked neighbor with thy crooked heart.”

May 31, 2008

Retirement

Holy Spirit:

You think of this with emotions that waver between relief and doubt. We think of it as a big time of preparing you for your eternity.

For many of you it is a time of increased physical pain and woes. These we use as purifications and ways to detach you from the earth and ready you for your voyage to your true home. It shortens the time of purgatory which is a purging of the vileness that narrowed your hearts. You need so much more space for graced love for your hearts to be ready for heaven.

It is a wonderful time for witnessing to those younger than you. By your joyful eagerness to be united to us in heaven, they get to see the deeper meaning of life, beyond survival and coping.

Of course, they can not see this if they think of our faces as filled with judgment of them. When you cannot avoid seeing their sins and faults, let that look from you be more sad rather than angry. “Dominus fleuit.” (The Lord wept - looking over Jerusalem) (Luke 19:41)

Think often of the older days in the lives of our saints.

(Ronda: I thought of Teresa of Avila dying with her head on the lap of her favorite Sister-friend. I thought of old Cardinal Newman doggedly persisting, hearing confessions for hours in cold confessionals, of Mother Teresa on her death bed telling us to be grateful for the beautiful things in life such as being able to walk. I thought of John Paul II asked why he still showed himself to Audiences in such terrible condition saying: They must see how I suffer for them.)

June 2, 2008 6:30 AM

Family

Holy Spirit:

You would like it to be all the good part: the long understandings from proximity through the generations; the physical closeness; the built-up gratitude for all the helps.

We understand that, after all, we created the family.

But, then, there are the swift judgments born of long knowledge; the resistance to compromise as each digs in with prideful self-defense; the love dished out in spoonfuls that more be not demanded.

And from this you flee back to friendship love, lighter, less painful but less primordial, less of the gut.

We understand, we created friendship.

You hope your own marriage and children would have all the best of family and friendship; in the image and likeness of what was best in your past families, but free from all the tangled grief and disappointments.

We don't dash your hope. We wanted, by our grace, to transform everything natural, through supernatural virtues and gifts into its best form.

Each time anyone in the family opens to grace there is more love, more joy, more peace. Each time one in the family closes the heart to the others and to us, there is less love, joy and peace.

We urge you into the arms of forgiveness, to heal the rifts, and to make new beginnings. Even when on earth the bonds break, we aim for final restoration in our home, which is called heaven.

June 3, 2008

Closeness

Holy Spirit:

You are ambivalent about closeness. Sometimes two of you can work together, your gifts complementing each other, but very often to try to do things together is to clash; each one slowed down by the resistance of the other, such as trying to put the collar on the cat's head while she is trying to keep it off.

You transfer this ambivalence to your relationship to us. You think if you get closer to the Father He will try to make you do what doesn't fit your personality, as your human fathers sometimes did. You think if you get closer to God the Son you will be crucified; you think if you let Me guide you moment by moment My fire will burn up all your own precious goals.

Try to think of it more like a cello and a violin in a duet. Yes, there is a score, but the violin has a different part than the cello. It is not drowned out by the cello and there comes about a beautiful harmony when each one does its own part well; much more beautiful than if the violin player just plays his or her own melody unrelated in any way to the will of the composer.

To avoid frightening you, we don't tell you moment by moment what our part is in your thoughts, words and deeds. We want you to learn the main pieces we can play together "by ear." We want you to hear when you are playing off key: reacting instead of responding, lashing out rather than forgiving...

Yet we have no trouble with the harsh notes, we can gather them up into a high harmony if you let us.

To see if you are playing with Us, listen. When you are playing with Us the sound is called love.

"The greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13)

June 4, 2008

Means and Ends

Holy Spirit:

You become insecure often because you make means into ends. These messages are a means, not an end. Think of St. Faustina, told that the new order would be founded before she died. (It wasn't physically founded but it was spiritually founded and then started after her death.)

We propose a means and if you accept, we move with that, but if there is too big an obstacle, then we try another means. Other possibilities are other means for furthering the end, which is union with Us.

So, you must become closer to Us right now and not cling to specific means. The messages are good means, but they might not go on the rest of your life. Jesus wasn't on earth until the end of time!

We understand that you cling to a means because you experience closeness to Us through it or you think you will get closer through it. That is fine, but We don't want you to be frightened if there is a change.

(Ronda: But the sacraments and the Church aren't just changeable means, are they?)

Holy Spirit: No, they *are* Us. However, we also work through other paths as John Paul II explained in *Threshold of Hope* with the Catholic Church being the direct beam of light to the world but other rays off it participating in that light.

"That all may be one." (John 17:11)

PART II OF GOD ALONE SUFFICES

June 5, 2008

Spiritual Warfare

Holy Spirit:

You can not help wishing for rest from the combat and you are startled to have to go back to the battlefield when you thought that victory was won. Only in heaven will that battle be over.

On earth, how can you win at all if your guard is down? If you don't call for reinforcements?

That doesn't mean that you need to be tense. More that you must be aware.

The sign that the enemy is near is that sense of disequilibrium; unexpected hostile winds; change of moods in those usually friendly.

But your weapon is not the sword, or the shield; but sacraments and prayer; unexpected love piercing through another's defenses as we pierce through yours.

All these weapons we give you for free, for we are an army of liberation; liberation from your fear and theirs.

"You know not the day nor the hour."(Revelation: 3:3)

HERE BEGINS THE SECOND SEGMENT OF GOD ALONE MESSAGES:

Before adding messages for the second set, I have been impressed by how often in Scripture and in the prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours there are references to being guided in life by God. Before receiving this steady stream of locutions I would have been inclined to think that these words about being guided meant the guidance already given in Revelation in scripture and tradition, but now I am thinking they could also be alerting us to the possibility of the kinds of “words in the heart” I have been receiving. Here are some of these passages for you to ponder if you have similar messages or if you want to pray something like: “Holy Spirit, I am reading these messages Ronda thinks are from you. If it would help to make me more holy, that is, more full of love of God and neighbor, to receive closer guidance through messages, please open me to receiving them.”

from the Psalms:

Psalm 43: “O send forth your light and your truth; let these be my guide. Let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.”

Psalm Prayer, Tuesday, Morning Prayer, Week II: Almighty Father, source of everlasting light, send forth your truth into our hearts and pour over us the brightness of your light.”

Psalm 49: “My lips will speak words of wisdom, my heart is full of insight. I will turn my mind to a parable...”

Psalm Prayer for Psalm 49 Tuesday Evening Prayer Week II: Make our mouths speak your wisdom, Lord Jesus...”

Psalm 86: Turn your ear, O Lord, and give answer for I am poor and needy...Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.”

Psalm Prayer for Psalm 130 Night Prayer Wednesday “

Psalm Prayer for Psalm 142 Sunday Evening Prayer II, Week 4 “Lord God, you are the eternal light which illumines the hearts of good people.”

Isaiah 2:2-5...”Come let us climb the Lord’s mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths. For from Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”

2 Peter 1:19-21 “Men impelled by the Holy Spirit have spoken under God’s influence.”

Hymn Tuesday Morning Week II, “This Day God Gives Me” includes the words “This day God sends me...wisdom as guide...Your lips are speaking, friend at my

side.” Hymn Tuesday Week II Evening prayer: Day is Done includes the words “You are with us ever lending new strength to sight.”

Hymn Friday, Morning Prayer Week II “Speak to the soul of all the human race...Defeat out Babel with your Pentecost.”

Antiphon Saturday Morning Prayer, Week II “Let us listen to the voice of God...”

Saturday Morning Prayer Week II Canticle Antiphon: Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Hymn Friday Week III Morning Prayer: “As we worship grant us vision, till your love’s revealing light, till the height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our human sight...stirring us to faithful service, your abundant life to share.”

Common of Holy Men, Morning Prayer Responsory: In the depth of his heart, the law of God is his guide....”

Prayer Office of Readings, Saturday, Tenth Week in Ordinary Time: God of wisdom and love, source of all good, send your Spirit to teach us our truth and guide our actions...”

St. Augustine from Office of Readings June 26: “If I lack either the time or ability to study the implications of so profound a mystery, he who speaks within you even when I am not here will teach you better.”

Some other reflections on the nature of these locutions:

When we read in Scripture in Acts about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, of which teaching is one, we may assume this means only teachings arrived at in the usual way by analysis of Scripture and Tradition, but the context could also suggest that these teachings could be more infused knowledge.

A Methodist Scripture scholar in my Christian Writing Group, Dr. Pat Looper, pointed out that her research shows that each of the prophets in the Old Testament is relating what God wants us to hear but in their own individual voice.

June 6, 2008 6 AM

Receptivity

(Note from Ronda: some of this is directed to me, personally, but the message fits many others, so I am including it.)

Holy Spirit:

There is so much We wish to show you each moment. Right now you hear the birds chirping outside the window and each picture on your wall glows with the meanings they have conveyed to you – some for 45 years.

Don't you see that these unexpected post-60th birthday years are expanding your tight little soul?

We understand how hard it is to release into a more contemplative way of life for those who have been so active. So we offer you less and more busy times; we let you see the contrast, each mode with its pluses and minuses.

The goal, always, that all may be received and given in peace and love.

Look forward each day with joy and hope to the Mass and your quiet prayer time, for this is where you, in a focused way, let us “melt and mold you, then fill you and use you,” as your song goes. It is your receiving time.

Humbly offer to us those snarled up moments where you don't see your way forward. Wool is still useful after it is unravelled of knots. Bring those knots to Us in trust.

“For those who love God all things work for the good.” (Romans 8;28)

June 7, 2008

Surrender

Holy Spirit:

Everything. Yes, surrender everything to Us, because we are your real future.

Do you see how your cats, even though they want to go out the door to a wider world, wait cautiously just outside the open door to check things out. Much more so do you look upward to heaven but then cringe backward shading your eyes from the sun.

Surrender seems supine, but is really a courageous leap into the better but less known. You could practice surrendering each day, not just as a set prayer you could do making the motions of surrender but not the act of surrender. Instead make a real act of surrender many times a day.

Ask your angel to help you. Think of it as a dancer's leap. You stay in the air longer and longer and one day you don't come down. That is the end and the beginning.

June 9, 2008

Surviving

Holy Spirit:

You are torn between the instinct of survival and the desire to leave this world.

As Mary Magdalene clung to the feet of Jesus after the resurrection and He said "Do not touch me," she would have wanted to be raised in the Ascension clinging to His feet. But Peter tried to flee from martyrdom and Jesus had to ask him "Quo vadis?"

When it is time for you to leave the earth We will do it in you. Until then we let the survival instinct push you through the obstacles in life that otherwise might daunt you.

Each morning is a sort of resurrection from the nightly death of your powers. Part of surrender is accepting this rhythm in your body/soul humanness. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord." That prayer of Mary is so perfect. See how she is clinging onto the Angel of the Annunciation, to Me, the Holy Spirit, who will conceive in her, and by pledging the future in her surrender, clinging to the Jesus, conceived in her, who she will serve.

So must you in the morning self-offering bind heaven and earth by choosing to survive not for earthly goals only, but surviving to do God's will "on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

Are you seeing how the themes of each of these messages are joined? And, yes, as you suspect, they are linked to themes in each day's liturgical readings.

Courage!

June 11, 2008

The Future

Holy Spirit:

You think of the future as a road already laid out that you must walk on. Rather all the decisions of every person pave the road. May the pavement not have the imprint of a brutal heavy boot. See how different paths look, the ones that are planted with the flowers of goodness! Without peril, the bare feet of a small child can walk on such a road without peril.

You cling to the news reports to be ready for the future. Do you ever see in these reports a picture of Jesus and hear His words, “follow Me”?

But His feet lead straight to Calvary, Rather than follow behind Him, you would prefer to touch Him lightly when your paths cross.

We want you to see the ultimate future as resurrected life so that you will run behind the Savior. Sing as you run!

“I have run the race, I have finished the course.” (2 Ti 4:7)

June 11, 2008 3 AM

Breaking Through

Holy Spirit:

You observe around you graveyards of the dreams of others. You can choose between ridicule and grief. You can train a critical eye on defects to score points or you can weep for those whose plans have crashed under the weight of their defects.

Which path is right? The critic’s path is justified. Didn’t Jesus scathingly condemn the evils choking his country? This He did to make room for a new way that was harder but better.

He also wept for those trapped themselves and manipulating others in power strategies. He wanted to gather the great and the weak under His wings to rescue them.

The break-through is both deeper and higher than the bleak alternatives between which you think you have to chose (in your daily decisions). Do the beatitudes look like a plan for success in the world?

The break-through is in the heart. Ask Us moment by moment to give you the love to see through all exterior evils into the disillusioned hearts of others. Is that not how We used Our followers to win your heart?

**“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”
(Matthew 6:12)**

June 12, 2008

Waiting to See

Holy Spirit:

You want to pre-judge situations to flee from the pain of disappointment. But, in this way, you cut off what is not full grown, or, as Jesus said, you ‘pull out the wheat with the chaff.’

We would like you to be willing to wait more to see what We have planted in souls that might need something from you.

Every possibility is doomed if success is measured by a perfect score in reaching only one person’s goals. Do children drop out of team sports unless they are the star players? Not if they love the game.

So, do what you love and bring along as many as respond for as long as they wish. Have gratitude for what comes that is good, but less measurement during the process. See how tense it makes you when you measure each activity every day?

Trust in Us that We will draw you in and lead you out of the situations that come along. Loosen your grip. We have given you models such as St. Paul and St. Teresa of Avila who went many places and tried many things.

‘Let nothing disturb you, let nothing...’

June 14, 2008

The Promised Land

Holy Spirit:

The promised land is a prophecy, a dream, a rest stop, a foretaste, and finally your eternal home.

Above all it is Our gift and you open the gift and enjoy it when you are willing to dwell in the land. To dwell is to enjoy the milk and honey in company with other pilgrims.

How can you enjoy the promised land if you are more like a looter rushing through the land, dragging on your back more than you can carry?

In the Eucharist, Mother Church gives you the bread from heaven, a miniature form for the Eternal who entered time. In Confession, the priest, your travel agent, so to speak, rids you of the excess baggage you took on in fear and greed.

In each moment, through the lesser gifts of life on earth, We want to expand your hearts. Please notice.

“That your joy may be full.” (John 15:11)

June 14, 2008

Islands of Peace

Holy Spirit:

In war, unconditional surrender leads to a time of peace. In a similar way, when many of you have been struggling within yourselves you can give up all your ways of trying to win and then We can enter and bring a time of peace.

Remember how often Jesus says, “Be not afraid,” and “Peace be with you.”

It is not that We want to see you humiliated in your battles with yourselves and others. It is that there is no real winning on the human fields of battle you create, despite the beauty of your flags.

We want to bury the dead and something new and unexpected rises from the ashes.

The resurrection of Jesus: what is important is that it happened, not your analysis of how. So, too, in those little resurrections of hope after bitter tears. What is important is that you are there on a small island of peace. Take it in.

“Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

June 15, 2008

The Prize

Holy Spirit:

What do you really want, my children? More? More life, more joy, more love, more success?

Your whole being is created to want more. You are not like rocks in the sun. You are always in motion toward some prized reward – short and long term wishes and goals.

It is a sort of race. It tires you out always running toward prizes but to sit still also tires you out. You can experience this as a rhythm of work and Sabbath, running to rest; resting to run again.

What do We really want for our children? More life, more joy, more love, more of the right kind of success. (Note from Ronda: I thought this meant how success is being a good sport sometimes vs. winning a game.) Jesus told you before He left this earth that He would send Me to guide you. The guide book is the Bible

and the teachings of our Church. Also, Me speaking in each of your hearts. The light shines through.

We look for docile eager students who we can teach to run toward the good and also to rest in it. We have chosen you; do you want to pledge yourself to Us?

“I have finished the race.” (2 Timothy 4:7)

June 16, 2008

Pace and Openness

Holy Spirit:

Imagine a sight-seeing procession. Ideally it is timed for the right amount of contact with what is to be viewed. The tourists are not jostled quickly past the most important sites.

Rural life was paced by nature: dawn, midday sun, twilight, nightfall, seasons. There was ample time to absorb the nature of trees and animals and weather in the midst of the work cycle. Think of cooking (as an example of absorbing the nature of each food). Think also of the pace of monastic hours of prayer.

In your era, you think instead of spirituality as leaping out of time, out of nature, into the eternal. You think of being saved from the realities you have made, into our eternal now.

More Catholic, universal, is a rhythm of the created with the Uncreated, in and out, out and in, like breath. When you release yourself into Us in prayer, we fill you and then send you back into your world to be open to it and transform it. The pace is liturgical, not rushed.

“There will be a new heaven and a new earth.” (Revelation 21:1)

June 17, 2008

Acceptance?

Holy Spirit:

Your sins nail others to the cross. Obvious are the victims when the sins are theft, scorn, babies torn from their mother’s wombs, terrorized innocents in wars. Les obvious are the victims when they are in complicity as when the victims of lust short-change each other willingly. And is the exploited laborer who wants the job not still a victim?

The victims don’t always look like Christ on the cross but they feel the nails in their hearts.

How can you both fight sin, your own and those of others, and yet accept having to live in a world that is full of sin?

Picture a fleeing mob coming upon a launching pad. They see battered but viable helicopters descending to rescue them. Some, wounded in battle, slink away rejecting helping hands. Most let themselves be carried on board.

Once safely on board they spy their pursuers on the ground. Some throw things out of the planes to hit their enemies, but one calls out: “Surrender! If you surrender, after we land in safety we will send back rescue planes for you, too.”

“O happy fault, that led to such a Savior.”

Which choice will you make?

Can you see your enemy as one as desperate as you?

You are not called to accept sin, but “to love the sinner.”

(Note from Ronda: As a member of the board of directors at Flynn House (a group home for men addicted to alcohol and drugs) I thought I should know more about what the AA meetings are actually like. I was astounded. Here were all these “tough guys” – quite a number on motorcycles, coming in and being so warm to each other and open and honest and needy of each other. I thought, my God, does it take reaching a bottom that low before men can relate in a heart-felt manner to each other? I am now thinking that these locutions from the Holy Spirit are supposed to be related to my experiences during the day, partly to train me through deeper insights. So I am including the context of some of them where that context seems relevant.)

Pride of Life

(“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life, is not of the Father but of the world.” 1 John 2)

Holy Spirit:

You like to see energy in people: in sport, dance, building, climbing, bringing powerful music out of an organ. In nature you like to see the power of the ocean or in a tiger. Adam and Eve were full of such life.

Then you see the bad side of power: arrogance, dominance, cruelty: Cain killing Abel.

In every situation after the fall there are the two sides: the happy joy of life and the bad pride of life of feeling superior. That pride must be crushed before We

can make the “new man in Christ.” One must lose the bad pride of life, for instance, because of ill-fortune or the grim consequences of sin, before one can be molded as soft dough into a person who can love and show the need for being loved.

To pray is to acknowledge that your life-force was not and is not enough to bring the happiness you crave. Through your surrender to Us in prayers, we can transform the bad pride of life into energy for building the kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven.

June 18, 2008

Leaning

Holy Spirit:

It takes defeat for most men to become humble and willing to accept the help of God and of other men.

For most women it takes disillusionment to lean less on men and stand upright in the strength of the Spirit.

Hand in hand, walking with God, the redeemed men and women can go forward. Hand in hand is not one dominating and the other leaning.

That is the ideal. You see it in Mary and Joseph. Think of the journey to Egypt. Joseph had been broken in his pride by the people thinking the baby in Mary’s womb was not his. Mary could not lean on Joseph during his time of uncertainty. Now, together, they go off to Egypt, a new land for them, hand in hand with the God-man, little Jesus.

Between the unredeemed and the redeemed is a long process of life together for you men and women with all the conflicts. You can not go forward without the essential element of forgiveness.

Parents want to be as gods to their children. The children take all their strength, drink up all their love. All that time they need to be taught to find strength and love in the divine Father and, in a different way, in Mary, their spiritual mother.

Children need to grow up; that is up-ward, toward their heavenly destiny. When they have outgrown their intense neediness, they don’t lean, but join hand in hand with you.

The way is strewn with crosses, but leads to the promised land.

June 20, 2008

(It seemed as if I dreamt in Spanish to “evitar” the “chip.” and give to the poor. I awoke with a sense of fear. There is a conspiracy theory that claims that before the end of the world the Anti-Christ will make everyone insert a chip in their foreheads in order to prove identity and that this will be used to tyrannize over us.)

Give to the Poor

Holy Spirit:

Do not be afraid. Cling to the Church and give to the poor. The “chip” is a symbol of the world and fear of loss.

Those who have Us as their locus don’t need to fear. We want you to be a “light” at the top of the mountain.

We have prepared you for a long time. Those who want to be poor are not desperate if a change in life-style becomes prevalent.

You can start now to do things in more basic ways. We will help you. Ask about each thing you buy or undertake: is this necessary? Savor what you have in each moment.

“Behold, I make all things new.” (Rev 21:5)

June 21, 2008

Lightness

Holy Spirit:

The more insecure you feel, the more heavy-handed you become as you grab onto what you think you need, like a climber slipping down the mountain grabbing onto branches.

When it is people you are grabbing onto they will often resist to avoid becoming prey, entrapped, used.

This is why quiet prayer time is a necessity.

Can you see how much lighter is the approach to life of those who are more secure? The climber with a sure guide finds the right place to put the foot and from that secure place can reach out and up with a lighter hold.

There are many ways of explaining this: the Eastern concept of detachment or a phrase like “Let go, let God.”

Now, don’t become heavy-hearted thinking about how insecure you still are! When you feel insecure, what you have to do is grip tightly onto Us. Since we are usually invisible, you have to do this through prayer. For those with many tasks this

can be done with little prayers throughout the day and then longer times as possible. for those of you with ample time the insecurity of so many possibilities could bring you often to Us for longer times of restful peace. From Us you can move more lightly into the next moments of your day.

“My peace I give unto you, not as the world gives.” (John 14:27)

A quote from Lily Tomlin! “Why is it when we talk to God we are said to be praying but when God talks to us we’re said to be schizophrenic?”

June 22, 2008

Wisdom

Holy Spirit:

Wisdom without patience leaves out love. What good is it to understand more and more about the global scene and the people around you and about yourself if you don’t have the patient love to overcome the disgust that comes from bitter truths?

Honor those who doggedly work moment by moment to learn and apply and wait. Remember the images of patient farmers Jesus gave you.

To surrender your hearts to God and surrender to God those you love, which should include all humanity, is to recognize that only His love can bridge the gap between truth and realization.

In some past eras and in some countries now, the perception of injustice led and leads into immediate impulses to vengeance. In your times often impatience leads to the so-called quick fix for all frustrations by any method near at hand, from breaking the law to abortion.

Person by person and person to person you need to learn to come into divine wisdom and live that wisdom in patient love.

“In your patience you will save your souls.”

(Dear reader: if you use Scripture you will know that we remember in our heads some translation and then when we look in a Concordance it is not there because it is the same meaning but different words. I tried to find this, but I couldn’t. Maybe you can find it and write me an e-mail!)

June 23, 2008

Unity and Truth

Holy Spirit:

You are concerned that the Transition will bring people from different religions into a false unity to the sacrifice of truth.

That is because you are looking for external unity. What we are bringing about is a more spiritual unity of all who have been open to letting Us invade their hearts.

When people of many religions and nations visit the Pope he doesn't proclaim that there is only one true Church and they must enter. He tries to reach into their hearts by understanding and gifts so that they feel loved.

One day all the saved will know God to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit and will be one universal worshipping body, but the way we will bring this about and the way it will look will not be as you picture it now.

Think of the painting in your Church of Christ the Guru. It is not a picture of an Indian holy man worshipping a cross. It is Jesus showing Himself in the form an Indian would understand. Or, think of the many images of Mary in the apparitions of the different nations. She doesn't have to look like a Jewish woman of the Old Testament to be true. An Eastern Catholic Church united to Rome, looks more like an orthodox church than a Roman church. Mother Teresa looked more like an Indian woman than like a traditional Catholic nun.

Meanwhile, We want to give you the experiences and the gifts to be a light shining in the darkness until the day the light and the darkness will be permanently severed.

“Speak the truth with love,” (Ephesians 4:15) and you will kindle the flame.

June 24, 2008

Fear

Holy Spirit:

You often wake up fearful. It is part of your nature as a contingent being, always in need. It is part of living among strangers with unknown motives.

How do We work to change fear into trust?

Before the Transition we trained you in your morning offering to turn to Our invisible presence. In giving your day to Us you would be reminded of the purpose of your life and how your emotions could be brought under the control of our providence and will. Throughout the day in prayer you linked your quaking or tired or grateful hearts to Us. Those who received daily the Body and Blood of Jesus were strengthened by His real presence coming right into their bodies. With daily contrition and the sacrament of penance (weekly in the past) you allowed Us to take away the debilitating consequences of sin such as the fear that leads to and issues from hate.

Till the end of the world these will be our fundamental ways to be closer to you and overcome your fear.

Now more of you are coming into the ecstatic union (for more about the meaning of this word go to www.thespiritualtransition.com especially June 22, 2008) You will be able to see Us and feel Our presences as a constant, each in your own way. You will be less likely to fall into the abyss of your own weaknesses.

“That all may be one.” (John 17:11)

June 25, 2008

Personal Spirituality

Holy Spirit:

Christian doctrine is objective and unassailable. Though it is ultimately about the salvation of each person, it is not focused on the specific personality of each of you.

Scripture, by contrast, includes stories with specific words and actions of individuals. You will notice that it is full of risk. David has to trust that God wants to make use of his training in stoning wild beasts to help him defeat Goliath. He risks his life on his trust that it is God's will that he step forward.

In your personal history you have times where the risks you took failed in your purpose. A small child tries to show love for a parent with a gift that is ridiculed; a man or woman reveals love for a person who rejects him or her.

As a result, you can become wary of self-revelation. Your way of being with Us, instead of being child-like and free can become overly formal.

There is balance when you have in each day some perfectly formed liturgical prayer, but then, also, an ever flowing current of personal lifting of your hearts in trust to Us and to our family of Mary, angels, and saints.

There is healing when you are elevated above random prayer into the universal rhythm of liturgy. There is healing, also, in believing that We who created you to be an individual person cherish your endearing ways of showing your love and receiving Our love. Think of Mary Magdalene plunging through the ridicule of the Pharisees to anoint the feet of Jesus with her hair.

Singing in worship is so important with each person's voice harmonizing with the others in praise. Also when those with the gift of tongues pray, each one's words are different, but they blend in song.

If you recall, I am called "the comforter." There is comfort in losing yourself in the throng in public formal prayer. There is also comfort in curling up into Our embrace in littleness in personal prayer.

Pray to be free of every fear that keeps you from fullness.

"I will send the Holy Spirit, the comforter."

June 26, 2008

Light Shines in Darkness

Holy Spirit:

Some days dark powers seem triumphant. You thought you had found a place of security and find instead darkness and danger.

It makes you want to hide. The Apostles on Palm Sunday felt triumphant. By Good Friday most fled and hid.

Now it is your turn. Sometimes We tell you to flee, but more often we want you, whatever the price, to stay as a lampstand for Our light. You are to speak the truth, not with hate, but with love. If not you, who? Can you sense that your own words are stronger since you have been receiving these messages?

Often, when you feel you can not win, that is the time when We can win, even if our victory is not visible. Was Our victory visible when Jesus was crucified? Only a few saw the light bursting through the darkness, but those few were enough for Us to use to spread the light throughout the whole world.

“I come to bring not peace by the sword.” (Matthew 10:34)

June 27, 2008

“The Greatest of These is Love”

Holy Spirit:

God has led each of you through different paths to different treasures. You can come to love a value or virtue in such a way that you become not only its champion but also its defender and then can set in almost a spirit of rivalry.

St. Paul wrote of the different gifts of the Spirit, culminating with the blazing proclamation that the greatest of these is love. Can you see that the quality of one small deed of love having its source in divine love is “the pearl of great price”? (Matthew 13:46)

It is not a matter of teeth gritting decisions to overcome your resistance to sacrifice. Rather by sincerity of response to Our love for you, you let Us overcome the resistance to sacrifice. Humble contrition for failure keeps your hearts from closing up in defensive rationalizations of selfishness.

Gradually your heart is enlarged. In the end there will be no stopping the flow of love.

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June 28, 2008

Holy Spirit:

“On the top of the mountain, “no-thing.”

(an allusion to the famous saying of St. John of the Cross: On top of the mountain, nothing.”

**The air is thinner:
no smog.
You are lighter:
less attachments**

**Do you see
that being “we”
with Us
you are better
more free
not so shaky
not so angry**

not so tired

**less closed in with your wounds
more close into other's hearts?**

We call it "the Transition."

June 27, 2008

"The Greatest of These is Love" (1 Corinthians 13:13)

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June 29, 2008

At the Prayer Meeting I immediately associated the radiant mysticism of the leaders and some others with the term ecstatic union Mary gave us concerning the Transition.

"Hope in Things not Seen" (Romans 8:25)

Holy Spirit:

There is pathos in hope. To wish for what is not immediately present seems to court failure. Disappointment is humiliating.

See how staunch was the hope of Mary and John and the few others standing under the Cross!

Coming to Church is an act not only of faith but of hope. You hope that responding to Our promise will bring you and others one day to heaven. Each little prayer for each other is a banner of hope.

What about hope for yourselves and each other here on earth? Pessimism can be self-protective, judgmental. It can close you to grace. But naïve hope is a denial of obstacles to success within and without.

The Christian is to see the seeds of God amidst the brambles; to applaud the spring rains and the signs of growth that follow.

Can you hear Us begging you to hope? How could We lead the saints into martyrdom if we didn't know that we could fulfill their hope?

“and even if it die...” (John 12:24)

June 30 2008

Power

Holy Spirit:

You love power and you fear power. It is the human condition. Jesus tries to teach you something to transcend human ways of understanding as in “behold the lilies of the field” or the temple veil is rent by an earthquake, but also by the drops of His blood or the child as the symbol of the kingdom.

The words of St. Paul speak of Christian virtue as the power to do good.

Your minds must be on the Gospel, the good news. Scanning the horizon for the bad news brings the illusion of the power to resist, but resolves nothing, for there are always powerful enemies without and within that threaten you.

The augmented power you feel in the joining of hands is a symbol of the different type of power. The images in Scripture of the end of the world symbolize the defeat of purely natural power. Christ's resurrected body doesn't defeat the Romans, but defeats the laws of gravity as it ascends.

Grab His feet!

July 1, 2008

Being Drawn In

Holy Spirit:

We, the source of your being, want to draw it always further in.

Grace can be for the purpose of giving you extra energy to do Our will on earth. Think of St. Paul and other missionaries. Think of a Christian's daily life of work for others.

Grace is the energy for good action, but it is also the power to enter *in* to Our realm. You rest in Us and breathe in "fresh air" so you return to your life tasks with new energy.

Watch this in those you think are close to Us. Can you see when their faces reveal more light? Can you feel more tenderness in their glance or touch?

The seed is hard, the fruit is soft.

"You shall go from grace to grace, from glory to glory." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

July 2, 2008

(On the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, our priest, Fr. Ken Whittington, gave an incisive sermon to us in this Bible Belt area of North Carolina. Quoting Jesus making Peter the Rock on which He would build His church, Fr. Ken said, "He didn't say on this book I will build My church. The church assembled the New Testament gradually. Of course, he added, the Bible is the Word of God, but it is not the rock.)

Written Words and Persons

Holy Spirit:

You read about Jesus naming Peter the Rock in the sacred book, but in the earliest days of the Church the people (who had not seen Jesus themselves when He was on earth) heard about Jesus from the mouths of people, the apostles, the disciples. The resurrected Jesus spoke to Mary Magdalene, to Peter, to Thomas personally. The written word is a means, not a substitute for persons.

People change and wound, so you can come to prefer written words to people, thinking words hold still. We use the words of truth to reach your minds and hearts such as the words of the Creed. But the Word that became flesh was a person; the second Person of the Trinity and then a person on earth. When the body dies you will not see a book but a Person, your savior. Heaven will not be a library, but the communion of persons.

Because of what He saw and felt in a personal encounter, St. Thomas Aquinas thought the words in his books were but straw.

We are not asking you to throw away all books with written words. Are not these messages sent to become written words? But We do not want you to cling to them as if they were your salvation.

Each single moment of contact in loving presence with Us or with any human person can be for you an opening of the doors of heaven; an opening toward the ecstatic union. After all, new human persons do not come from words but from the “ecstatic union” of two persons.

Is not the Trinity an ecstatic union of Persons?

“Be not afraid.” (Matthew 28:10)

July 3, 2008

Setting Forth on a Vaster Sea

Holy Spirit:

You long for larger horizons. At the same time you rush back to the cozy safety of your homes. This is a natural in and out of human life on earth.

For your minds there is a joy in opening to wider views, but then you can become lost in speculation and need to come home to the fundamental truths.

In the Church we present to you the vista of an unknown but gleaming heaven and then gather you into your well-known parish settings with the one table of the sacrifice, finally giving you what is as safe as one Eucharistic host.

In this out and in rhythm you suddenly feel bewildered. You need to echo the words of Jesus on the Cross: “Into Your hands I commend my spirit.”

Children laugh more than adults because they have more trust, but the benign smile of an old one, tells of long tested trust and abiding hope. (The smile of Benedict XVI?)

The sailors knew to trust Mary, Star of the Sea.

July 4, 2008

Intensity

Holy Spirit:

We want you to be intense in a way that attracts rather than frightens. We want an intensity of love, not of pseudo-power

People were not afraid of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They were drawn by the intensity of their love. So also with the saints.

It seems to you paradoxical that to become more intense in this loving way you have to become more relaxed in your prayer.

Prayer of presence is not tense but receptive. This is because supernatural love that comes into you and radiates from you is not tense. Tension comes from fear.

Our love is intense because it is person to person, but it is relaxed because it is a response to what is of unchangeable value; your created being and what we have created in the being of those you encounter.

Supernatural intensity is as rhythmic as music. Tension, by contrast, is jerky, as you try to coerce others into fitting into some plan you have created to allay fear; for example, fear of loneliness.

So do not begrudge Us the time of receptive prayer. The ecstatic union depends upon your willingness to come out of your habitual state of defensive planning.

Refreshed by Our intense tender love for you, you will be better able to direct rays of love into the hearts of others.

Try!

July 5, 2008

Silence

Holy Spirit:

With what words can We teach you the limits of words?

We want to teach you not a dull silence but a rich silence; the silence that comes from going out of yourself into ecstatic union with Us and our creation.

Tedious chatter comes from your enemy: fear. You try to ward off fear, ultimately fear of death, through wordy plans. Since corpses are silent, you prove to yourselves that you are alive by hearing your own voices.

Speech as response is better; more musical. You hear a request, pick up a concern, sense a need. Your voiced response signifies you are ready with helpful love.

Your tongue cries out against the threat of such seeming restriction. You ask if I would you condemn the joys of self-expression? Always you want to justify excess by reference to the evil of its opposite: poverty.

We treasure your spontaneous personal voices. What we wish to tame is the scattered noises of your anxiety.

Try for just awhile slowing down and questioning what you want to say. Favor words of communion what Us; words of praise of beauties large as the sky, small as a flower; words of thanksgiving; words of humble need.

Reject words of anger; words of complaint; words of critique; words of prodding.

One day your song will blend into Our song.

(Beware) “The tongue is a fire...set on fire by hell”(James 3:6)

July 6, 2008

Poured Out

Holy Spirit:

It is safe inside the bottle, the libation slowly gaining flavor and strength. The interior life grows in darkness. Then comes the time to let Us bring you out to be served, tested, tasted, relished or, perhaps, spit out!

We waste nothing. Think of the angels saving the blood pouring out of the side of your Savior on the crucifix.

Mary’s and your consent to Our plan is at first without boundaries. The specifics of Our plan unfold. At each unexpected turn we leave you free to take back your consent. Appalled, Peter cried out: “I know not that man!” Your weaknesses become part of Our plan. How many find in Peter’s tears the impetus to their own repentance!

The risen Jesus came right through the locked doors of His hidden disciples. He was eager to reassure them. He will anoint them before leading them forth, themselves, to be poured out.

Take courage. Let us lead you into the unknown future.

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness shall not overcome it.” (John 1:5)

I PRESUME THAT MORE WILL FOLLOW OF THESE MESSAGES. IF YOU WANT TO BE INFORMED WHENEVER I ADD A NEW SEGMENT WRITE TO ME AT chervinronda@gmail.com and ask to be put on a group contact list for God Alone.

3rd set of messages starting July 7, 2008

January 7, 2008

Results

Holy Spirit:

You think of results as direct effects of causes. We think more of radiation of power as in light.

When you don't see results as you try to witness to Our love, you are disappointed. We are not disappointed because we are sending love to others through you. The light shines through even the darkness in you that makes you so ashamed.

The darkness in you does block those you witness to from accepting you or accepting your concrete plans for them. As it were, they throw away the package, you, and grab what is inside (Our love). All you see is how they reject the package and you feel discouraged. You don't see them in the home in their hearts cherishing the gift.

If this were not true, how could 12 men, who were martyred, "cause" the conversion of peoples throughout the whole world?

I hear the sceptic in you shrugging this off. With the cause and effect mentality, you think this result came more from conquest than from grace. That is the dark side. But, because We are Love, Our rays come into the hearts of all who open to Us no matter what the circumstances.

"I am the light of the world." (

July 8, 2008

(note, words in parentheses are Ronda's explanations)

Microcosm

Holy Spirit:

We want you to learn how to see the All in the small. This is not pantheism (the theory that all creatures are God) or sentimentality (a fatuous cooing over the sweet) as you might fear.

It has to do with the imago Dei, with omnipresence, with symbols, with ecstatic union.

Think of

- all the notes in a symphony rushing toward the final triumphant chord;**
- the kiss of bride and groom at a wedding**
- the smile of a baby: the first to be seen by the parents**

- each Mass encapsulating every Mass

In the end, when the barriers break down between the religions of the world, all will become one, not in some false blurring synthesis, but in a mighty ecstatic union where the partial will rush toward the full.

July 9, 2008

Convergence

Holy Spirit:

The closer you get to heaven the more earthly division distresses you. You see no way to overcome it whether it be in the realm of the political or the ecclesial. These divisions are long entrenched, coming as they do from real sins of the past.

Healing will come through grace. You can cooperate in making openings for grace by avoiding denunciation in favor of understanding the reasons for the dividing stances.

Imagination can help. Think of small children learning fear and hate as necessary for self-protection. Let yourself notice the unexpected that comes when someone leaps over the division in a gesture of solidarity. Don't you want to be one who, with Our help, can make those kind of leaps?

Start by noticing in yourself the impulses to fear and hate and how they come up in the moment you are thwarted in the smallest goal. Can you see that quietly accepting the jolt to your will and working through the problem for the best solution feels peaceful? It prevents you from hasty, harsh, blame with the retaliation that cements division. Humble forgiveness put you and others on the same plane. And, then, with the same people or similar ones, at another time, there can be a convergence of needs and helps.

It is not a matter of "figuring out," but of releasing it into Our hands and then responding to Our prompts.

"In the world it is impossible, but nothing is impossible for God."

"Blessed be the peacemakers."

July 10, 2008

**I awoke during the night with a sense of motherly warmth: my mother's? Mary's?
And then came this locution:**

Comfort

Holy Spirit:

The word has a ambiguous ring to you. The desire to be comforted can seem babyish, as if refusing the tough challenges of life in work or even sports. Yet the “giving of comfort” always sounds maternal in a positive way.

To prepare you for heaven, then, We simultaneously wean you from too human a need for earthly comforts, and attach you to spiritual comfort.

What is spiritual comfort? It can come from Divine grace pouring into your souls, but it can also come from the hope of Our approval for your righteousness when you chose the good, often at some sacrifice. This comes from Our paternal justice.

From deprivation of human comfort you can become closed or combative. Moderate human comforts are healing of this: good food, drink, the warmth of the sun. Surfeit of comforts makes you sluggish.

All this is part of the drama of life. Part of heaven will be to know how it all worked. Will you let the richness of all these elements of life give you hope?

“We now see through a glass darkly.”

July 11, 2008

Security

Holy Spirit:

There is a good security. Think of “the house built on good foundations,” being with people you trust because they are honest and responsible; sound investments, hard earned savings.

This is good, but there is something better: the security of being saved by God’s all understanding love. In this sense mercy is safer than justice, for “who can ransom his own soul?” even with piles of merit?

St. Francis of Assisi called death “sister death.” He understood death as a sort of trampoline to help you leap from your temporal securities into the security of God the Father’s waiting arms. Judgment there will be, but no longer on your own fallible terms.

So much of the gospel is about letting go of earthly security, the stocking up of barns for a non-existent future.

Come! Let yourself be saved.

July 12, 2008

Insight

Holy Spirit:

Beware of circling around stale self-justifying thoughts. Such repetition is very different from the wholesome cycle of nature or the rhythm of daily activities which brings peace.

Insight comes when you let the rays of Trinitarian light into the darkness of mind that comes with the Fall.

The Gospels are full of parables about such breakthroughs: the Prodigal son; and encounters with real people such as the woman at the well. The Good News According to _____(your name) could be written about such moments of turning.

In periods when your life is not in crisis, We try to give you insight through watching nature or casual encounters. The sky tells you of the infinite. The pleasure of a supermarket worker helping you find what you are looking for could give you insight into the goodness of inter-dependence. Favorite music lifts you above the tragic: a sign that you are not stuck in frustration but can transcend it.

Simplicity of life should lead to less rush and pressure with more room to receive fresh insight. Even in physical pain, disappointment, or loss, open to the Spirit of Truth for unexpected light.

July 12, 2008

Cultures Blended and Transformed

(Of all the locutions in this series this one seems most like me writing rather than the Holy Spirit. On the other hand it corresponds in many ways to the reading at the Mass for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary time which followed the locution and, of course, some of the ideas which seem like summaries of my own previous reflections on life could themselves have been inspired by the Holy Spirit. You can just take whatever you think is true and ruminate on it.)

Holy Spirit:

You can rightly bemoan the violence of the history of peoples; of conquest; the blood of battle; the enslavement of peoples.

How do We bring good out of all those sins that exploded out of the initial rupture of the peace of Eden?

You can see this good in the fact of the tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe (this is the miraculous and beautiful imprint of Mary's face on the robe of a Mexican during the time of the conquistadores which led to the conversion of millions of Mexicans) It is a noble, sorrowful, native face, yet she also appears as the transformation of Spanish culture. The craving for gold is transmuted into the prophesied gold of Revelation in the image of the woman clothed with the sun.

Can you see in the portrait of St. Paul in the Scripture the blending of the fierce Jewish obedience to God with the Roman vision of universality?

In United States culture out of the tragedy of slavery you see coming forth the Afro-American mode of love for Jesus which you hear in passionate gospel music. Now with the waves of immigration you can see out of intense survival needs coming forth a fiery expression of desperation and gratitude for salvation penetrating the perennial universal (Catholic means universal) more serene rituals.

We don't will for you the miseries of evil in the tangled effects from the paths you took when you chose to listen to the Evil One rather than walk with your Father in the garden.

It is from all of that tragedy that you are to be redeemed, saved and a sign of redemption is the transfiguration of each people. Violence is a foretaste of hell; beauty a foretaste of heaven.

(Later, when I was "arguing" with the Holy Spirit that this all sounded too blunt, with not enough sense of the mystery of suffering that we can not understand and can only accept because of the gift of faith, He seemed to add this example: the devil leads people to abortion, but the souls of the babies go into the lap of Mary.)

July 14, 2008

10 Signs of Awakening

The Holy Spirit:

- 1. We desired greater closeness to God but knew we could not bring this about by ourselves.**

2. We became aware that God wished to be closer to us in the innermost recesses of our heart.
3. We sensed, saw, or heard, God breaking through the barriers in us of sin, routine, and fear.
4. We found the Holy Spirit's presence more strongly reaching out to us in our individual and group prayer; in the liturgy, and in communion and reconciliation; to comfort and guide us.
5. We perceived Jesus, more and more, in the suffering hearts of others: those close to us and those less known. This gave us fresh impetus to try to overcome injustices of small and larger scale.
6. We found mercy in the kindness and goodness in the hearts of others for ourselves.
7. We saw God's hand more clearly in the beauty in nature, in human inventiveness, and in the arts.
8. We felt the embrace of Jesus and Mary in our worst physical and emotional pain. This enabled us better to forgive others and ourselves.
9. We believed and hoped more strongly, in spite of all our weaknesses and evils, in God's plan of love for the present and for eternity.
10. We experienced our beings expanding with greater joy, peace, trust, gratitude and love.

July 15, 2008

“Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”

Holy Spirit:

Jesus warned you about hoarding; about a false sense of security for those who take no risks. Because He was the “Way, the Truth and the Life” He asked his children, his followers, to risk even death on a cross for a heaven they could not see.

In spite of the evidence of the miracles, many followers, even the closest, chose flight over the risk of crucifixion. Can you blame them?

At certain moment in each of your lives you come to a crossroads where the price of faith seems too great; everything to gain by being a spectator instead of a player...or so it can seem.

How often Jesus chided the people for their lack of faith. This would be cruel unless He, Himself, had given them the evidence to make the leap.

Whose hands are dragging you back to the safety of skepticism? Whose hands are waving to you from a better place on high?

(I thought of St. Paul – first totally skeptical to the point of persecuting and arranging for the death of Christians, but then converted by a vision only he saw.)

July 16, 2008

1,2,3, Go!

Holy Spirit:

At race or a performance, you train and train and train and the it is upon you and you have to let go of everything else and rush into the act.

We want you now to be decisively focused, not on a physical feat but for loving response. That is what poverty of spirit is about. Only when you are empty of your self-protective calculations can we fill you with our energies of love.

But it is not as if you were a mere instrument or machine. It is precisely through your natural, freely responding personality that We want to work.

- Think of a mother singing to her babe.**
- Think of a carpenter smoothing a piece of wood.**
- Think of St. Peter looking at the fish in the net and envisaging them as the mean Jesus told him he would catch for the kingdom.**

Think of the people you call holy. Don't you feel in them this readiness to respond? Yet they are not tense, just truly present and in their eyes you see their love.

It is all right if these words make you feel inadequate. That should lead you the more to welcome Us in prayer.

July 17, 2008

Watching and Waiting

Holy Spirit:

In the light you see beautiful qualities in each other. These you want to embrace that you might have them always with you.

Shortly afterwards the shadows fall over the image and you see only what is dark, closed in, finally a mere outline. From this vision, dismayed, you recoil; reject.

How can human love be steadfast if that is the only cycle? Who can survive such scrutiny? It would seem that only inertia would keep any of you together.

Is our Christian call to love, then, no more than a pathetic fantasy?

That would be to think only the perfect is real. That is one way of transcendence; one form of “God Alone is Enough.” The disciples wanted to stay on top of the mountain with the transfigured Jesus, never to return to the city.

Another way to understand God Alone is Enough, that We wish for you, is to cherish the sparks of the beautiful divine you see in each other and forgive the limitations and betrayals. Then, wait for your mercy for them and theirs for you to show you a redeemed goodness. That We call the coming of the kingdom, the transition. When God Alone is Enough you can love each other with tenderness instead of thirst.

July 18, 2008

Transparency

Holy Spirit:

(During the Retreat Fr. Ken said that a spiritual master used to give this method of following the injunction in the New Testament to pray constantly. Here is a paraphrase: in every minute take one second to lift your heart to God; in every hour take a minute to lift your heart to God; in every day take an hour to lift your heart to God; in every week take a day to lift your heart to God; in every year take a week to lift your heart to God. I snapped back with “so, do you actually do this, Fr. Ken?” I thought he would say something funny in reply but he looked at us with the same absolutely solemn expression he has at Mass and said. Yes, more or less.)

You humans develop a teasing and self-deprecating banter to cover your jockeying for power or your shy fear of rejection.

All the more, how beautiful it is when We succeed in overcoming all that to make openings between you where, unexpectedly, there it is: the voice, the eyes, simply revealing your deepest selves. That is what was meant when we taught you that you must be vulnerable to be able to heal.

Such transparency happens. It is grace. You cannot make it happen. It is a foretaste of heaven where there will be no concealment and there will be no reason to fear.

Can you imagine the power that was in the transparent contact when Jesus looked at a person directly in the eyes before performing a miracle, or when He said “It is ‘I’?”

Great artists know how to convey that focused transparency when they paint the holy face.

Look and learn!

July 19, 2008

In His Footsteps

(I have a grandson, Nicholas, who looks a lot like Jim Carvziel as Jesus in The Passion. It happened Nicholas was staggering under the weight of a large couch he was dragging from the back of his van. His body assumed the posture of Jesus carrying His cross.)

Holy Spirit:

You make the Stations of the Cross as a devotion often with contemporary words to relate them to your own lives. Still you do not always see that you are treading in the footsteps of Jesus when it is your own suffering:

- **the agony of impending physical or emotional pain;**
- **the being under the will of powerful strangers;**
- **the horror of submitting to unjust judgment;**
- **present inescapable pain;**
- **the falling from a status of popular acclaim to being an object of criticism or ridicule;**
- **the finality of loss by death, literal or figurative.**

Of a sudden We help you identify with Him on this bloody road. For a second you see that you are not alone.

If you stay with that identification, you can become a true Christian. Then you will feel also in your own bones many resurrections.

INTRODUCTION TO THIRD SEGMENT OF GOD ALONE

I was so happy to see the Holy Father, Pope Benedict, expressing so clearly in his words what these messages mean me. His words were in answer to a question from an Italian seminarian who had been at World Youth Day about how to continue with the Holy Spirit. I read it in Zenit on August 19 but I am putting it hear for you as you continue reading these locutions:

“This is why I think that the most important thing is that we ourselves remain, so to speak, within the radius of the Holy Spirit's breath, in contact with him. Only if we are continually touched within by the Holy Spirit, if he dwells in us, will it be possible for us to pass him on to others.

“Then he gives us the imagination and creative ideas about how to act, ideas that cannot be planned but are born from the situation itself, because it is there that the Holy Spirit is at work. Thus, the first point: we ourselves must remain within the radius of the Holy Spirit's breath.

:John's Gospel tell us that after the Resurrection the Lord went to his disciples, breathed upon them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit." This is a parallel to Genesis, where God breathes on the mixture he made with the dust from the earth and it comes to life and becomes man.

“Then man, who is inwardly darkened and half dead, receives Christ's breath anew and it is this breath of God that gives his life a new dimension, that gives him life with the Holy Spirit.

“We can say, therefore, that the Holy Spirit is the breath of Jesus Christ and we, in a certain sense, must ask Christ to breathe on us always, so that his breath will become alive and strong and work upon the world. This means that we must keep close to Christ....

“And of course, first of all in the blessed sacrament of the Eucharist in which he comes to us and enters us and is, as it were, amalgamated with us. Then, however, also in the sacrament of penance, which always purifies us, which washes away the grime that daily life deposits in us...

“All this must determine the shape that our day takes in such a way that it becomes structured, a day in which God has access to us all the time, in which we are in continuous contact with Christ and in which, for this very reason, we are continuously receiving the breath of the Holy Spirit.

“If we do this, if we are not too lazy, undisciplined or sluggish, then something happens to us: the day acquires a form and in it our life itself acquires a form and this light will shine from us without us having to give it much thought or having to adopt a "propagandist" -- so to speak -- way of

acting: It comes automatically because it mirrors our soul. To this I would then add a second dimension that is logically linked with the first: If we live with Christ we will also succeed in human things.

“Indeed, faith does not only involve a supernatural aspect, it rebuilds man, bringing him back to his humanity, as that parallel between Genesis and John 20 shows: It is based precisely on the natural virtues: honesty, joy, the willingness to listen to one's neighbor, the ability to forgive, generosity, goodness and cordiality among people.”

July 20, 2008

Comfort at the Core

Holy Spirit:

In the body/soul unity of your personhood, you find both physical and emotional comfort through the assuagement of your needs, when you are warm and fed and also feel safe. We usually have you grow in the shelter of the family.

We lead some saints to toss aside such physical comfort to prove to the human race that there is something greater than “bread alone.” But most of you we lead slowly step by step to enjoy a sense of well-being in the Spirit through music, art, being surrounded by the arms of the Church building. We bring you into the sacraments where mysteriously through the visible you can be saved and comforted by Our invisible presence.

We wean you from total immersion in physical comforts toward the separation of soul and body at death. Our plan is not for you to feel terrified, but rather by greater and greater union with the Holy Family to be comforted in your souls as you make the transition.

To show you that one day the body will be restored to you transfigured, we give you homey images of Jesus’ resurrected body such as cooking fish for His followers and promising them that one day they will find themselves in mansions prepared for them by Him where there will be no more tears.

July 21, 2008

“The Twinkling of an Eye”

Holy Spirit:

We give you enough of a view of the distant shore so that you will be willing to pull with your oars toward the goal. You are often so tired that all you want is to give up. We understand. Can you see that these messages are a glimpse of the shoreline?

Of course, tired sailors have to pace themselves. When you over-exert yourselves you are more likely to collapse. Pacing yourselves means often resting

your oars and gazing at the shore. You do that when you stop to pray even for an instant. We value such prayer more than you do. We want you to receive our encouragement as a sportsman turns for a moment in the direction of the coach.

Do you really believe in the words of the great champion, St. Paul, that one day all will be changed in the twinkling of an eye? Would we give you “a stone instead of a fish?”

It will help you to sing as you row. If you listen up you will hear Us singing with you.

July 22, 2008

Impasse

Holy Spirit:

The natural way in battle is fight or flight. It is perilous to transport that pattern into spiritual warfare.

You are to “fight the good fight” (1 Timothy 6:12) and sometimes flee shaking the dust off your feet. But these responses to evils must be taken up first into your more basic goal of following the way of Jesus. That way has love at its center: not revenge or earthly survival.

On the night before the crucifixion Peter tried to draw his sword to defend Jesus. Jesus said no. Then Peter fled. John and Mary and Mary Magdalene and others chose neither fight nor flight but to stand under the cross.

Situations arise where you are brought to a standstill. You are at an impasse where the desire to fight or flee are in such conflict that you don’t know which to choose. Do not act out of rage or fear. Cry out to Us so we can show you if there is another way that is better. Listen to the advice of holy friends. Then commend yourself to Us and act with confidence that we will bring good out of your decision.

July 23, 2008

Standing Your Ground Under the Cross

Holy Spirit:

When in a conflict between two goods, you would like Our guidance to be a simple affirmation of your own greatest leaning. (I think the Holy Spirit wanted me to relate what follows to choices in my mind of fight or flight in a particular conflict situation).

Often you see the choice as between two extremes such as fight or flight. You add up the fantasized satisfactions of either course. You might not even think of trying instead for the cross of love and trusting that We will bring good out of the pain for all concerned.

Jesus said “keep them in the world, but not of the world.” (John 17:15) To be kept “in the world” is a counter to the desire to flee from conflict. To be kept from being “of the world” is a counter to fighting as in pitting your natural strength against that of others.

When you come to Us for guidance, then, try not to be self-protective but to be wide open for the way of love. In conflict, standing your ground under the cross might be avoiding hasty judgment in favor of deep listening.

July 24, 2008

“Everything Passes.”

Holy Spirit:

(This locution makes constant reference to the poem of St. Teresa which is the frontispiece of this series: **“May nothing disturb you. May nothing astonish you. Everything passes. God does not go away. Patience can attain anything. He who has God within, does not lack anything. God alone is sufficient”**)

You think you have let go of everything but “God alone” but at the threat of any change for the worst you become frantic “troubled and astonished,” You want to cling to what you know. When it eludes your grasp you have a choice: despair or trust.

We allow that pain of real or seeming loss to help you to replace earthly possession with spiritual possession. “God is enough” because the source and depth of everything is in God.

Do you see how it is all in the Gospels? Mary Magdalene wants to hold onto the resurrection Christ but he tells her “do not cling to me, I have not yet ascended to the Father.” (John 20:17) He tells the disciples they cannot cling to Him but He will not leave them orphans. They must be open to the Jesus they will find through Me, the Holy Spirit.

At the fear of loss you beg Us for help. You may feel ashamed to be so needy; to want so desperately to possess. We tell you to look upward where your treasure is ascending. We promise that if you “seek first the kingdom of heaven, all things will be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

July 25, 2008

“Thy Will be Done!”

Holy Spirit:

Your underlying motive for doing what is good can sometimes be to please others. Their pleasure in you makes you feel secure, that you won’t lose them.

It doesn't work. Why not? You are not a clone or a slave. There are limits on how well you can meet every need and desire of another human. On the positive side, your own personhood seeks freedom to develop independently. Another person can reject you whenever you act not as a clone or as a slave. Then you feel devastated, cast out of relationship into a void.

When you say the Lord's prayer: "Thy will be done," and mean it, you break-through the dismal cycle of dependence on human affirmation. You seek a higher motive for your acts.

Jesus certainly didn't please the powers of His time! In His human nature He had to be willing to accept the total rejection of most men to fulfill the will of His Father in heaven. It is because He knew Him so intimately as His Father that He could accept being crucified by men.

Do you see how the phrase in the prayer "Thy will be done" comes as a result of the first line "Our Father." It is not a formula. It's a reality. Through sacraments and prayer you become truly one with the Father. Then you have the strength to act out of the knowledge of being totally loved. More and more you are doing the will of the Father. You don't have to look around all the time to see if you are pleasing the people around you.

The first step may be understanding this truth. That can happen in an instant. Only gradually, however, can We heal your hearts of the wounds of failed attempts at trying to find security in human love.

As this process continues, look at every choice you make and ask Us to help you answer questions such as these:

- **Is this act good in itself?**
- **Am I doing it primarily because of its goodness (Thy will) or only to please a human? (How do you know? There are different ways but one way to see is whether if human approval is lessened or removed you still want to do it.)**

Then ask Us to give you wisdom and prudence and fortitude to carry out Our will. Accept that when you throw yourself whole-heartedly into what you think is God's will you may be rejected or the work may be stopped by opponents or just circumstances.

(Today the conflict with the close friend was resolved with mutual forgiveness. Thanks be to Jesus, Mary, Joseph, God the Father, the Holy Spirit and our angels. But I still felt kind of shattered and exhausted by it. This locution seemed as if the Holy Spirit was trying to bring truth out of it.)

July 26, 2008

Turbulence

Holy Spirit:

It is hard for Us to keep you on the right path when you let your emotions run riot. You may enjoy emotional excitement, even when there is a lot of pain. It can seem preferable to the seeming monotony of quiet routines.

The price of turbulence, though, is exhaustion, and often hurt feelings.

We want, instead, to bring you into a state of vibrant receptivity. Open to Our presence. Let Us into the turmoil of your racing stream of thoughts and passions to calm the storm. In this way We will be more and more a buffer zone between you and those around you.

Instead of waiting to let Us in until you are desperate, let Us abide in you in a more constant way. Then, instead of nervous explosions, your words and actions will have the focus of love.

July 27, 2008

“Out of the Depths I Cry....(Psalm130:1)

Holy Spirit:

A baby wails out of need for milk. There is a victory yell in sport. The lament for lost love is another kind of cry. There are cries of joy in song.

The words of prayers you may mumble usually become a cry when your need is deep.

Self-control is a virtue when it keeps you from trying to fulfill your passions through bad choices. But self-control becomes distorted when it covers weakness by a show of invulnerability.

The Devil wants you to suppress the cry from the depth. He wants you to see crying from the depth as weakness. He also wants you to cast aside discipline in letting wild passions free. Or, in fear of debilitating weakness or wildness, he would have you become tight-lipped and emotionless.

Out of the depth I cry....to You I lift up my soul.” “Deep cries unto deep.” (Psalm 42:7) The way *out* of the impasse is *up*.

We promise to assuage your deepest needs in ways you cannot foresee. In faith, cry out from the depth of your need.

July 28, 2008

(This locution followed a conversation with someone involved in a religious community of women with different emphases than my Dedicated Widows of the Holy Family.)

Following Jesus

Holy Spirit:

You become perturbed when your ideas of how to follow Jesus clash with the ideas of others. You seek justification for your ideas through Scripture and Tradition. In this way you try to make what is a way of life into something as absolute as dogma and doctrine.

There is strength in common rules and practice but what is maybe more needed in your times now is a way of the heart in response to the reality of Jesus. Your Jesus wants to permeate the world with faith, hope and love. Different types of community can grow around this experience. You can learn from what you try.

Do you see the wisdom of the Church in looking not for rules and plans but rather for signs of good Christian living together in one form or another?

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. When you encounter those with inspired plans look not so much at the plan; that can be nothing but a fantasy. Look instead as the hearts of those involved and cherish the fruits of their works of love.

Let Us show you what We want of you in relationship to the ways of life you encounter: sometimes affirmation, sometimes that you are there to make suggestions; sometimes joining in. You can not know which is response is right in advance. Sense Our guidance in the encounter.

July 29, 2008

Freshness

Holy Spirit:

Bombardments of the consequences of sin can make you feel trapped and constrained. Even when there is nothing immediately dangerous to you in your environment, there can be a staleness from repeated unwholesome patterns.

Reach in and reach up to find cool freshness. "In" is the place within where We dwell, a pure stream of grace. "Up" is from your crouched position of fear to lift your arms and hands to greet the good, small and big that We are sending you each day as fresh air.

Can you interrupt the stale round of your worries and unhealed memories to let in the new? Are you so afraid that if life isn't heaven it is really hell that you are not savoring the foretastes of heaven, Our gifts for you each day?

July 30, 2008

“Finishing School”

Holy Spirit:

In your culture in the past awkward and sometimes wild girls used to be sent to a finishing school to be trained in proper deportment. They would graduate ready to come out in society as proper and elegant young ladies.

By analogy We try to train up immature and sometimes sinful followers to come out into the world as true soldiers of Christ. What we wish for, however, is not outward show but true conversion of heart from self-centered ways to the way of love.

As your “final examination” in your “God Alone” training we present you with this test:

For a whole week be so close to Us through prayer and intention so that your words and gestures will reflect love.

Don’t be afraid this would destroy your free personality and make you a mere puppet. That is not what We want at all. No. If you give yourself to Us in this way We will use all your natural gifts and God-created individuality in an even stronger way. Our grace will make a tentative melody into a symphony. Courage!

“Not I, but Christ lives in me.”

July 31, 2008

More Love

Holy Spirit:

There can never be too much love in the way you handle every encounter. We are helping you to make being loving your highest goal in your thoughts, words and actions.

Can you now see more clearly how specific this challenge is? How an unexpected sharp tone in your voice or in that of one who is speaking to you can hurt? How, on the other hand, a sudden strong expression of esteem or concern will melt a hardened heart?

May this not be a passing phase but an earnest endeavor to which you are committed.

Have you also begun to sense the greater attention to works of your liturgical prayers to change them from a good dutiful chanting to a cry of love?

Of course it is hard for you to understand the paradox of Our absolute Trinitarian transcendence and the need for love expressed, as has been discerned, in Jesus' cry: "I thirst," or in the commandment to love your God with your whole heart, mind and strength.

We help you with analogies: is it weakness if parents cherish the love their children show them? Is it not rather bonding?

Don't be discouraged if your progress is slow. Learn from each set back. Remember, you are not alone. We are working in you.

August 1, 2008

Higher and Deeper

Holy Spirit:

When We try to bring you up the mountain to a greater height, a wider view, you can feel overwhelmed. In one way it is joy to be above the usual realm of earthly concerns. In another way, you can panic when you don't see the place for your feet to land. Suspension in the clouds is foreign to your bodily nature.

An antidote to dizziness can be to feel your way deep into your roots. Your ultimate root, of course, is not a blood line only, but your source in the creating mind of the Father.

As a sign I sometimes give the gift of tongues that you may speak an unknown language with primal sounds of roots deeper than our conscious mind.

In some hispanic paintings God the Father in the image of an old regal man is depicted hovering behind Jesus, sustaining Him in an embrace, as Jesus is elevated on the Cross.

Will you let the Father sustain you, also, from above and below?

"With groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:23)

August 2, 2008

The Answer

Holy Spirit:

You seek a single truth you could carry in to every circumstance of life. It would be like a pass key that opens every door. With this answer you would never again be perplexed and uncertain. It would end all doubt, shut the mouths of all scoffers. With this truth you could be strong instead of weak; luminous instead of murky – divine?

A single word can sometimes be a life-line, such as “light” or a battle cry such as justice.

We see this longing for such a truth as your attempt to leap into eternity where “all will be one.” You could also see this desire as a sign that you are coming closer to the kingdom of God where partial insights will merge into a unified vision.

Each “answer” you find can be a path to God. It can take you so far, but not through the gate back to Paradise guarded by angels with flaming swords. (Genesis 3:24)

Sometimes you can only find the next path for your journey by becoming not more powerful to be able to destroy barriers, but smaller so you can sneak under them.

Even as you are to avoid pride in your quest for the answer, it is better to push forward toward divine truth than to cling to inadequate formulas for coping in the world.

Close your eyes and beg for the answer you need to take the next step forward.

(When I tried this what I got was something like “Openness; await the dawn vs. locked in by fear or closed into my own plans.”)

August 3, 2008

Weakness

Holy Spirit:

You honor weakness with your lips but not always with your heart. How is that?

You understand from years of reading the New Testament that Jesus came to overcome the worldly sense of strength as coming from power. Instead He exalted the lowly, the meek. He responded with compassion and mercy to the humble and poor.

On the other hand, in your own weakness you want to lean on those who seem stronger than yourself”; stronger, for example, in intelligence or health, in accomplishments or in virtue.

If you look at the saints, starting with Mary, what do you see? Not usually worldly strength but the power of love.

As Christians you are to excel in compassionate love expressed in helping others in their needs. It is right to admire others for the strength of their virtues, and you can look up to them, but you need to lean more on the strength of God than on the strength of any human persons. When you do this you will be able to draw

close to the weak that We send you. Instead of being afraid of their neediness you will be able to prudently give as we show you what will help them.

August 4, 2008

Leadership

(The context is that more widows are interested in my group Dedicated Widows of the Holy Family and I was having doubts I could lead them.)

Holy Spirit:

You are afraid to lead because you think that followers will be as critical of you as you have been of past leaders you have followed.

We want leaders who are well acquainted with their own flaws. Remember St. Peter so publicly weak in denying his Master? Do you see how his knowledge of his own betrayals made it possible to listen to Me in a dream about the food issues or to Me through Paul about circumcision and the Gentile converts?

Beware of leaders who hate “suggestions boxes.” If you are called into any leadership role, make yourself so humble and so eager to improve that the others will not be afraid to help you with suggestions. Disarm them with your humility.

Always be eager to come to Us to listen. If your enterprises are a response to Our promptings, you will not need to think of yourself as defending your own ideas. Not that you should try to assume infallibility claiming your decisions are influenced by Us. No! You can still make mistakes because the light of Our will is filtered through your dirty windows.

We will use all your negative experiences of the past to help you avoid not only false moves but also false postures.

When you think of leaders you have known in the past with clay feet, think not just of the clay but also of all the good for you We brought out of their initiatives.

August 5, 2008

Wordless Presence of God

Holy Spirit:

Sometimes you can figure things out; sometimes you can't. You like to figure things out because you imagine that if you understand you will be able to control things for the best. We like to see you exercise this God's given power of intellect. It is Our gift.

How, then, can you accept it when you try to use the gift but no answer comes? That's when We want you to be like a child who can walk in the dark with a parent, hand in hand.

Sometimes, like Peter, you swear your allegiance to follow Us even unto death, but when the test comes your survival instinct pushes you to flee. We understand. We forgive. That you might be surer that you are forgiven, We give our priests the power to say the words of absolution for Us.

After your words and deeds of penance, We want you to feel a wordless peace, like a child who was lost but then knows safety in the embrace of the parent.

August 6, 2008

Gusts of Grace

Holy Spirit:

Just when you think that what you have done is enough, perhaps even more than enough, We send you a new gust of grace to do something more:

- to help a needy person
- to start a new venture
- to devise a new method of presentation

At first you resist. Part of you wants not the new but rest from change. We understand. We don't prod you because your previous efforts are inadequate, but because the world is so hungry.

Let Us work with you on these efforts so that your feeling is not pressure so much as wind in your sails.

"When I am weak, I am strong."(2 Corinthians 12:10)

August 7, 2008

Leadings

Holy Spirit:

We want you to seek Our help and the help of your Mother, Mary, the angels and saints in your planning. That is good. You need guidance from on high. The saints always sought the virtue of prudence, enriched by other special gifts of discernment.

Sometimes we make what we want very clear as when we told St. Joseph to flee from Herod with Mary and the child Jesus.

You want to feel that what you discern in prayer will give you certainty in the outcome of your decisions. This presents a problem. For instance, during the years that the holy family was in Egypt, Joseph had to trust without knowing how long it would be before Our plan would unfold for their return.

When you feel insecure and anxious you would like Us to reveal every detail of Our plan for you. Often We choose, instead, to show you only a step you can take next. Future paths depend on free will responses of others. Some of these people you don't even know yet. Sometimes We want you to be part of a plan that fails on the surface because the failure will teach important lessons.

When you don't spend enough time in quiet prayer, your agitation prevents total reception of Our leads. You don't see, for instance, that your involvement in a plan may be not a change in location but rather encouragement of others, because there are things to do in your present place that have not yet shown themselves. That is why in many circumstances watchful waiting is better than leaping into something new.

As We have been trying to teach you in many different ways it is not good to become too attached to expectations, for often We work more through presences rather than visible direct outcomes.

Look at the growth of the Church. Do you think the deaths of the martyrs seemed like success?

“That the thoughts of many will be revealed.” (Luke 2:35)

August 8, 2008

The Light of Truth

Holy Spirit:

Our gifts to you include absolute truths shining in the darkness for all and also words for the heart of each person.

Some of you dislike the reality of universal truth which stands so strongly against the desire for individual autonomy. For example, a rebel rejects the “shalt” of the ten commandments: “Why not steal when I want something I can't otherwise have?” “Why should God be 3 persons instead of 4?”

Others suspect even more than universal truths any personal truth given in prayer whether by directives or by signs. There is a correct wariness about being deceived by the devil or only ones own foolish wishes, such as wanting to sit at the right hand of God without first carrying the cross. But such wariness can close the doors to any heart to heart communication.

Is the choice then between hard cold absolutes and sentimental fantasies?

“Blessed be the pure of heart for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8) Jesus taught that deep truth comes to those with sincerity of purpose. The pure of heart treasure the light of truth revealed through writings or spoken teachings. They receive an individual word with “fear and trembling” and grateful humility: “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy word.”

To protect our children from the darkness of error We provide the unchanging teachings of the Church and the guidance of the spiritually wise.

When doubt and fear assail your poor little souls, hold fast to your Savior; the light shining in the darkness, who proclaims “the truth shall set you free.” (John 8:32)

August 9, 2008-

Envy

Holy Spirit:

A toxic form of wounded pride is envy. It gnaws away at the fabric of family, the work place and Church

Do you see how it dominates from the start? Satan envies God and influences Adam and Eve to wish to become godlike through rebellion. Cain envies Abel. Later the brothers of Joseph sell him into slavery because of envy. Saul betrays David out of envy all the way to most of the leaders in Jesus’ time envying His authority and miracles. How much violence is rooted in envy!

Watch closely for forms of envy in your dealings with others. The plain woman envies one more beautiful. The uneducated person envies the scholar. Others envy wealth and status. More subtle forms can be boasting in the desire to provoke envy in others. Rage can come from impotent envy of those in power who ignore ones wishes or claims.

Each of you in your hearts must come to grips with your differences. You are to glimpse interiorly in prayer the providential love that is part of your circumstances. You have legitimate desires for bettering your life in small and big ways. If these spring from envy, it shows you are basically angry with God about your life. Instead such desires for improving your lives should be a seeking for greater fullness. Such hopes not for the downfall of others but for the same fullness in their lives.

There can be no place for envy if your motto is truly “God Alone is Enough!” Will you let Us show you that We are enough?

August 10, 2008

Shock Waves

Holy Spirit:

Through advanced worldwide media coverage you can be shocked not only by the evils in your immediate area but those around the world. In a certain way you have in your times more of a God's eye view of your world. In another way you are less aware. A family on a farm pre-media could watch things slowly grow. City people see these only as products in a supermarket.

Through myriad events, personal and global We immerse you in the rhythm of being of other creatures. At the same time, through the shock of destruction, small and large scale, you are weaned from making earth your home.

The tension of life, death, and new life reaches a climax in the events of the conception, birth, life, crucifixion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. You can participate in this cycle daily at the Mass, joining to it everything in your day of wonder, joy, shock and transcendence.

It all becomes too much for you. We let you sleep, and finally we lift you out and up. Meanwhile, soak it in!

August 11, 2008

Rising from the Ashes

Holy Spirit:

The Church rose stronger from the era of the martyrs of pagan Roman massacres. Great grief overwhelms the faithful during the struggles throughout history. Think of the dark times of corruption within the Church in European history; of battles tearing apart countries and families.

So, too, the martyrs of the 20th and 21st centuries and the scandals in the Church and the tearing apart coming from dissent.

Do not succumb to violence of arms or rhetoric. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and let Him be the Saviour not only of your souls for heaven but also of your hope within the ashes of seeming defeat.

Those of you whose lives have been relatively peaceful can be the most devastated when the bad times come. Why? Why? Why? becomes your constant cry.

Can you accept that help from Us comes not so much in outward change as deep change in your own hearts?

Look at Our saints. Did they experience the triumph of their plans during their lives? Usually not! They had to plunge into the heart of God to get the strength to go on. Join with others not in rage but by clasping pierced hands.

“Be of good courage, for I have overcome the world.” John 16:33)

August 12, 2008

Saved

Holy Spirit:

You would like your every enterprise to be successful with a minimum of labor and a maximum of profit. Sometimes that happens, but rarely.

You would like Your spiritual life to be successful with a minimum of struggle and a maximum of applause. Sometimes that happens, but rarely.

More often the success of an enterprise requires enormous effort for even a minimum of profit.

More often holiness comes after terrible struggles with minutely achieved visible change.

What Jesus came to save was not your projects and products. Neither did He die on the cross to save your “faces!”

It is both simpler and more hidden. You are in anguish about your failures: less wealth instead of more; broken homes instead of family unity; war instead of peace; death instead of life. To be saved is not to be publicly crowned with success. It is to be forgiven and then given new life.

New life is not for glory in human eyes but for mostly hidden gains such as more kindness, more helpfulness, more sacrifice.

And, hidden from public view is the permanent reward...”in the bosom of Abraham.” (Luke 16:22-23)

August 13, 2008

God Within/God Above

Holy Spirit:

Each era in Christian history has a different way of wrongly emphasizing more or less of the divinity or humanity of Christ.

In your lifetime (1937 ff) Catholics first thought of the divine nature of Christ as so transcending the human that they could scarcely dare to imagine Jesus

performing ordinary physical human acts. By now, 2008, however, His humanity is so emphasized that some think of Him as being as weak as they are.

Phrases like “the God above” or “the God within” can usually seem neutral, but can take on the flavour of such divergences from the Truth. “God is above all thoughts” can become a way to keep Him away, so that your eyes are on the stars but your hearts are rooted in the world. “The God within” can become a way to keep Him imprisoned in your own categories, stripped of the power to change you.

Through Scripture and Tradition We teach you balancing images. Jesus offers parables of the Father’s close love, such as the parable of the Prodigal son, but also tells the disciples that “no one has seen the Father but Me.” God is shown both as the farmer, sower of seeds, but then as the Judge separating the weeds from the grain.

Let awe of the God above usher forth in praise while the heart opens to its all consoling guest: the God within.

August 14, 2008

Family Stances

Holy Spirit:

Each child in a family develops defences against being taken over by the other children. The price of love can often be slavery to the other’s wishes. Later, some become so defensive that they choose isolation rather than risk being used. Others attract companions, sometimes to replicate power positions of the past.

How tragic! How bleak!

We want to exit such a cycle. We want to help you do this.

In the stories of the saints you see men and women who took in all the genuine love from their childhoods and the love that was there from others in their life as adults. They believed in the ideals of Christian love. Most of all they opened their hearts to Our love: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and of Mother Mary, the angels and saints. They were liberated from patterns of power, defensiveness and withdrawal.

It is a never ending battle between many sided evils and victory through the power of love. Over and over in the Old Testament you see defeat if people trust in their own strength and victory when they let themselves be the instruments of God’s will.

In the Gospels, overturning the seemingly invincible plots coming out of fear, pride, jealousy and power, you see the triumph of divine love.

You can try to analyze every aspect of psychological and spiritual warfare in life. That can only take you so far. Insight can lead to despair instead of breakthroughs.

Pray! Pray! Pray! Not to win others over to your side, but that fresh streams of divine love may bring change, forgiveness and change.

August 15, 2008

Holy Solitude

Holy Spirit:

You crave company. Your often lonely hearts cry out for human understanding and intimacy. Yet when human love is given, you can feel as if the price is too high. The others intrude into your inner space until you can not even find yourself there. They can probe your motives until you can not even find any pure reasons for doing anything.

Can you see that many in these times are choosing a more solitary life? Is this because they are failures in relationships? Sometimes. But also for some because we are drawing them out from the crowd. Sometimes the greater isolation is physical; sometimes it is mental. Sometimes it is purely spiritual – as in going within to Us in the midst of people.

To feel it unbearable to be alone is to deny Our presence with you. Our presence is mysterious: potentially burning, but often times almost cool. Our demands are sometimes for change in your decisions but often just that you be free enough to be present to Us.

The words of worship and other formal prayers will draw you out and up to Us. Please don't resist.

“And we shall come make dwelling in them.”

August 16, 2008

Talents

Holy Spirit:

Many times you have to do things in life with painful difficulty against the grain. We grace such efforts.

Other times, what you are called to do for love of Us and for love of your brothers and sisters flows easily from the talents We have given you in abundance.

The Evil one, knowing the power of those talents, tries first to bend them to bad purposes: unusual intelligence can be bent to bad aims; unusual intelligence can

be bent toward conquest; unusual strength toward brutality; unusual physical beauty toward seduction.

When the talents are directed by love, the Evil One works more subtly. Into dedication he mixes pride. Into commitment he mixes neglect of other claims. Perseverance can be pushed to exhaustion.

Watch out for the self-doubt that surfaces when you sense the mixture of these negatives with your talents. The doubt leads to a desire to give up. Instead of giving up, you need to bring your talents back to Us, their source, for purification and renewal. Then they will shine for whoever we have prepared them to reach.

“My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” (Luke 1:46-47)

August 17, 2008

“A Prophet is not Honored in His own Country.” (Matthew 13:57)

Holy Spirit:

In the sentimental religion of your fantasies, sincerity is always rewarded with applause.

In the sentimental scenario of your fantasies, to be right is always to be victorious.

In the sentimental world of your fantasies, you own family is the first to accept your prophetic charism.

Examine the life of your model Jesus, and the history of the Church.

What do you hear? Applause?

What do you see? Victory?

What do the records show? Families affirming the path of the counter-cultural path of the martyrs?

The history is full of paradox: the prince of peace” carries a 2 edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). Some professed followers divide the Church. At some periods saints followed the claims of opposed leaders.

When you are nailed to the cross by rejection, some of you want to flee; others want to scream denunciations. While you await Our next move, take up the words of your model:

“Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

August 18, 2008

Tug of War

Holy Spirit:

Each one pulls hard. To win is to overcome the resistance of the opponent. Once toppled and fallen, the “enemy” can be dragged to the side of the victor.

This game is played over and over again in daily power struggles. Sometimes the outcome is predictable. A parent has the strength to compel the disobedient child to comply. The more skilled competitor in a sport will outrace the ones less able.

What is it in humans that revels in such trials of strength? Is it a matter of natural delight in power or is it ugly and evil pride? Of course, it can be either. Looking at the negative type of tug of war, can some only enjoy superiority by forcing another into submission?

For believers, tugs of war become more complex trials. Love of power is to be conquered by the power of love.

In the process there is no lack of bloodshed. You can not figure it all out beforehand. At any moment self-assertion can overtake the goal of love.

Consider the familiar display: three men on crosses. Each one has lost the tug of war with the Roman conquerors. In defeat, the bad thief tries for a last power play by taunting Jesus as a false Messiah. Your savior, takes a different path. He speaks out the despair of seeming defeat “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me.” (Matthew 27:46) Then he changes the nature of the trial in the words “Into Your hands I commend My spirit.” Jesus lifts the battle from the physical realm. He shows you that what really counts is the battle to keep faith in the Father’s love in spite of all appearances. Out of the victory of hope over despair, He has an overflow of mercy to forgive His earthly enemies, “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

As if sensing the shift to the new battleground, the good thief begs Jesus for a secret supernatural victory even for himself, a man justly condemned to death.

When you find yourself losing the tug of war in your attempts to get what you want, which of the three on the cross will you imitate: the bad thief taunting God for not helping him win; Jesus, trusting the Father to bring a higher victory; or, like the good thief, putting all your hope on the Redeemer?

Sometimes it is good for men to cry and to cry out.

(A few minutes after this locution I thought the Holy Spirit added: Do you see how the mercy chaplet shifts you from love of power to the power of love?) Note from Ronda: Before World War II a Polish nun received visions and words concerning praying for divine mercy. After her death and after World War II was over, how much mercy was needed. If you are not familiar with this very popular Catholic prayer search the web for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy).

August 19, 2008

Hardness

Holy Spirit:

Our St. Augustine thought that “peace is the tranquility of order.” You can love order as a relief from chaos. Order is good.

Sometimes, though, the desire for order can make you tense and hard. You see that your goals are blocked by others because they are more relaxed or just indifferent, or busy with other goals. You seek their cooperation. You can try persuasion or you can try force.

In either attempt, persuasion or force, beware of becoming hard. Hardness manifests the fact that the goal of order is higher to you than the goal of love. Even though the goal of order is loving, you are letting the ends justify the means when your approach is hard.

As you go about your daily rounds, even when you are alone, check from time to time for tension and hardness. When you detect either of them, stop, even for a minute. Lift your heart to Us for a fresh flow of lighter energy.

Avoid efficiency at any price.

“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his immortal soul?”
(Luke 9:25)

August 20, 2008

Persecution

Holy Spirit:

In the academic world you think of positions taken on one side or another of a debate as if the point of view were the important thing, not the persons holding them. In seeking truth, this can be a good way to think.

In the world outside the school, however, differences soon become highly personal as the consequences of ideas mount up.

Those whose ideas are threatened by greater numbers on the other side will sometimes resort to violent retaliation. Think of the leaders who felt threatened by the growing popularity of Jesus and reacted by persecuting Him unto death.

On the verbal level, when you feel you cannot win over the opposition, you may resort to the “violence” of sarcasm or name-calling. If the debate is between people who know each other well, the feeling of being persecuted is especially wounding.

How are you, a follower of Jesus, to conduct yourself under verbal attack? Jesus was not naïve about the motives of those who were against Him. Neither should you be. Yet He accepted seeming defeat in the events leading to His passion and death. He who had the divine power to destroy His enemies, instead chose the way of silence and even of forgiveness.

Should you do less?

August 21, 2008

Judas and Mary

Holy Spirit:

Judas saw no way out. He tried to find it by destroying himself. You read about him and you wish he had waited for the resurrection and then begged Jesus for forgiveness.

When Mary saw no way out, no way to protect her son from violence and death, she stood under the cross, her soul given over to anguish, but also to seemingly futile acts of heroic hope and trust.

Many times the children of God are nailed to the cross. They beg to be taken down from the cross, or, at least, to know why.

When you are nailed to the cross it is not wrong like Jesus to cry out "why have you forsaken me?" but you need also over and over again in your trials to pray like Jesus "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

The Passion tells you that what counts is not to escape from suffering, but to endure it with trust in the Father's plan and then let him liberate you as He chooses, for even if your enemies kill you, you will be saved in heaven.

Do you see that in some situations there is no solution in earthly terms and your only choice is between stark despair and stark hope in God Alone?

"Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death."

August 22, 2008

Unity of Purpose

Holy Spirit:

Your strength is broken when there are major divisions in your efforts. In the Bible you see this beginning with Satan falling from heaven and Adam and Eve falling away from unity with God and Cain and Abel at enmity.

In reverse you see strength when there is unity of purpose: Joseph helping his brothers, David defending Saul, Peter and Paul coming to agreement.

Can you see how weakened is the Christian witness by divisions between groups and within groups?

Unity can be based on warding off enemies. The Zealots of Jesus' time on earth were united in purpose trying to overthrow the Roman dominance. In your present world there can be political strength when forces unit to repeal an enemy.

More important, however, is that you have a common positive purpose that we call the building the kingdom of God. Think of the strength of beauty when voices join together in song, when members of families set aside individual goals for a common effort.

To be strong for the kingdom of God you need Our gifts of faith, hope, and charity. These overcome the division that comes with doubt, despair, and rejection.

When you come to prayer, you open to these gifts and then by your unity of purpose with Us you are strengthened to bring faith, hope and love to others. Do you see how doubt, despair and anger are quicksand for the kingdom of God? Never let them grow in your heart. Cast yourself into Our unity so we can show you how to bring the most light, peace and love into each situation you encounter.

If you can not win a victory over evil on earth let us help you win the battle within your own heart.

After this locution it seemed as if the Holy Spirit wanted to stop this sequence of some 85 little "essays" and instead give me personal advice about each day's concerns. If the Holy Spirit goes back to "writing little essays through me," I will let you know on the web.