



## Day 15: Praying with the Church

### **Jesus Prays for His Church**

*“Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost...” John 17: 11-12*

What is the point of our Faith? What did Jesus come down from heaven to teach us? Jesus, the Son of God came to save us from our sins. His whole life, death, resurrection, and ascension aims to save all the sons and daughters of God and bring them home to heaven. We have to pay attention to the way Jesus desired to save us. He established the one, true Catholic Church to be the divine institution of salvation for us all. From the depths of His heart, He desired that all of us would “be one” in His Church and be a living witness to the communion of the life of the Trinity. The Church is a living reality, which St. Paul calls the Bride of Christ. Jesus does not come to save us with some abstract idea, but he comes to save us through establishing a real family in the Kingdom of God. The Church is our mother, and united to Her we offer our prayer back to the Father.

### **Mary, Mother of the Church at Prayer**

*“All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.” Acts 1:14*

Mary is the perfect disciple of Jesus, and she prays united to the Church. Pentecost is the perfect example. Scripture tells us that Mary and the apostles were gathered in prayer, waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. This moment captured the new Church at prayer, with confident longing for the fire of the Holy Spirit to come and send them out to be missionaries to the whole world. Mary is the Mother of the Church at prayer. She is the one that guides, nourishes, and protects all disciples of Jesus to be sons and daughters of deep prayer. In this place of Mother of the Church at prayer, Mary reminds us that in order to live this calling, we have to be one in the heart of the Church. Praying with Mary, she preserves and protects us so we can live in deep unity with the one, holy, and Catholic, and apostolic Church.

### **St. Juan Diego and Us**

You are the Church. It is an amazing mystery and gift that we are temples of God by baptism, and therefore living and breathing members of the Body of Christ, His Church.

Remember, the Guadalupe Event is not just a Marian apparition, but God's intervention to give life to the Church in this new land – just as God intervenes to establish his life of grace in each of our hearts. God sends Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the conduit of His divine goodness, revealing His presence and personal care for His sons and daughters. "I want very much that they build my sacred little house here, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him upon making Him manifest, I will give Him to all people, He who is my person-love" (*Nican Mopohua*, 26-28). This concrete care is revealed in God's longing to establish an actual church as the focal point. God's saving grace through our Lady of Guadalupe is not an abstract idea or merely just words, but a manifestation of the life of the Church. God's continued privileged way to communicate with us is through His holy Church, particularly through your local parish. In an amazing way, this is where He still comes to speak to your heart. Do you go there enough to find Him and listen to Him?

### **Prayer**

O Jesus, we adore You, we love You, and we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You are the beloved Son of the Father who established Your Church to be family and bear witness to the communion You share with the Father and the Holy Spirit. May Your Bride, the Church, teach us how to pray so we can live this holy communion with You and our brothers and sisters. We ask You now to hear this prayer.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of us, draw us close to your heart. You are the Mother of the Church at prayer, please teach us how to pray. Keep united with the holy, Catholic Church, so that we may always drink from the source of love and unity. Please come and fill us with your love.

Amen.

*After reading today's reflection, [pray the Litany of Restoration of Sonship](#).*