

# Community of Mary – Family of the Gospel Retreat

February 26, 2022. 1:30pm – 3:00pm

(Meeting will be recorded)

## Retreat Schedule:

**1:20pm - 1:30pm: In Person Attendees.** Guest Check-In in the Narthex  
(Face Mask is Required for all over 2 yrs.)

**1:25pm – 1:30pm : Zoom Call Attendees** Due to bad Audio connection with Zoom Platform.  
Please watch the Live Stream Video on Facebook, until time for break-out Sessions, then resume on Zoom.

Zoom call Check-in <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87330636915?pwd=TWFUd0lxQjB6Q09wcF1dnJVUmJqUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 3063 6915

Passcode: 244439

**1:30pm – 1:55pm:** Reflection By Father Ed

**1:55pm – 2:00pm:** Quick FoG Meeting Group Guideline Recap.

*Follow your facilitators cue. Be Mindful and respectful towards each other, when sharing and listening. Don't crosstalk each other during reflections/sharing. Each person to keep sharing time to 1- 3 minutes. Keep your children with you at all times. Thank you.*

**2:00pm – 2:05:** Water break/restroom time *(both Zoom call and In-Person)*

- Come back to your assigned Group (# provided during check in)

- Zoom caller will have an appointed Moderator to facilitate the call

**2:05pm – 2:55pm:** Small Group Sharing Session *(both Zoom call and In-Person)*

*Identify one person to help facilitate in each group. Reference these two documents:*

- CoM FoG Meeting Guide

- CoM FoG Formation #1 - *In the Holy Spirit with Mary and in Mary*

*Downloadable versions can be found on SSTM Website: <https://ststephenslife.com/family-of-the-gospel>*

1. Offer Praise & Thanksgiving in Small Groups – “Give Thanks” *(5 minutes)*
2. Entrust Ourselves to Mary – “Prayer to Mary” *(Prayed together)*
3. Invoke the Holy Spirit to come – “Come, Holy Spirit” *(Prayed together)*
4. Formation #1 - In **the Holy Spirit with Mary and in Mary** *(Lead by Fr. Ed)*

**2:55pm – 3:00pm:** Closing Prayer

“Consecrate Ourselves to Jesus” *(Prayed together)*

\*\*\* Reconciliation starts promptly at 3pm in the Main Church, please be respectful and exit the main church and process to the Grotto Outside where we will conclude our meeting by reciting a decade of the Rosary together. \*\*\* P.S: Please fill out the Annual FoG Survey so that we can update our records. Thank you and God’s Blessings to you all. – CoM FoG Leadership Team



I: Offer Praise and Thanksgiving to God the Father

*(Sing one verse after each thanksgiving or praise)*

**Give Thanks**

*Give thanks with a grateful heart*

*Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son  
Give thanks*

II: Entrust Ourselves to Mary

**Prayer to Mary**

O Mary,  
received from Jesus Crucified,  
I welcome You as my Mother.  
I enclose myself in your Heart.  
I give myself to you,  
soul and body, all my thoughts,  
affections and plans,  
so that Your Divine Spouse,  
the Holy Spirit, Ruach,  
may renew and transform me  
in Jesus, for the glory of Abba,  
God the Father. Amen.

III: Invoke the Holy Spirit to Come



**Come, Holy Spirit**  
*(Veni, Sancte Spiritus)*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful. And enkindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

**Let us pray.** O God, Who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Formation 1 – Fr. Ed



**In the Holy Spirit with Mary and in Mary**

*(See Entrustment Prayer to Mary)*

VII: Consecrate Ourselves to Jesus  
*(Commit to take care of one another)*

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

O Jesus, our Love, our All,  
in the Holy Spirit,  
with Mary and in Mary, we consecrate ourselves to You.

Love and splendor of the Father, You are our joy, our song, our hope, our entire Good.

Live yourself in us, that we might:  
live with Your life,  
love with Your Heart,  
think with Your thoughts,  
feel with Your feelings,  
see with Your eyes,  
suffer with Your Cross.

Teach us to spend ourselves with You, without reserve, for our brothers, to make our life a gift of love, to see You always and everywhere, especially in those who suffer, and to live every moment, smiling and with patience, with mercy and forgiveness, sharing all we have, as witnesses of Your Love and messengers of Your Joy.

We ask You to make us a Spiritual Family: to live one for the other, so that You might live fully in each one of us;  
to love each other as You love us, so that the world might believe that the Father has sent You;  
to be of one heart and one soul, so that You can accomplish, through us as well, Your dream of Unity for the Church and the world.

Conquer, O Jesus, all our resistance!  
Bring us back to you when we go astray!  
Act within us: treat us as Your own, now and forever, for the triumph of Your Love. Amen.



## **In the Holy Spirit with Mary and in Mary**

**[text of Entrustment Prayer]**

### **Entrustment Prayer to Mary**

Explain in this meeting the distinction between 2 prayers. Entrustment is individual, using "I", a prayer of your personal desire and your will. The Consecration Prayer is saying this for the entire church, using the pronoun "We".

Read the Prayer to Mary together, stopping with each phrase, saying what this means to us. Stop at the name of Mary and ask, "Who is Mary according to Scripture and according to us?" [? context? Tradition?]

When we say "received from Jesus crucified" we enter into this Gospel:

#### **John 19:25-27:**

25 Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. 26 When Jesus saw his mother\* and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

We want to really live this Gospel, to take the place of John, to experience this dramatic moment of Jesus dying, where he entrusts us to her and her to us. How Mary is a part of salvation for us! It is important to Jesus that we accept her as a mother.

We are offered by Jesus to Mary; Mary is offered to us.

Help people to understand the importance of Mary as a mother to us and we as children to her. In the words of Jesus Crucified to her and to the beloved disciple we can find the fundamental aspect of filial relationship with Mary. This relationship places us, somehow, not only in her arms but in her womb.

## Read together:

Enter into the prayer "*I welcome you as my mother*" – go around the family and say your name as you are saying "I, \_\_\_\_\_, welcome you as my mother."

Ask them to share any thoughts, feelings or desires about accepting her and her accepting you.

*I enclose myself in your heart* – what does this mean for you?

*I give myself to you soul and body all my thoughts, affections, and plans* – what does this mean to you?

Explain the importance of *your divine spouse, the Holy Spirit* – we are accepting Mary the same way that the Trinity did. God chose her, conceived without sin, and conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit. She conceived Jesus through her flesh, her body – giving him all he needs to have a physical body. She does the same for us. We are praying to be transformed through Mary in Jesus ---for this reason we are the Community of Mary.

This is so that each one of us can *be transformed in Jesus*, to become Jesus. We want really to follow this call and do it all *for the Glory of God, Abba, the Father. Amen.*

If there is enough time in this meeting, read the Scripture of Nicodemus explaining our baptism in the Holy Spirit:

### John 3:5

5 Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit."

### Insight of Bishop Domenico:

- ...placing ourselves spiritually in her means welcoming the Word of God that in her becomes flesh and welcoming her spouse, the Holy Spirit. Placing ourselves spiritually in her generates perpetually a living presence of Jesus and she conducts us as "sons in the Son" to the Father. The "yes" of Mary and conception of Jesus happens with the power of the Holy Spirit. The angel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you": this is somehow the early Pentecost of Mary. The working of the Holy Spirit in the experience of faith is explained by Jesus in his talk with Nicodemus. Only the Holy Spirit allows us to encounter Jesus.
- 1 Corinthians 12:3: And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.