

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross – Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

September 27, 2023, 2023



Our Lady of the Rosary On October 7th

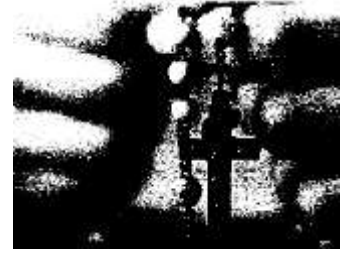
“In calling the members of the Congregation to the daily praying of the Rosary, Basil Moreau emphasized the necessity of meditating upon its mysteries ...”

Directory of Devotional Prayers, Page 208 #103

Joyful Mysteries	Sorrowful Mysteries
The Annunciation The Visitation The Nativity The Presentation in the Temple The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple	The Agony in the Garden The Scourging The Crowning with Thorns The Carrying of the Cross The Crucifixion
Glorious Mysteries	Luminous Mysteries
The Resurrection The Ascension The Descent of the Holy Spirit The Assumption The Coronation of Mary	The Baptism of Jesus The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God The Wedding Feast of Cana The Transfiguration The Institution of the Eucharist

The Vocation Mysteries

Assuming ... that Jesus only gradually – but surely – came to realize the totality of who he was and what his mission was on earth, I reflected that (as an adolescent and as a young man) he must have devoted considerable time to discerning his vocation ... It made sense to me, then, to consider collecting five circumstances, events, or encounters that would suggest Jesus prayed over his vocation before acting. These were important moments during which Jesus came to a clearer conception of his identity and mission.



... Using the Vocation Mysteries to pray the Rosary draws the individual into an area of reflection that facilitates both spiritual understanding and growth. It can be the occasion of the reaffirmation of God's call and an awareness of the courage God provides to "stay the course" throughout life. It can be the means to eventual union with God through the person's vocation to which the person, though responsible for the choice, has been invited and has faithfully responded.

Allow yourself to become immersed in the mystery underlying a call from God, both as it affected the human Jesus and as it has played itself out in your life. You may be amazed at the insights that reflecting on this set of circumstances prompts, though anything can and should be expected from a God of surprises.

1) Jesus Becomes Aware of a Call

Jesus, sensing he has a special mission in life, takes a stance of openness and listening to God as to the nature of that mission. After his baptism, his lengthy retreat in the wilderness, and his return to live and preach among the people, especially the poor, he shows an awareness that he has been chosen and sent by God to undertake a very special mission in this world (cf. Lk 4:18-21, et al).

2) Jesus Reflects in Response to the Call

Jesus considers his call seriously and prayerfully, and his Father responds by showing him in some manner the requirements and the challenging potential of his call before Jesus takes action. Perhaps Jesus now begins to think twice about what he discerns, as not all of it looms pleasantly despite the noble objective (cf. Mt 16:21, Mk 8:34, et al).

3) *Jesus Makes a Decision*

It is necessary to reflect on all the elements that go into a decision, but at a given point the time comes to make the decision. Jesus, at last satisfied that he did have a special call from God his Father, after he had reflected adequately on the implications of that call, knew it was time to make a decision to act. He did so, courageously.

4) *Jesus Acts on His Decision*

Once he decides, Jesus wastes no time in acting. The decision is one thing; setting it in motion is another, and, as he knew, there would be consequences, many of them undesirable. The same spirit of fortitude that prompted his decision also underlays his acting in starting upon the mission he was convinced he had been called to fulfill (cf. Jn 7:6-10).

5) *Jesus Repeatedly Reaffirms His Decision*

Early on, Jesus encounters such a puzzling mixture of responses to his message that he is compelled to continue praying over his decision, reflecting continuously on its relevance to the needs of the people, and reaffirming that the message is from God (cf. Mk 1:35, Lk 5:16, Lk 6:12, M k 6:5).

Your Own Mysteries: Praying Your Life through the Rosary
Brother Phillip Armstrong, CSC
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Session on the Midwest Holy Cross Associates



Father Emmanuel and Brother Prodig, chair of the Educational Committee of the Congregation, invited Brother Carl Sternberg, vice chair of the Midwest Holy Cross Associates, to give a presentation on the Midwest Holy Cross Associates to visiting Priests and Brothers from Bangladesh and India who were visiting the United States.

Brother Carl gave a short history of how this version of the Associates began in California and eventually became a sponsored ministry of the Midwest Province. He then showed a video about the Associates. This included the three areas of commitment that each Associate makes: to grow spiritually, create community, and serve others.

[\(https://holycrossassociates.org/\)](https://holycrossassociates.org/)



The session concluded with a lively discussion on how Bangladesh and India might adopt a version of this ministry in their countries given the different religious traditions.



The Least of Them

I sit here on a rainy afternoon
somewhat ashamed that I am watching sports
while waiting for a call due fairly soon
about my dying brother. Then all sorts

of various contingencies kick in:
initiating plans for heading out,
coordinating with the closest kin,
both on the coast and elsewhere spread about.

This is a strong reminder that as humans we
are often ruled by factors great and small
whose pathways cross, though not conveniently.
At times the least of them weighs most of all.

The ambiguities of life and death
contend with those of us who still draw breath.

— Brother Philip Armstrong, CSC, 2001



Holy Cross Roads

Writings for the Journey

This Present Moment

What is happening now? Is this the moment in which God is present to us? It can be. When it really comes down to it, all we have any real assurance about is this present moment. Of course, we can spend this time thinking about what happened or did not happen yesterday or any other part of our life. Or we could spend time thinking about what might happen and what we hope will happen tomorrow or in our future. In any case, what we are missing is the opportunity of really living here and now.

Jesus wants to break into our lives with special meaning. It might come when we look out of our window and see a beautiful scene of the season. It might come in the people that God has put into our lives this day. It could come through what we are experiencing in our bodies or in our feelings. In whatever is happening now, we know that we are alive and that this day is a gift that will really never repeat itself. "Today is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad."

- Are you able to realize each day as a gift from God?
- Do you spend more time than you need in thinking about the past or the future?
- Would thoughts of thankfulness help you in valuing this present moment?

**O God, help me become aware of your presence
in this present moment of my life?**

Brother Carl Sternberg, C.S.C.



For more reflections to grow spiritually
please visit our new blog
<https://weeklyspiritualinsights.org/>



Angels



Angels are our fellow creatures. God's plan for the loving relationship between us is revealed in the following scripture passages evidencing the selfless and assiduous services Angels render humans:

They Protect Us:

"Angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." Matthew 8:10

"Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits to serve, for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation." Hebrews 1:14

"I am sending an angel before you to guard you on the way and bring you to the place I have prepared. My authority is with him." Exodus 20:23

"For he commanded his angels with regard to you to guard you wherever you go." Ps 91:11

They Pray For Us:

The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel." Revelation 8:4

Commune With Us:

"... you have approached Zion the city of the living God and countless angels in festal gathering." Hebrews." 12:22



Drawing by brj

October 2, 2023, the Church honors the holy angels.



Reflection sent in by Brother Thomas Maddix, C.S.C.



Yom Kippur  Providence Health Care

Yom Kippur 2023 begins on the evening of September 24 and ends on the evening of September 25. Also known as the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year in Judaism. Its central themes are atonement and repentance, observed by Jewish people with a day-long fast and intensive prayer, often spending most of the day in synagogue services.

“Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy.”
~ Abraham Joshua Heschel

**We don't receive wisdom;
We must discover it for ourselves
After a journey that
No one can take for us or spare us.**

Marcial Brust

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Brother
James
Kane,
CSC



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