

SOLT Lay Formation Facilitator's Guide

IMITATE MARY BECOME LIKE JESUS LIVE FOR THE TRIUNE GOD

Call to Holiness – Holy Hour - Handout

John Paul II speaks to the Call to Holiness in *Novo Millennio Inuente* where he confirms that the depth of union is not for a few unusual people but is the call that every Christian receives from Christ Himself.

John Paul II encourages us:

“It is a journey totally sustained by grace, which nonetheless demands an intense spiritual commitment and is no stranger to painful purifications (the “dark night”). But it leads, in various possible ways, to the ineffable joy experienced by the mystics as “nuptial union.”¹

John Paul identifies four principles that are needed to understand the spiritual journey:

1. *Union with God of this depth is totally unattainable by our own efforts; it is a gift that only God can give; we are totally dependent on His grace for progress in the spiritual life. Yet we know also that God is eager to give this grace and bring us to deep union.*
2. *At the same time our effort is indispensable. Our effort is not sufficient to bring about such union, but is necessary. The efforts we make help dispose us to receive the gifts of God. If we really value something we must be willing to focus on doing those things that will help us reach the goal.*
3. *Much has to change in us in order to make us capable of deep union with God.*
4. *Finally, we need to know that all the effort and pain is worth it. Infinitely worth it²*

¹ Novo Millennio Inuente, JP II

² Adapted from *The Fulfillment of All Desire*; Ralph Martin

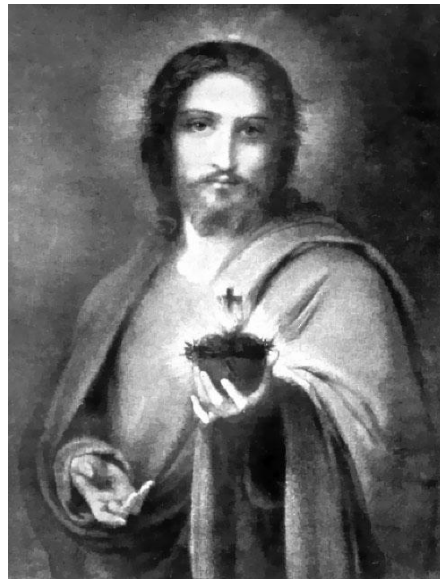
Tabernacle Question

“Beloved, how blessed, how wonderful, are God’s gifts! Life with immortality, glory with righteousness, truth with confidence, self-control with holiness: all these are the gifts that fall within our understanding...We should then strive with the greatest zeal to be found among the number of those who await him, so that we may share in the promised gifts. How will this be, beloved? If our mind is fixed on God through faith, if we are diligent in seeking what is pleasing and acceptable to him, if we fulfill what is according to his blameless will and follow the way of truth, casting away from ourselves all that is unholy.”³

As we have answered the Call to Holiness, here before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament let us ask Jesus to show us His plan for us to grow in holiness toward communion with the One Holy and Triune God.

Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

O my God, teach me to be generous: to serve you as you deserve to be served; to give without counting the cost; to fight without fear of being wounded; to work without seeking rest; and to spend myself without expecting any reward, but the knowledge that I am doing your holy will.



³ St. Clement, Letter to the Corinthians, Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV Pg. 453