

SOLT Lay Formation Teaching Transcript

IMITATE MARY BECOME LIKE JESUS LIVE FOR THE TRIUNE GOD

Liturgy is Life

Prayer and Introduction

God Bless You! Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Therese, St. Rita, St. John the Baptist and all the Holy Angels and Saints, smile upon you. Welcome to the Lay Formation Program of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. My name is Father Zachary of the Mother of God, the Priest Director of Lay Formation.

Today, we will be talking about Liturgy, the worship of God. Liturgy Is Life, and God willing, Our Blessed Mother will reveal to you how Liturgy unfolds in your life. Liturgy is the revelation of God in the mystery of your life. All the circumstances and events of your life are orchestrated by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit for forming you into another Christ. We begin as always with Prayer.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father who art in Heaven hallowed it be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Our Lady of the most Holy Trinity, pray for us.

Liturgy is Life Overview

This subject (Liturgy is Life) is very important in relationship to Formation for the Lay Faithful and all of God's family. The Holy Spirit gives us the Liturgy of the Catholic Church and Liturgy is where our lives are contained. There is a three year cycle of readings in which we go through all of Sacred Scripture. As we proceed through Sacred Scripture, we worship God, in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and as we live the Liturgy. We worship God by participating in the sacred Liturgy of the Catholic Church. In the three year cycle, the life of Christ unfolds in our lives and we deepen our life given to us in Baptism, the life of the most Holy Trinity. Our Lady helps us look at the face of Christ, just as we do when we pray the Holy Rosary; we look at the face of Christ in the school of Mary and we contemplate His face and we pour into the deep mystery of our Life in Christ. Each year we go through the Liturgy and understand more about Christ, who reveals to us the most Holy Trinity, who reveals to us ourselves. That's the foundation.

The Liturgical Year

The Liturgical Year begins the first Sunday of Advent, as we prepare for the birth of Christ. Advent, from Latin, means 'to come.' We are preparing for Christ to come. In a new and profound way each and every Christmas, Christ is to be born in our lives. *Liturgy is life.* Liturgy is living. For example, the birth of Christ is not just a reality that began over 2000 years ago. Certainly it was an historical event, but God is God. He is eternal. He is infinite. He is not bound by time and space. He wants to be born in our lives, in our lives, our hearts, our souls, our spirits, and in our very being. We are baptized into Christ and that is why we go through the Liturgical Year. To enter into the mystery of Christ who reveals us to ourselves.

Formation in the Liturgical Cycle

We have already talked of our destiny, the plan that God has for our lives. We have been praying to respond to that plan in order to receive the Grace to respond to that plan. We know that we are created in the image and likeness of God and to come into communion. We have talked of the universal call to holiness and the life of virtue. We have now come to Liturgy where Formation will take place in our lives each and every moment.

We continue with the Liturgical cycle, where we begin to lay the foundations revealing how your life is contained in the weekly Liturgy. We have Advent then we come to the birth of Christ, Christmas. We have an Octave of Christmas. Eight days in which every day we celebrate as Christmas. Christmas doesn't come and go in one day. We reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation and birth of Christ, and the child being born for us. God becomes man. What does the meaning of this child and His birth mean for me? Each year that mystery unfolds in a new and living way. So the Church gives us the Holy Spirit, where the soul of the Church gives us eight days that we call an Octave, where we celebrate, each day, this Christmas gift, to reflect on this mystery, to launch us into the rest of the Liturgical Year.

We have the Christmas season where we enter into such mysteries as the Holy Family. We enter into such mysteries as the Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord. The Christmas season is a beautiful, joyful time of the year which are contained in the joyful mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary. We enter into the calendar year in that last day of the Octave of Christmas. Every day being celebrated as Christmas on the feast of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1st.

We must understand our Blessed Mother as Mother of God to understand Christ. You cannot understand Christ unless you have a relationship with the Mother. You cannot understand Him in His fullness unless you have a relationship with our Blessed Mother Mary. On the Octave day of Christmas the gift of Jesus is that we celebrate Mary the Mother of God which is also now World Peace day. Some will call it New Years on the calendar, the calendar of the World, but in God's eyes it is the Octave day of Christmas. We go forward in the Christmas season in a joyful spirit.

We come then to Ordinary Time. We usually celebrate four or five weeks of Ordinary Time before the Holy Season of Lent. Ordinary Time, however, is not ordinary. Nothing about our life is ordinary. Our

life is extraordinary. We do ordinary things with extraordinary love. This is the spiritual doctrine of St. Therese of Lisieux. If you notice, at the beginning of the teaching; we invoked the intercession of St. Therese. Therese is a friend. You want to become a friend of the Saints. The Saints will help you through the Liturgical Year and help you understand the mystery of Christ. The Saints lived the Liturgy, the mystery of Christ. Make friends with the communion of Saints. When their feast days come along, join them in prayer.

The Holy Season of Ordinary Time

We go onto Ordinary Time which comes from the Latin words that relate to ordered, like ordinal numbers or the word ordained; this time was ordained to enter into the fullness of the mystery of Christ. You see, there are holy seasons, such as the Holy Season of Advent the Christmas season; we refer to the Holy Season of Lent and the following Holy Season of Easter. During those periods of time, we focus on certain aspects of the mystery of Christ. They are so profound, rich and deep that they reveal mysteries of Christ and, therefore, reveal us to ourselves. They are worthy of our reflection, and there are special Graces during those periods that are available to us. We are going to teach you to respond to those Graces, how to find them and respond to the Graces. This is Formation. This is life. During Ordinary Time, we don't just take an attitude that every day is just ordinary. We do everything with great love, extraordinary love. What we do is enter into the mystery of Christ in His fullness during Ordinary Time and we proceed in the Gospels that reveal to us Jesus Christ. In the Gospels of St. Matthew, St. Luke, St. Mark and St. John, the mystery of Christ is unfolded to us each and every week.

Christ the King

The final week of Ordinary Time is Christ the King; it's not ordinary, because He is our destiny. Christ will become the King of our lives, God willing, for all eternity. That is where we are moving, to Christ the King. After the celebration of Christ the King we examine, have we really let Christ be our King? Is He really the King of our minds, our hearts, our souls, our spirits, our bodies, our marriages, our families, everything we are involved in? We also ask: Is the Blessed Mother truly our Queen? She is the Queen of Heaven, earth and our hearts. When we live under the reign of Jesus and Mary then we are happy, blessed people. We are in the Kingdom of God. So the Liturgical Year proceeds from the first Sunday of Advent all the way to Christ the King. As we are proceeding along, we have four to six weeks of Ordinary Time that follow the Christmas season moving into the Holy Season of Lent. There are Graces available during the Holy season of Lent. We are led by the Holy Spirit out into the desert with Jesus to conquer our temptations, to learn to claim to His victories over sin, Satan, death, the flesh and the world. We learn to knock them out. Our Blessed Mother trains us to keep our vision fixed on Christ. To claim His victories to overcome our temptations before we enter into our public ministry. All of us have vocations, calls by God, calls that came from the heart of the Trinity before creation. During the Liturgical Year you learn to live your generous response to this call. You learn to live the life of Christ, to be Holy, to fulfill your vocation.

Lent and the Easter Triduum

During the holy season of Lent, we go through some beautiful Formation. After Lent we move into Holy Week and into the Easter Triduum. The Triduum are the holiest days of the Liturgical Year.

Holy Thursday

First, Holy Thursday, where we celebrate the Mass of the Last Supper in which Jesus instituted the gift of the Holy Eucharist and the Holy Priesthood. The first Mass was celebrated – the Eternal Mass. There is only one Mass. One Mass consummated on Calvary, re-presented everyday all over the world in the Catholic Church.

Good Friday

Then Good Friday, where Jesus goes through His sacred Passion carrying His cross on His way to the Cross. I stand here between two stations of the Ways of the Cross, the Fourth Station where our Blessed Mother meets Jesus on the way to the cross. She is there to help us on our way to the cross as well. I also stand beside the sixth station where Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. God will provide people to wipe our face as we go along faithful to His will. Jesus, as a gift, imprints His Sacred face on that veil of Veronica that we still honor and venerate today. We look at the face of Jesus, contemplating His face, recognizing that He suffered for us in order to restore His image and likeness upon our souls. We learn to see the face of Christ in others when we contemplate the face of Christ. St. Therese is known as St. Therese of the Child of Jesus and St. Therese of the Holy Face of Jesus. She loved the holy face of Jesus and contemplated the face of Jesus. She learned to see Jesus in others. That is what our life is about. Liturgy is Life. Jesus goes forward on the Way of the Cross to Calvary; He is nailed to the Cross and lifted up. Our Blessed Mother is at the foot of the cross. Jesus is our Redeemer. Our Blessed Mother is Co-Redemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocatrix of all Graces, at the foot of the throne of God.

The Last Words of Jesus and the Gospels of Good Friday

Jesus gives us a summary of all the Gospels on Good Friday as He prays His seven last words.

1. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.
2. This day thou shalt be with me in paradise.
3. Woman, behold your Son, Son behold your Mother. (The great gift of our Blessed Mother to us.)
4. My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?
5. I thirst. (He thirsts for souls. He thirsts for your soul. He thirsts for my soul. He wants us to be instruments to gather other souls and we must learn to live the Liturgy to do this.)
6. It is consummated.
7. Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit.

Those seven last words that we pray every Good Friday, in a very special way, allow us to go into Jesus' Passion.

Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday we reflect on the meaning of Jesus' Passion, death and burial, with faith that He will rise as He told us He will rise. With our Blessed Mother we stand outside of the tomb, where our Lord was buried, reflecting on the meaning of Christ's Sacred Passion. If you want to become a Saint, you need to reflect on Jesus' Passion every day. One of the surest ways to become a Saint is to reflect on Jesus' Sacred humanity. Reflect on the fullness of His Sacred humanity and the meaning of His Sacred Passion and death. On Holy Saturday we are also preparing for His resurrection.

The Octave of Easter

On Easter, He rises and comes forth from the tomb with a smile on His face. We contemplate His face as He comes forth and hands us a new life. He gives us a new light that guides our lives, this light of faith. He makes it possible to love with His Love. We enter into the Octave of Easter. Eight days where we reflect on the meaning of Jesus rising from the dead. Death has no more power over us. Claim the victories! We learn to claim the victories of Jesus. He is risen! Christ has died, Christ IS risen, Christ will come again, we proclaim in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He IS risen. We have eight days, given by the Church to reflect on the meaning of His resurrection. The resurrection should change our lives, just as the birth of Christ changes our lives. Remember, we have an Octave of Christmas, eight days where we reflect on the meaning of the birth of the Divine Child. Now we have eight days to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection. It is a profound and essential mystery of our faith, our life in Christ. Easter does not end just on that Sunday. In fact our life should begin when we start to learn to live the Liturgy.

Eight days into the Octave, we come to the Octave day, the following Sunday, Divine mercy Sunday. With Divine Mercy we see the rays that flow from the heart of Jesus. Those red and white rays come to you. The gift of the Eucharist, the gift of Baptism, the gift of the Sacrament of Peace and Reconciliation come from the side of Christ. The Church comes forth from the side of Christ.

The 50 Days of Easter

We move into the 50 days of Easter. 50 days! Most people don't even recognize that there are 50 days of Easter. They have some notion of the 40 days of the Holy Season of Lent. They know of the Easter Triduum, God willing, as the most sacred time of the year. But then we move into 50 days of Easter to reflect on the meaning of Christ's resurrection and to be consumed and transformed in the fires of divine love, in the Holy Spirit, to learn to live in oneness with the risen Christ, to witness Divine Love. 50 days.

Ascension Thursday

40 days after His resurrection is His Ascension, Ascension Thursday. Jesus, on His own power, goes up to Heaven. Before He goes up to Heaven, our Blessed Mother comes forth and asks for a blessing from our Lord. Our Blessed Mother bows before the mystery of Christ and teaches us to bow before the mystery of Christ and receive a blessing. She asks for a blessing on the Church, she asks for a blessing for you, and for me, so that we can continue the mystery of Christ, because the Ascension is really a missionary reality. Jesus says, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them all that I have taught you. It is that mystery of the Ascension, where hope is the fruit. The Grace of the mystery of the Rosary, the Ascension, is hope; we are hope filled people.

Pentecost

We continue then into the Upper Room with our Blessed Mother praying with the Apostles for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit – a Pentecost that takes place 50 days after Easter. The Holy Spirit comes forth upon all of us and we have to learn how to claim the Holy Spirit. Again, this is not just some historical event of some 2000 years ago, this is our life. We want a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, each and every day of our life. Come, Holy Spirit come. Come by the means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, your well beloved spouse. Come Holy Spirit; renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, you are the soul of the Church, the soul of my soul, move me. We see the Holy Spirit moving in the Acts of the Apostles. On every page you see how the Catholic Church is growing, even through persecution. That's how we learn to keep moving through persecution. We have this blessed time of the year of Pentecost.

Trinity Sunday

Then we go into Trinity Sunday. Our community (SOLT) is all about being a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, living Our Lady's relationships with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What does it mean to receive the Trinity in our baptism? How do we live this Trinitarian life? All of this is contained in Liturgy.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

Then you move to the Feast of Corpus Christi, the body of Christ, the Eucharist, and the Eucharistic mystery of Christ. His Passion, death, burial, resurrection and the ascension, the Paschal Mystery of Christ, is all contained in the Eucharist. Christ crucified and risen is in the Eucharist. We learn how to live Liturgy in the power of the Eucharist. We are going to be talking of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – the Eucharist that empowers us to live the Word proclaimed at the Mass. That is some of the Formation that will be coming.

Ordinary Time After Easter

We move back into Ordinary Time that, again, is not ordinary. Proceeding in the mystery of Christ, week to week being formed from Sunday to Sunday, we hear how God is going to work in our lives. He is telling us where the Graces will be. Each and every Sunday is a compass point in our life. We proceed through the year to come to Christ the King and then we begin the Liturgical Year again. That is the overview. We have these seasons where we go through the life of Christ year after year because we are baptized into Christ and we need to learn to live the mystery of our baptism. God Graces us with Liturgical times and seasons and he forms us in Liturgy.

How God Works in Your Life Within The Liturgy

Let's look at that a little more deeply. In the Facilitation Guides, you will see an outline of the Liturgical Year, the overview that I just gave you. You will also find a chart that outlines how the Liturgy unfolds. From the introductory antiphon to the opening prayer to the first reading to the responsorial psalm to the second reading to the Gospel acclamation to the proclamation of the Gospel to the prayer over the gifts to the antiphon that follows communion to the closing prayer. All of these have meaning. All of these reveal to us where God is going to be working in our lives, each and every week.

Do you want to know how God is going to work in your life? I want to share with you from my heart one of the first things I grabbed a hold of in my formation. I should say, I received, most generously from Our Lady this gift of understanding the Liturgy, how God works in our lives. My eyes were opened to see that God is announcing in the Liturgy what He is going to do in our lives. You have to understand the Liturgical season, and in the context of the Liturgical season, you understand that God has certain objectives. He wants to form you into Christ. Our Lady will help you understand these times and seasons in the working of God in your life, because our Blessed Mother Mary wants to bring forth Christ in your life. As a good Father He wants to form you, His children, into Christ, because His joy as a Father is to give life. That is what the Father does. God the Father's joy is to bring forth Christ in your life and the Holy Spirit works in the Liturgy.

The Mass and Your Life

Now this is not just some class, some theological class on memorizing the Liturgical Seasons. . This is about your life, and if you want to know how your life unfolds, how God works in your life, you need to understand the Liturgy. You need to understand the context of the Liturgical season that we went through. There is the way that the Mass is presented by the Holy Spirit. Every part of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has deep meaning for us.

Introductory Antiphon and Opening Prayer

The Introductory Antiphon for example introduces us into the Mystery of our life. That is what it means. Invitatory—you are invited. Introductory— you are introduced. That first antiphon, you want to see from God’s perspective what that means. You are being invited into the Mystery of your life, that is Christ. Then there is the opening prayer that is so rich. Unfortunately, in it seems that many people are tuned out at the time that the opening prayer is said. But if you listen to the prayer, it is so rich. It is a petition by Christ the Priest, to the Father in the Holy Spirit for you and for me. The words proclaim what we are asking God the Father to give us. Our Good Father will respond to the prayer of Christ. You ought to look at the opening prayer.

The Readings

Then you move right into the readings. The readings all have specific meaning within the Liturgy. The Holy Spirit did not just put them together haphazardly. Everything has an order and purpose. We have talked of that in the Lay Formation program. God has a plan. We are supposed to be responding to God’s plan. He wants to bring forth Christ in our lives. The readings unfold this Mystery of Christ. The First Reading is proclaimed and then followed by a Responsorial Psalm. It is called a Responsorial Psalm because that response is supposed to be our response to the First Reading. Our hearts and spirits are supposed to be moved to respond in a certain way to the First Reading. We don’t just say, “well I sort of like that one, I like this part of the reading.” God has a purpose and plan for giving us certain readings. The Responsorial Psalm is telling us how we are supposed to respond. You move deeper into the Second Reading. The Second Reading usually will identify in very special ways where your trials, temptations, persecutions and struggles will happen during that week. What I call your TTPS; trials, temptations, persecutions and struggles. These TTPS are going to happen in your life, but don’t get caught up in them because they all point to Grace. You see, Grace is invisible. Grace is little, like the mustard seed, but it is powerful, because it gives life. It is the life of God. We are used to seeing visible things in our existence. So we can see a trial, temptation, persecution or struggle. I can identify those very easily, so can you, all of us can. Do not get caught up in them. They all point to Grace. They say, “the Grace is here, the Grace is here.” They are like red flags alerting us that Grace is available. You ask our Blessed Mother, who is full of Grace, how to see grace. Hail Mary, full of Grace the Lord is with you. Ask our Blessed Mother how to find the Grace and respond to the Grace. This Grace is like a pearl of great price in your life. When you learn to grab hold of the Grace in all circumstances, your life will be blessed indeed. The Second Reading takes us deeper into the mystery of Christ that is unfolding.

The Gospel Acclamation and the Living Encounter with Christ

The Gospel Acclamation, acclaims where we are going. The Gospel is an encounter with Christ, the living encounter with Jesus Christ. Again, Scripture is not just a historical book. Yes there are historical realities in Sacred Scripture, but it is not written as an historical book. Jesus is living and we want a living encounter with Jesus Christ. One living encounter with Jesus Christ can transform your life as it did with St. Mary Madeleine, as it did with St. Zacheus, as it did with St. Paul, and as it should with us. One living

encounter with Christ leads to the path of conversion, communion and solidarity. Conversion, communion and solidarity. Read Ecclesia in America, John Paul the Great's letter to America, to one America. There is not North America, Central America, South America, but one America under the Mantle of Our Lady, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of Evangelization. Part of this Lay Formation program is to teach people how to evangelize. That is where we are going in a couple of years; we are going to give you some Formation. God is the Formator. Remember that God is the Formator. There are instruments of Formation, such as myself, but God is the formator. He is forming us in the Liturgy. We need to have a living encounter with Christ and follow the path of conversion, communion and solidarity, and then help others have a living encounter with Christ so that everybody can become a Saint. The Saint they were created to be. You can become a Saint. One encounter with Jesus Christ, a living encounter with Jesus Christ will change your life. That is what happens in the Liturgy.

Homily – Insights Into the Mystery

The homily should give you insight into the Mystery of Christ. You have the prayer over the gifts; you have the celebration of the Holy Eucharist that empowers us to live this mystery of Christ. This Mystery of Christ challenges us to do things that are supernatural because Christ is Divine. That is our life. We receive the power of the Most Holy Eucharist to help us live that week IN Christ, to become another Christ and to live our baptism. That is where we will be formed, and where we will be challenged. The Graces are identified in the Liturgy. We proceed to the Antiphon after Communion, Holy Communion then the Closing Prayer. All of these identify where God will be working. We will help you start to get into this rhythm of your life. Liturgy preparation is very important. Before going to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass please, I beg you, as your spiritual father, I beg you to prepare before you go to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, because all of these Graces are available to you. All of these riches are available to you and if you prepare you will be tuned in. Your heart will be touched, you will be enriched. You will be ready for the next week of life as God forms you.

Sunday to Sunday – The Compass Points of Your Life

Now I want to give you a little insight into how this Formation takes place. You see, each Sunday – Sunday to Sunday are the compass points of your life. Compass points, because we need a direction. Our direction is Heaven, right? Our Lady will help us go in the right direction when you understand that Liturgy is life, it is life. You have prepared well, you have come to the Mass, and you have listened. You recognize that your life is contained in the Liturgy, the entire Liturgy. It bothers me sometimes when people say, "I don't know why the second reading was included in the Liturgy. I see how the first reading connects to the Gospel but I don't see how the second reading fits in?" Do you think the Holy Spirit just haphazardly gave us a Second Reading? I find that the ones that are most difficult to understand, how they come together are the richest ones. It is the Mystery of life. Treasures are contained in there. Do not give up on yourself. Spend extra time in prayer asking, what does this mean? How does this all fit together? How is God going to work in my life in these compass points from Sunday to Sunday? Find what God does as the great Teacher. Our Father in Heaven, Jesus the Teacher and the

Holy Spirit, teach us on Sunday and give us the lessons of life for the week. Like any good teacher, God tells us what He is going to do. He is going to reinforce the lessons, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, to the next Sunday which is the next compass point.

God's Lessons and Tests

Any good teacher knows that you cannot give a test to your student until you have given the lesson. God does test His children. His testing has to be understood properly. He tests us to prove us. The word to prove, is used in the Old Testament, *he is proving us*. God knows the quality of gold before it goes into the fire; He is testing to prove the quality of the gold during the way of the cross. You are His children, He knows you are His children, He calls all of Heaven together and says look at my child. They are all looking at you, supporting you, cheering you on. Our Father wants you to come to the full measure of the mature Christ.

He gives us our Blessed Mother to help us understand the mystery of Christ. She is the surest, easy, and perfect way to Christ. She helps us understand Liturgy, this gift of the Holy Spirit. Our Father is going to form us during the week. As a Teacher He teaches the lesson on Sunday and then He re-enforces the lesson during the week. He proves us during the week. He says, "There is my child, watch when this circumstance in his life comes. Watch how he responds as he was instructed by Christ."

For example, if the Gospel on Sunday is *The Sermon on the Mount*, where Jesus says, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who persecute you." These are four challenging realities where you will be formed. Under our own strength we cannot do it. However, with God, everything is possible. We receive the Eucharist when we are in a state of grace in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Jesus gives us Himself so we can die to ourselves, and rise in Him, so that we can love our enemies. This is challenging. Jesus on the cross loves His enemies. We were His enemies because we were caught up in sin, but He loves us so much that he freed us. God the Father looks at us as His children because Christ laid down His life for us. Let us accept this life. Learn how to love your enemies. We do not just isolate the teaching of the week to the Gospel because all of the parts of the Liturgy; all the prayers, the antiphons, all the readings, point to how you are going to be formed. I can guarantee when the Sermon on the Mount is Gospel of the week, one of your enemies will be sent to you. That is how Formation works. Now we remember as Catholics that our only enemy is Satan and sin. Our enemy is what sin does to our brothers and sisters. We don't look at people as our enemies. We recognize that sin affects people and they do things that they should not be doing many times. So we love them. We are given the strength to love them even though they are persecuting us and we pray for them. The experience may appear as a trial, temptation, persecution or struggle, but the Grace is, to love them.

Our Blessed Mother will help you love them. She reminds you that you are baptized into Christ. Christ loved right on the cross. On the cross, Jesus Christ with His arms spread said, "I love you. You may crucify me world, but these nails don't hold me here, I am here to give glory to my Father and to win salvation for all. Yes world, you may nail me here, you may crucify me, but the one thing you cannot do

is make me stop loving you. I am free.” Well, how are we going to learn? How are we going to be formed to come to that type of freedom? It is in the Liturgy. Liturgy is life. When the Gospel proclaims this, the next week you will have opportunities to grow into Christ. You can look at things as problems in life or you can look at them as opportunities. I prefer to look at things as opportunities. I have the strength of the Eucharist. I know that I belong to God. I am one of Our Lady’s sons. What else do I need? Actually when people persecute me, all they are saying is, “pray for me, pray for me.” They may not know how to pray and the Gospel says, pray for your persecutors. So what does God do? He permits them to come to me because they don’t know how to pray. So they come and persecute me. I do not see them persecuting me, I see them saying, “pray for me.” You know it is similar to times when people come to me and they want to challenge me about the Catholic faith. I just pray to be in communion with the Trinity and I listen to them and I hear them say, “I want to be Catholic, I want to be Catholic, I want to be Catholic.” When you hear with God’s ears and God’s eyes, life is beautiful, but you have to learn to respond to the Grace. Liturgy is life; Liturgy will show you the Graces.

The Reinforcement of the Lessons of Christ – Day to Day

Now here is even a more exciting part of the program. You have the Sunday teaching then, each day, the lessons are going to be reinforced, you are going to come close to Christ under Our Lady’s mantle, living the Eucharist, but we know that the next Sunday is the next compass point, so if you start to read the Liturgy for the next Sunday, you start to see where God is going to form you the next week. So as he is reinforcing the lessons from the previous compass point (the previous Sunday) He is also preparing you for this lesson. God is amazing and if you understand these compass points you will understand what is going to happen in your life. In fact, it even gets richer.

If you pray the Liturgy of the Hours, which continue the sacrifice of the Mass, then each hour, by hour, by hour, morning prayer to daytime prayer to evening prayer, all the other hours of the day, you will know how God is going to be working in life during that time period of the day, because you know the main compass points. You know the daily Liturgy. I also need to mention that if you stay up on the daily Liturgy you get a refinement of what is going to happen in that day in the context of these compass points in the context of the Liturgical season, you get daily lessons, refined and perfected for you.

Prepare, Live and Pray the Liturgy

I urge you to prepare daily the Liturgy. There are many, many resources out there. You can get ahold of the Roman Missal or the *Magnificat*, where in one little book you find the Liturgy. *The Magnificat* even has reflections and prayers that help the Lay Faithful. It is a great gift from God. Daily, you reflect on your lives, this Liturgy is your life. I am just trying to share you my joy so that your joy may be complete. That is what this is about; in fact this whole Lay Formation program is about sharing Our Lady’s joy.

Our Lady lived the Liturgy and we are paralleling her life. This is how this whole Lay Formation came about; we are just sharing Our Lady’s life. Through prayer, it was revealed to us that the Trinity wanted everybody to know about Our Lady’s life, the way that she responds to the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy

Spirit. She responded so perfectly living this plan of communion that God bestows great honors on her. Our Lady wants to share her life with all of us and she shares in Our Lady's Society. She helps us have these Trinitarian relationships; she helps us have her heart, a heart for the Liturgy, a heart for other people. We want the whole world to know about the gift of the Liturgy, to see as God sees, to be formed in Christ. You have a whole plan for your life unfold for you in the Liturgy, you have the Liturgical seasons, where there are these objectives that God has for you. There is a context and then there are the compass points Sunday to Sunday. Then there are the teachings reinforced each day preparing you for the teachings that will come the next Sunday. There is the daily Liturgy that gives you refinements on the Formation. There is the hourly Liturgy in the Liturgy of the Hours. Your whole life is in the Liturgy. It is going to take a little practice and training to understand this, but when you understand, you will understand that this is the key to your life.

Embrace the Gift of the Liturgy

We will be giving you facilitation guides to help you throughout this Formation. I urge you to embrace this great gift. This is a special gift from Our Lady. Accept this gift; it will enrich your life. The three most important points of this teaching are...

1. The Liturgical Year contains the life of Christ. We recognize that we are baptized into Christ so we need to be formed into Christ. The Liturgical Year helps us go through the life of Christ forming us into Christ. In the Liturgy, the Graces that the Trinity has prepared for us from all of eternity are ready for us. The Trinity looks out across time before time existed and prepared Graces for us in our life. There are Graces available. The trials, temptations, persecutions and struggles of your life all point to these Graces, but you must understand the Liturgy in order to understand and respond to these Graces.
2. Prepare well for the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Use *The Magnificat* or the *Roman Missal*. Do Liturgy preparation so that these Graces will be made present and visible to you. You will recognize them if you prepare well, but you must recognize that Grace is received based on the disposition of the receiver. God wants to bestow infinite Graces on you. He has a Formation program for you in the Liturgy, but you must respond to the Graces. Turn to Our Lady, go to Our Lady, our Mother, she will help you open your heart, mind and whole being to these Graces. She is full of Grace, she lived the Liturgy, she lives the Liturgy and she wants you as her child to live the Liturgy. She wants you to be formed into another Christ; God the Father wants you to be formed into another Christ. Your Father wants to bless you abundantly. Liturgy is life. The challenge of this month is to prepare before each Sunday Mass. Try to see how the whole Mass including the antiphons, prayers and readings are all tied together. Look for how your life is contained in the Liturgy. Then try to pay attention the next week and how it starts to play out, how it starts to unfold, once you get one taste of this I guarantee you will never be the same again. Your life will be so rich, you will start to see the plan unfold and your life will be filled with the awe and wonder of this great gift. This is where Formation takes place. The fruit, the Grace is that you will become who you

were created to be, you will live your baptism because you will see that God's plan is unfolding in your life. You will have an excitement, an enthusiasm, richness to your life, happiness, joy and peace because now your life has meaning and you see it right there in the Liturgy.

3. Remember to continue to pray. Pray the rosary, contemplate the face of Christ. All the things we have talked of in this Formation program are connected. It is all about enriching you. You see, we want you to become a Saint, because God wants you to become a Saint, Our Lady wants you to become a Saint. The world is moved by the Saints and you are created to be a Saint. Your life is contained in the Liturgy, the worship of God. Please, know who you are and respond to the gift of God's love expressed in the Liturgy that is your life.

The Lord be with you. May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and Holy Spirit. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.