



Prayer Before the Crucifix

Most High,
glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me
true faith,
certain hope,
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
Lord,
that I may carry out
Your holy and true command.

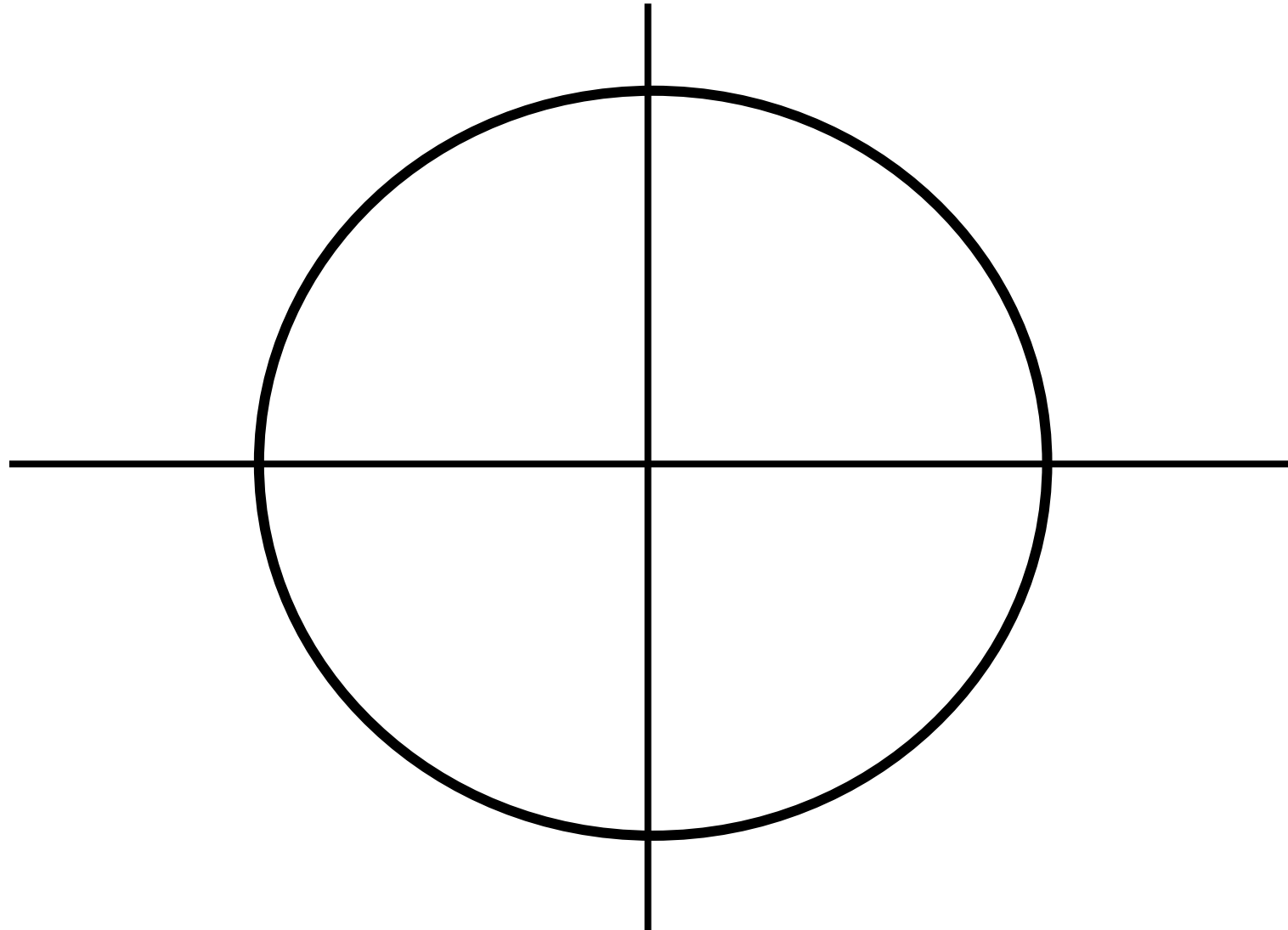
MY HEART'S DESIRE (Governing Graces)

While her servant Francis
was living in the church of the Virgin Mother of God,
he prayed to her
who had conceived the Word full of grace and truth,
imploring her with continuous sighs to become his advocate.

Through the merits
of the Mother of Mercy,
he conceived and brought to birth
the spirit of the truth of the Gospel.



HERE-and-NOW WHEEL: Write within the wheel the four main feelings you identify within yourself right here and now. Then, write outside of the circle the sources of those feelings.





FORCES – SPIRITS – MOVEMENTS THAT ARE SHAPING MY WORLD

Some issues, figures, events, ideas, slogans, movements, persons, rituals, 'tapes', CDs, 'soaps' forces in my world that have an effect on me:

Feelings (positive and negative) that accompany my awareness and experience of these forces in my world:



Call and Response: Zacchaeus, Matthew, The Rich Young Man....

Luke 19:5-10 ⁵When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.”

⁶And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

⁷When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”

⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

The 5 D's of Choosing Christ

1. Desire
2. Discernment
3. Decision
4. Detachment
5. Devotion

One day when he was devoutly hearing a Mass of the Apostles, the Gospel was read in which Christ sends forth his disciples to preach and explains to them the way of life according to the Gospel: that they should not keep gold or silver or money in their belts, nor have a wallet for their journey, nor two tunics, nor shoes, nor staff (Matt. 10:9). When he heard this, he grasped its meaning and committed it to memory. This lover of apostolic poverty was then filled with an indescribable joy and said:



“This is what I want; this is what I long for with all my heart.” He immediately took off his shoes from his feet, put aside his staff, cast away his wallet and money as if accursed, was content with one tunic and exchanged his leather belt for a piece of rope. He directed all his heart’s desire to carry out what he had heard and to conform in every way to the rule of right living given to the apostles. (LM III,1)





Francis' Call to *Abandonment*

Abuses in the Order: LP75/76 (O-1050.)

- Francis gives the Order 'back to God' and over to the ministers "because sickness would not allow me to care for the brethren".
- "because he would remain humble". "As from today I am dead..."
LP105 (O-1081)

Further Explanations

- Francis has to give up his special companions: MP40 (O-1166.)
- The anger of Francis: MP41 (O-1166), against “those who have torn MY order and MY friars from my hands.
- These are signs that it was not easy for Francis to let go.
- LP83 (O-1058): Francis gives the portrait of a “true friar”, but Francis is feeling the rejection by the Order at the Chapter: 2Cel 145 (O-478); Adm IV,VI,& XX.
- Almost exactly the same words and sentiments are expressed in Perfect Joy O-1501: resentment at rejection.

Francis also had to struggle to get the *Rule of 1223* accepted by the Order: LM IV, 11 (Bon.216); MP1 (O-1125); LP113 (O-1088). The *voice from heaven* is “an angry voice” against the Ministers. And it is, of course, the voice of Francis himself.

2 Cel 140 (O-475f): Francis gives up the Generalship of the Order.

LP83 (O-1058), SP64 (O-1189), LMVI,5: *We no longer want you to rule over us.*

Francis’ disenchantment with the Order:

LMVIII,3 (O-690), 2 Cel 156 (O-487) *“letting their beards grow long!!!”*

“Who are these who have snatched my Order and my Brothers out of my hands? If I go to the Chapter, I’ll show them! 2Cel 188 (O-512)

‘For some of the superiors pull them (the Brethren) in another direction, holding up to them as patterns the men of long ago, and disregarding my warnings. But what they are doing and the way in which they are now acting will appear more clearly in the end’. SP41 (O-1166)

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Checklist on how to keep fatigued!

1. Consider yourself to be the only one who can help another.
2. Maintain some image of what the "truly loving," "truly insightful" Christian would do with another.
3. Expect to feel like a warm and loving Christian most of the time.
4. Always try to be fair to everyone most of the time.
5. Expect to escape feeling bored, guilty, or confused. Consider these evidences of your failure.
6. Be sure to have answers for most questions.
7. Feel it is your responsibility to be "encouraging" to all others.
8. Ignore your own feelings, and primarily focus on the other's feelings. Tell yourself this is being "responsible".

Checklist continued

9. Convince yourself that others are “fragile” and thus must be related to delicately.
10. Assume your “negative” feelings reflect something neurotic about yourself.
11. Compare yourself frequently with most of your heroes.
12. Remember your failures frequently.
13. Always be available for friends, family, and neighbors.
14. Expect to get to the point where all your time and personal struggles work out well.
15. Keep most of your time throughout the day tightly structured.
16. When all else fails, try harder.