

REJOICE & BE GLAD - REFLECTION GUIDE

CHAPTER THREE: IN THE LIGHT OF THE MASTER, PART TWO

Re-read these excerpts from chapter three of *Gaudete Et Exultate* (Rejoice and Be Glad), Pope Francis' exhortation 'On the Call to Holiness in Today's World' and reflect on the following questions.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy"

Read "We need to think of ourselves as an army of the forgiven. All of us have been looked upon with divine compassion. If we approach the Lord with sincerity and listen carefully, there may well be times when we hear his reproach: "Should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (Mt 18:33)." (82)

Reflect When has the Lord or some person shown you mercy? Is there someone in your life in need of your love and mercy?

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"

Read "The Lord expects a commitment to our brothers and sisters that comes from the heart. For "if I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have no love, I gain nothing" (1 Cor 13:3)... From the heart's intentions come the desires and the deepest decisions that determine our actions." (85)



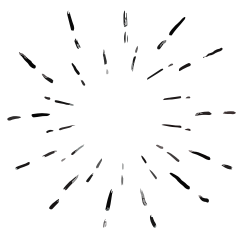
Reflect When you offer help or service to someone is it out of a sense of obligation or out of love? What does it mean to be more pure of heart in your life?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"

Read "It is not easy to "make" this evangelical peace, which excludes no one but embraces even those who are a bit odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, different, beaten down by life or simply uninterested. It is hard work; it calls for great openness of mind and heart, since it is not about creating "a consensus on paper or a transient peace for a contented minority", or a project "by a few for the few". Nor can it attempt to ignore or disregard conflict; instead, it must "face conflict head on, resolve it and make it a link in the chain of a new process". We need to be artisans of peace, for building peace is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill." (89)

Reflect Where do you see violence or conflict in your family, workplace or community? How might you make peace with "serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill?"

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"



Read "Jesus himself warns us that the path he proposes goes against the flow, even making us challenge society by the way we live and, as a result, becoming a nuisance. He reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for "whoever would save his life will lose it" (Mt 16:25)." (90)

Reflect Have you ever been persecuted, ridiculed or judged for your faith? Do you become defensive or even angry? How might God be calling you to respond differently, more like Christ?