

# THE 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SUMMER FAITH-FORMATION PROGRAM 2020

## SUBJECT / TOPIC: **WHERE LIES HOPE?**

I – SIGN OF THE CROSS

II – ANGELUS

III – HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE (354 A.D. – 430 A.D.)

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my thoughts may all be holy.  
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
That my work, too, may be holy.  
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
That I love but what is holy.  
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
To defend all that is holy.  
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
That I always may be holy.

IV – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST



**I pledge allegiance to the Cross of Christ, and to the faith for which it stands, one Church - Holy, Catholic and Apostolic, with grace and salvation for all.** SOURCE: <https://handmaidsoftheimmaculate.weebly.com/blog/i-pledge-allegiance-to-the-cross>

NOTE: Should we not teach this pledge allegiance to the Cross of Christ to others? Have we forgotten that every September 14 of each year, our Mass celebration is *El Triunfo de la Cruz* (The Triumph of the Cross)? May Jesus Christ be praised! *Laudetur Jesus Christus!*

V – HYMN: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS [A MEDITATION INTERLUDE](0:00 / 4:00. Live. 18,637,184 views 18M views. • Feb 29, 2008. 64K 3.5K ...Feb 29, 2008 - Uploaded by smileyface522)

### THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

1. On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross  
The emblem of suffering and shame

And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain  
**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross**  
**Till my trophies, at last, I lay down**  
**I will cling to the old rugged Cross**  
**And exchange it some day for a crown**

2. Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world  
Has a wondrous attraction for me  
For the dear Lamb of God, left His Glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary  
**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross**  
**Till my trophies, at last, I lay down**  
**I will cling to the old rugged Cross**  
**And exchange it some day for a crown**

3. Then He'll call me some day to my home far away  
Where His glory forever I'll share  
**So I'll cherish the old rugged Cross**  
**Till my trophies, at last, I lay down**  
**//: I will cling to the old rugged Cross**  
**And exchange it some day for a crown ://**

## VI – ARE WE IN THE MOTHER OF ALL WARS?

### A. From Genesis to Revelation: 73 Books of the Bible

1. From Genesis where it is stated that God says, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; they will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel” (Genesis 3:15) to the Book of Revelation, where nothing unclean or no spot and/or slightest stain of sin --- in God’s eternal Kingdom of Heaven --- can enter it, except those “whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life” (Revelation 21:27b).
2. In other words, from Genesis where God says: “I will maintain my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout the ages as an everlasting covenant, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you” (Genesis 17:7) to the Book of Revelation, the banner with the words “I will be your God and you will be my people,” has been soaked in blood set with histories of turmoil, conflict and violence, in direct opposition (hostility) between individuals, groups and/or countries.
3. At the heart of all battles in the entire Scripture is spiritual warfare, where the cross is taken and expressed in the writings of Martyrs and Saints.
4. This spiritual battle is the mother of all wars or battle, be they in technology, politics, economics, and culture. For example, if one is in peace, that person brings about peace. If one is raging in anger, hatred, vindictiveness or revenge, then that person will be

“like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8b). This is true in both personal and societal or structural like an organized crime or violence.

5. The next thing to do is to know our enemy.

## VII – IF WE SAY WE ARE IN BATTLE, WHO IS THE ENEMY?

### A. THE DECLARATION FROM EPHESIANS 6:10-17

#### *Battle against Evil*

Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold fast as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

#### *Constant Prayer*

With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones and also for me, that speech may be given me to open my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains, so that I may have the courage to speak as I must.

### B. THE DECLARATION FROM 1 PETER 5:8-11

Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings. The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ [Jesus] will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little. To him be dominion forever. Amen.

### C. THE DECLARATION FROM GALATIANS 5:16-26

I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: immorality, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, factions, occasions of envy, drinking bouts, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. In contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is

no law. Now those who belong to Christ [Jesus] have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. Who, then, is our enemy? Our enemies are the evil spirits, fallen angels, and demons.

## VIII – IF SPIRITUAL BATTLE IS THE MOTHER OF ALL WARS, WHAT MUST WE DO TO WIN THIS BATTLE?

### A. ANSWER: PERSONAL HOLINESS RENEWS THE WORLD, THE CHURCH IN ALL LEVELS OF BEING CHURCH, INCLUDING THE CHURCH IN THE HOME

1. The Saints of the ages have taught humanity to use the most powerful spiritual weapons against the forces of darkness and the apparatus of evil by engaging the way into being holy.
2. The devil himself confirms this spiritual thrust to holiness when he said to Saint John Marie Vianney: “If only there were upon earth three people like you, my kingdom would fall and crumble” (cf. Georgina Molyneux, *Cure D’Ars: A Memoir of Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney* [London: Richard Bentley, New Burlington Street, 1869], p. 157; see also Michael Gaitley, MIC, *33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat* [Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2017], p. 105).

### B. GOD’S GIFTS / BLESSINGS TO ALL AND THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU TO A MISSION, WHEREVER, WHENEVER, IN THE FAMILY AND ELSEWHERE

Lived by all Martyrs and Saints, the powerful spiritual weapons of the Church against the forces of darkness and the apparatus of evil in the world are the same graces / blessings from God in the last 2,000-year Tradition of the Church to being holy, in terms of living and committing to:

1. **Praying with Scripture** (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Nos. 2700 – 2724; *Lectio Divina* relative to the readings of the Mass each day).
2. **Doing / Persevering in One’s Prayer Life** (e.g., Liturgy of the Hours; Awareness-Consciousness Examen; Litany of the Saints; Prayer to the Holy Spirit; Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet; Novena Prayers; Total Consecration to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Devotions to the Saints; etc.).
3. **Fasting** (from junk, bad habits, gossip; useless use of time relative to the social media; fasting from pride, self-centeredness, jealousy, anger, resentments, vindictiveness; being judgmental or negative, etc.).
4. **Spiritual Reading** (or viewing wholesome films or videos on lives of Saints, etc.).
5. **Almsgiving** (helping the poor and supporting the Church).
6. **Adoring the Body / Blood of Christ (ABC):** *en el Santissimo Sacramento*.
7. **Celebrating the Sacraments** (e.g., regular **Confession**; daily or Sunday **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**; also ensuring that the sick gets the **Sacrament of Anointing**).

NOTHING FOLLOWS AFTER THIS!