

Taizé Prayer Service

Aug. 4, 2022

We Are A New Creation

Introduction

A new chapter in the story of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood opened in June when a single province was created in the United States.

Trusting in the power of the spirituality of our founder St. Gaspar del Bufalo, we are a new beginning, a new creation.

August 15 is the founding date of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood; it is also the Feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. Because St. Gaspar had a special devotion to Mary, he founded the Community on that date. He commissioned a special painting of the Madonna of the Precious Blood. Gaspar took this image with him on every mission that he preached, and it became the focus for his initial preaching. Mary is the means by which our devotion to Christ remains human, and we experience God's love and God's gift in our daily experience. In this portrait she holds the Child Jesus, who holds a chalice extended to us.



Chant 5x

*Holy Mary, gentle mother, God's pure vessel,
praying for me;
saints and angels, all in heaven, come and be
with me.*

Reading

There are many different customs in different countries honoring Mary, the mother of Jesus, on the Feast of her Assumption. In Armenia, there is a custom of offering the "first fruits" of the harvest to God in imitation of the Biblical Abel, who made the same worthy sacrifice. So, the Sunday nearest to the Feast of the Assumption of Mary is set aside for the Blessing of the Grapes. A commendable custom arose of abstaining from eating grapes until after the blessing, at which time trays laden with fruit were brought into the churches, blessed, and given to each

member of the congregation to take home. In some places, feasts were held in vineyards.

Eating grapes on the Feast of the Assumption is an easy and delicious way to celebrate!

Chant 5x

*Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord who sets us free.
Sing out, my soul. Sing out, my soul.
Sing out and glorify the Lord God!*

Reading "With Mary at the Foot of the Cross" by St. Gaspar

Happy are we if we establish our dwelling place near the Cross of Jesus with Mary the Sorrowful Mother and the beloved disciple St. John. How we taste the sweetness of the mystical fruits.

While miserable affairs here below embitter us, they always rouse us to a new spiritual hunger for justice and holiness: "Blessed are they who hunger for justice" (Mt 5:6).



How beautiful to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross! We stand there with the Mother of God and our mother, with the Advocate for sinners, with the sovereign Mediatrix of the universe, with the Teacher of truth.

In her, we have the center of all that is good, the fountain of all joy, the motive for all comfort. We invoke Mary if

afflicted, we turn to Mary if in doubt, we call on Mary in every event. In a special way, after Christ, we place our trust in her to obtain pardon for our faults.

Silence 5 minutes

Petitions

God has reconciled us to himself through the blood of Christ. In the power of this blood and through the intercession of St Gaspar, let us present our prayers as we sing:

Chant 2x, then 1x after each petition

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.
When I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.
Come and listen to me.*

Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of the victims of injustice; by the power of your blood, give them courage, we pray.

- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of those in search of a country, a home and work: by the power of your blood, sustain them, we pray.
- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of prisoners, of refugees, of immigrants and of slaves everywhere; by the love of your blood, give them hope, we pray.
- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of the suffering, the sick, the lonely and misunderstood; by your restoring blood, heal their sufferings, we pray.
- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise the cry of all those who live in areas plagued by war, instability, and poverty; by your peace-bearing blood, reconcile us to God and nation to nation, we pray.

- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise our prayer for all the departed; may they celebrate with you the banquet of life without end, we pray.
- Lord Jesus, at the foot of the cross we raise our prayer for the United States Province of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood; use them as instruments of renewal and reconciliation bringing about a new creation, we pray.

All recite the Lord's Prayer

Chant 5x

*Stay with us, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.*

Closing Prayer

Lord our God, who chose the mother of your beloved Son to be the mother and help of Christians, grant that we may live under her protection and that your Church may enjoy unbroken peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Song "Chalice Prayer" (Chant 5x)

Blood of Jesus refresh us; Blood of Jesus redeem us;

Blood of Jesus remind us; Blood of Jesus reconcile us.

Thank you for coming. Please join us on Sept. 1 for our next Taizé prayer service.



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