Freedom... Refer All to God

House of Prayer would like to invite you to reflect on the three virtues of the Just Soul this year in order for each one to find her own way of living them out in her daily life. This version shows you a reflection on finding God in all things written by Cassandra L. Agredo, LMSW. In relation to referring all to God, the virtue of freedom as described by Mary Ward, it calls forth a deep resonance in our heart.

When you truly try to open your heart to others, it can hurt to find God in the darkest and deepest depths of the human spirit. It's hard. It's overwhelming. It's pain and disappointment and anger and fear. Sometimes it feels like it would have been better if you hadn't looked at all. Truly finding God in all things means taking on the burden of knowledge. Having knowledge means accepting the responsibility to act upon that knowledge. It means acknowledging that a connection has been forged between you and someone else and that you are bound to them in a covenant - a promise that you will work together and use your knowledge to make change, in the spirit of love and humanity.

Sometimes I feel like I'm not strong enough to love the world and I'm not empty enough to sit at the table with it. I don't want to be bound to others. I don't want to look for God, and I'm scared to find him. I'm scared because finding him means accepting that commitment, that covenant, to be with and for others, and sometimes I just don't want to. Those are the days when I need to remember that God entered into a covenant with me and all living beings.

So, when it hurts and it's hard and I just don't want to, I know I'm not alone. I am reminded that, if I look hard enough and open myself up to whatever I find, I will find him. I will find his love and his strength waiting for me in others - in their pain and suffering and trauma and hope and redemption and love. In the darkest moments, when I feel I can't seek anymore, I remember that it is the act of seeking itself that will ultimately give me the strength to accept the knowledge I find, to enter into that covenant with humanity and love the world.

We pray for our deceased members

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The 400th Anniversary of "The Just Soul"

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House of Prayer

April ~ June 2015
We pray for the Church:

Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father entrusted to the Apostleship of Prayer

April
- Creation. That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.
- Persecuted Christians. That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.
- Care for the suffering. That Mary’s intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.
- Immigrants and refugees. That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.
- Vocations. That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own.

We pray for consecrated life with Pope Francis:

Fully five times the Gospel speaks to us of Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the “law of the Lord” (cf. Lk 2:22-24,27,39). Jesus came not to do his own will, but the will of the Father. This way, he tells us, was his “food” (cf. Jn4:34). In the same way, all those who follow Jesus must set out on the path of obedience, imitating as it were the Lord’s “condescension” by humbling themselves and making their own the will of the Father, even to self-emptying and abasement (cf. Phil 2:7-8).

For a religious person, to progress is to lower oneself in service. A path like that of Jesus, who “did not count equality with God something to be grasped:” to lower oneself, making oneself a servant, in order to serve. This path, then, takes the form of the rule, marked by the charism of the founder. For all of us, the essential rule remains the Gospel, this abasement of Christ, yet the Holy Spirit, in his infinite creativity, also gives it expression in the various rules of the consecrated life, though all of these are born of that sequela Christi, from this path of self-abasement in service.

Through this “law” consecrated persons are able to attain wisdom, which is not an abstract attitude, but a work and a gift of the Holy Spirit, the sign and proof of which is joy. Yes, the mirth of the religious is a consequence of this journey of abasement with Jesus: and when we are sad, it would do us well to ask how we are living this kenotic dimension.

(From Pope Francis’ homily at Mass celebrated to mark the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day for Consecrated Life, 2015)

We pray for and with the Congregatio Jesu:

- Missioning of Provincial/Regional Superior
  Sr Roshni Cheenkallel Allahabad in April
  Sr Mercy Shumbamhini Zimbabwe in May
- Appointment Process for New Provincial
  Superior of Romania
- Jubilees
  25th Jubilee Sr Irene Matindike Zimbabwe May 12
  50th Jubilee Sr Ann Stafford England April 26
  70th Jubilee Sr Elfriede Hinterholzer MEP May 31
- Those who dedicate themselves to the Church and people in China
- Those who begin their aspirancy, postulancy
  Novitiate or tertianship in various places
- Our members carrying out their mission
  where other religious denominations are predominant
- Our members making contribution to the eradication of human slavery, especially along the CICLSAL request about human trafficking
- European Regional Conference(ERC)
  April 19 ~ 23 in Rome
- Joint Meeting of CJ-IBVM Theologians
  May 1 ~ 4 in Rome
- CJ-IBVM General Leadership Team Joint
  Meeting
  May 18 IBVM Generalate in Rome