

# *Lesson #1*

## *Fire on the Earth*

**The Grace I am seeking . . .**

*To grow in a knowledge of the history and thinking of Father Judge and Mother Boniface, their purpose and mission.*

**Before each prayer session:**

*O Holy Spirit, fill me with Yourself; fill me with love. Help me to feel loved by the Father and by Jesus. Help me to feel loved by my Associates. Set me on fire with love. Teach me how to love the Father and Jesus. Teach me to love my Associates and my neighbors. As you taught the first Apostles at Pentecost to communicate the love of God to all persons, teach me to be the apostle I have been called to be. Let me bring the message of the Father's love and Jesus' love to all, but especially to those who really do not know You, who do not feel loved. Help me, O Holy Spirit of love, to be an apostle of love. Amen.*

**After each prayer session:**

*Jesus, spark me with your Holy Spirit and grant that I may never merit the condemnation of the lukewarm, whom You have declared You will vomit from Your mouth. Fire me with a passion for life, and a passion for loving You, my brothers and sisters, and all of creation. Holy Spirit, completely fill me as You filled my brother Jesus. Produce in me the same mind that was in Jesus so that I, like Him, will be consumed with a passion for the will of His Father and my Father. Amen.*

# *Missionary Cenacle Practice and Devotion*

Father Judge wrote that “our spirit is taken from the practice of our devotions. There is nothing comparable to these devotions . . . . If you take over these devotions you will have a certain spirit . . . . You will have the Cenacle spirit.” Each month we will be introducing one of these practices. We begin with the **devotion to the Holy Spirit**. In some ways, this marks the very heart of Father Judge’s devotional life and the very heart of the Missionary Cenacle vocation. The Missionary Cenacle *Rule of Life* states

We are to make the Holy Spirit better known and loved. By steadfast prayer in our Cenacles, we seek to attract the Holy Spirit so that our own hearts may be enkindled with God’s love, and that we may spread this fire to others. We ask to be filled with the gifts of the Spirit, wisdom and fortitude especially (*Article 11*).

To encourage this attentiveness to the Holy Spirit in our lives, Father Judge wanted all the Cenacle Lay Missionaries to **pray daily the Litany of the Holy Spirit**. You should have received a copy of this Litany with this Workbook. **Pray it daily, if possible before 9:00 every morning**. The idea of praying the Litany before 9:00 a.m. emerged in the early Cenacle as a way of having all the Associates pray more or less at the same time, to form a united prayer even through they were geographically separated.

To help you keep track of how you are doing in praying the Litany daily, here’s a little checklist -- if you find it helpful! Just check off every time you pray the Litany!

|        | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wedndy | Thursdy | Friday | Saturdy |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Week 1 |        |        |         |        |         |        |         |
| Week 2 |        |        |         |        |         |        |         |
| Week 3 |        |        |         |        |         |        |         |
| Week 4 |        |        |         |        |         |        |         |

# *Introduction*

1. *Our Lord had very much at heart the creating of a spirit, a missionary spirit, an evangelical burning that would sweep over the whole world. He came to cast a fire on the earth, and he willed that it would be enkindled (Lk 12:49). The Holy Spirit has enkindled this fire in our hearts. This is our heritage: an apostolic spirit, a Gospel spirit, a Catholic spirit. The Missionary Cenacle spirit is charity, charity aflame.*

The *Rule of Life* of the Missionary Cenacle, in the first 11 short paragraphs, uses the word “fire” or some term relative to “fire” eleven times: “burning,” “enkindled,” “aflame,” “ardent.” It is a central and controlling symbol for understanding the meaning of the Rule and the type of spiritual vision it presents. It is anything but “laid back”!

For Father Judge, there were no “half-measures” in our relationship to God. Although he always urged infinite compassion and patience with poor men and women seeking to find their way back to God, nonetheless God was not to be played with. He understood completely the notion of a “jealous God” (Dt 4:24) who brooked no rivals for our affection, devotion, and love. Like any true Lover, God would never be satisfied with anything less than the full devotion of our heart. The missionary vocation was a call to become a total burnt offering on the altar of Love for the sake of the Beloved. This fire of love consumes the victim, but his or her life thus becomes a fragrant offering to the Divine Heart. Nothing is held back from the Beloved; no sacrifice is too great. Such utter submission is not to be feared, however:

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by your name, you are mine.  
Should you pass through the sea, I will be with you;  
or through rivers, they will not swallow you up.  
Should you walk through fire, you will not be scorched  
and the flames will not burn you.  
For I am Yahweh, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your savior (Is 43:1-3).*

Only in the full and total gift of oneself to Divine Love -- hopes, dreams, expectations, fears, concerns, anxieties -- will true Life be discovered: “For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it” (Mk 8:35; see also Mt 16:25; Lk 9:24; Jn 12:25). This is the Life and the Call of the missionary. Like the Master on Calvary, their lives become a “holocaust,” a “victim” totally consumed by the fire of Love, a “sweet fragrance -- the sacrifice that God accepts and finds pleasing” (Phil 4:18).

# *Process for Daily Prayer*

**▮ Read each passage once slowly, then reread it. Underline or mark any phrases or ideas that strike you.**

**▮ Think about what you've read. What attracts, challenges, excites, or upsets you? Perhaps the questions below can help you in your reflection.**

**▮ Talk to God about it. Whatever is on your heart -- concerns, anger, hopes, dreams, joy, thanksgiving -- open it up to God.**

**▮ Rest a while and let God speak to you in the quiet.**

# WEEK I

## *Weekend Reflection:* **Father Judge, the Laity, Today's Church**

by *Marchita B. Mauck, M.C.A.*  
(*The Apostolic Life*, pp. 11-15)

Father Judge possessed a vision which became a passion for him, a conviction that the laity “are the Church, that they are responsible for the Church.” To encourage and support the laity in its vocation he formed small groups he called Cenacles, a word evoking a powerful Gospel image of the first apostles who gathered with the Lord in the upper room, or “Cenacle”. There they shared Jesus’ last supper, were instructed by the Lord in the discipleship of service by his washing their feet, and at Pentecost were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth to all nations.

In Father Judge’s words, “The Cenacle’s chief effort is to effect that every Catholic should be an apostle.” What stirring words these are! The work of the laity is apostolic, he said, insofar as the laity is willing and able to make itself responsible for the Church.

Father Judge was ahead of his time in his perception of the Church as the people of God. His untiring efforts to help the laity claim its vocation as apostles of Christ were prophetic of the Holy Spirit’s inspiration at Vatican Council II. The 1965 [Vatican Council II] *Decree on the Laity* exhorts the universal church to exercise its apostolate of service. The Council document describes the mission of the laity in this way:

In the concrete, their apostolate is exercised when they work at the evangelization and sanctification of men; it is exercised too when they endeavor to have the Gospel spirit permeate and improve the temporal order, going about it in a way that bears witness to Christ and helps forward the salvation of men. The characteristic of the lay state being a life led in the midst of the world and of secular affairs, laymen are called by God to make of their apostolate, through the vigor of their Christian spirit, a leaven in the world.

In rural Alabama before 1920, Father Judge had already said the same thing a bit more succinctly, but with a confidence and enthusiasm which is compelling:

To have faith! Oh, what is more wonderful? To scatter it. To teach it. To bring others to it. This is the work you can do. In the providence of every day life, you can do it.

The expression “providence of everyday life” accords the “ordinary” a new meaning.

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Every day life for Father Judge is a source of revelation and it is the arena in which the Kingdom of God is extended. Father called for a Catholic spirit to permeate all of life, a spirit that is a Gospel spirit, a spirit he understood as the Cenacle spirit, and which in turn is a missionary spirit, inspiring modern day apostles to continue the ministry of Jesus, making Him present in our own age.

Father Judge's own personal zeal attracted members of the laity who accepted the Holy Spirit's invitation to apostleship and joined Father's efforts. Eventually an entire family of people emerged who in different ways embraced the mission of the ministry of Christ .... "Family" for Father Judge was an important concept, for the family spirit is a bond of unity that unites the whole Missionary Cenacle in a common cause and which channels our energies, operations, and ideals toward a common mission. The family spirit is the strength of the Missionary Cenacle, the vitality at its core which through the Holy Spirit evokes mutual support and calls forth a life of faith and service.

Father Judge's legacy is a spirit-filled vision of the laity's ownership of the experience of Church, that is, of itself as the people of God who take up the mission of Jesus, the ministry of service. The authenticity of Father's vision and the vindication of his efforts is found in the exhortation which concluded the [Vatican Council II] *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*:

It is the Lord himself, by this Council, who is once more inviting all the laity to united themselves to him ever more intimately, to consider his interests as their own and to join in his mission as Savior. It is the Lord who is again sending them into every town and every place where he himself is to come. He sends them on the Church's apostolate that must all the time be adapting itself to the needs of the moment; he sends them on an apostolate where they are to show themselves his cooperators, doing their full share continually in the work of the Lord, know that in the Lord their labor cannot be lost.

Father Judge's dream of every Catholic as an apostle is an ever new challenge. Those who accept the Lord's invitation to join in his mission as apostles embrace a commission to go forth to bring the Gospel spirit of love and charity to every town and place where He is to come. The Missionary Cenacle continues to nurture today the support and encouragement and opportunities for spiritual growth inflaming modern apostles with the missionary zeal which compelled Father Judge in his time. The same Spirit which inspired and guided Father inspired and guided Vatican Council II, and inspires and guides us now in the providence of our every day lives.

*Reflect on this vision of "Church" and the mission of the laity. How does it match your own vision and experience?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

# WEEK I

## Monday: You are the Church!

*From Father Judge:*

“You meet certain people, you have contact with certain persons or places, your life has a certain circumscription, God overshadowing and intervening in all. This is called your daily providence. Like the skin on your face it is yours personally, nobody else ever had it, nobody else ever will have it. Everyone of us is the center of a particular bit of Divine Providence. How can we get people to realize that in their everyday providence *they* are the Catholic Church, that they are responsible for the Church, that they should act for the Church, be vigilant for her interests and plead her cause? How, in a word, can we effect that every Catholic, no matter in what circumstances he may be, will be a missionary?” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, p. 45 – *Sparks of Faith* is a small collection of the sayings of Father Judge edited by Father Lawrence Brediger, S.T. and published by the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity in the 1960s. It is no longer in print.)

*From the Word of God:*

“**16** Meanwhile the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them.**17** When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated.**18** Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**20** and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And look, I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’” (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

*Do you see yourself as representing Jesus and the Church in your daily activities? Think of an example in the past two days when you had the chance to act or speak on behalf of Jesus and the Church. How did you do?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## *Tuesday: A Gifted People*

*From Father Judge:*

““We have in the United States at present scarcely touched the good-willed effort of our Catholic people. How to provoke it into action, lead it and conserve it, should be the constant thought of priests in their meditation. It is like the scattered waters of the meadow -- a vast, idle flood. These waters, gathered into a conduit and given flow, make a vast power for good. Think what might be done with the waste products of leisure moments in the lives of our people. There are great impulses for good in the hearts of our men and women and the pity of it is that these receive so little expression. They must be led and their good impulses must be fostered and encouraged into action. The hope of our generation lies with the faithful.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 45-46)

*From the Word of God:*

“**1** About the gifts of the Spirit, brothers, I want you to be quite certain.**2** You remember that, when you were pagans, you were irresistibly drawn to inarticulate heathen gods.**3** Because of that, I want to make it quite clear to you that no one who says ‘A curse on Jesus’ can be speaking in the Spirit of God, and nobody is able to say, ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.

“**4** There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit;**5** there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord.**6** There are many different forms of activity, but in everybody it is the same God who is at work in them all.**7** The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good.**8** To one is given from the Spirit the gift of utterance expressing wisdom; to another the gift of utterance expressing knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit;**9** to another, faith, from the same Spirit; and to another, the gifts of healing, through this one Spirit;**10** to another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, the power of distinguishing spirits; to one, the gift of different tongues and to another, the interpretation of tongues.**11** But at work in all these is one and the same Spirit, distributing them at will to each individual.” (*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*)

*Do you see yourself as “gifted”? Make a list of 10 ways God has gifted you in your life.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Wednesday: A gift to be given away***

*From Father Judge:*

“Our Lord on many occasions betrayed what was in His Divine Heart, what was agitating His adorable mind. He informs us that He came to cast a fire on the earth and He willed that it should be enkindled. He had very much at heart the creating of a spirit, a missionary spirit, an evangelical burning that would sweep over the world. Zeal is the white heat of charity . . . . What are we doing to diffuse the light and give out the warmth of Catholic truth and charity? . . . . The Spirit of God wants to use you; you are His instruments. You are tools with which He is going to chisel out salvation for many souls. You are to work upon the lives of others . . . . What returns are you making for the precious talents entrusted to you? Ten talents? Five talents? Two talents? Are you burying them in your heart?” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 41-42)

*From the Word of God:*

“**14** ‘It is like a man about to go abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them.**15** To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one, each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out on his journey.**16** The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more.**17** The man who had received two made two more in the same way.**18** But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.**19** Now a long time afterwards, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them.**20** The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said, “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”**21** His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”**22** Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said, “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.”**23** His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have shown you are trustworthy in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”**24** Last came forward the man who had the single talent. “Sir,” said he, “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you had not sown and gathering where you had not scattered;**25** so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.”**26** But his master answered him, . . . “You should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have got my money back with interest.**28** So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the ten talents.**29** For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but anyone who has not, will be deprived even of what he has.**30** As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.” (*Matthew 25:14-30*)

*What are you doing with the talents and gifts you have been given? Are you using them to reach out to other people with God’s love? In what way? Could you put your gifts more actively to the service of God’s work? In what way?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **Thursday: Being a missionary in everyday life**

*From Father Judge:*

“When you examine your conscience do you grieve for the good that you have not done, that you have omitted? Are you giving to the Church, to religion, to souls, all that you can, or half of what you can? Or are you giving nothing in return for the abundance that you have received? Is there one soul who will suffer through your neglect, tepidity or spiritual self-seeking, because of a piety that finds not time for good towards others? It has been my experience that the people of everyday life are really great missionaries. Looking over a missionary experience of years, I must confess that with the converts who came to me I was but a party to the fact. The first agent in those conversions generally was some man or woman in the office, store or factory.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 42-43)

*From the Word of God:*

“When he returned to Capernaum, some time later word went round that he was in the house;<sup>2</sup> and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them<sup>3</sup> when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men,<sup>4</sup> but as they could not get the man to him through the crowd, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay.<sup>5</sup> Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, ‘My child, your sins are forgiven.’<sup>6</sup> Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves,<sup>7</sup> ‘How can this man talk like that? He is being blasphemous. Who but God can forgive sins?’<sup>8</sup> And at once, Jesus, inwardly aware that this is what they were thinking, said to them, ‘Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts?’<sup>9</sup> Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, “Your sins are forgiven” or to say, “Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk”?<sup>10</sup> But to prove to you that the Son of man has authority to forgive sins on earth’—<sup>11</sup> he said to the paralytic—‘I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.’<sup>12</sup> And the man got up, and at once picked up his stretcher and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astonished and praised God saying, ‘We have never seen anything like this.’<sup>13</sup> He went out again to the shore of the lake; and all the people came to him, and he taught them.” (Mark 2:1-13)<sup>20</sup>

*Think of 5 people who have brought you closer to Jesus. Thank God for these people in your life. Think of 3 people you would like to help bring closer to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit for the light to know how to do this and the courage to do it.*

**✎ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## ***Friday: Love and service, two sides of the same coin***

*From Father Judge:*

“Love means service, and therefore a very evident mark of a real love for Jesus Christ is a desire to do something for His cause . . . Our Lord is dreadfully personal in this matter of our exercising ourselves in spiritual and corporal works of mercy, saying that what we do to the least of His little ones, we do unto Him. ‘For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat: I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in . . . Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me’ (Mt 25/35).” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 43-44)

*From the Word of God:*

“**31** ‘When the Son of man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory.**32** All nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.**33** He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.**34** Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take as your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.**35** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you made me welcome,**36** lacking clothes and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.”**37** Then the upright will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?**38** When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome, lacking clothes and clothe you?**39** When did we find you sick or in prison and go to see you?”**40** And the King will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”**41** Then he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**42** For I was hungry and you never gave me food, I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink,**43** I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, lacking clothes and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.”**44** Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or lacking clothes, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?”**45** Then he will answer, “In truth I tell you, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.”**46** And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the upright to eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)

***Imagine yourself on Judgement Day before God. Who are the poor, the neglected ones that God brings before you? What did you do for them? How did you love and care for them? Or did you neglect and ignore them? Be as specific as possible as you consider these questions.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## WEEK II

### ***Weekend Reflection: Mother Boniface Keasey***

*Conference by Father Judge -- January 10, 1932 (Missionary Cenacle Meditations, p. 345)*

*[Louise Keasey was a young school teacher from Butler, Pennsylvania who went to Phenix City, Alabama in 1916 as a missionary volunteer. Father quickly identified her qualities for both leadership and service and soon appointed her as the first "General Custodian" or "superior" of what eventually became a community of religious sisters, the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity. Together with Father Judge and a gifted laywoman in New York -- Dr. Margaret Healy -- she helped form and lead the young missionary movement that was taking shape. Mother Boniface was supremely practical while Father Judge was an inveterate visionary. Mother Boniface helped reconcile young and volatile new recruits, calm bishops and pastors, and pay the bills. She was noted for her kindness, gentle spirit, and attentiveness to the needs of all. She died quite suddenly at the age of 46 in Gadsden, Alabama. Her death was a devastating blow to Father Judge who counted so greatly on her counsel, support, and friendship. The following conference was given by him several months after her death on November 21, 1931.]*

“What is it that made Mother Boniface so attractive? ... To meet Mother Boniface meant that you came away under the sway of a most extraordinary personality. I think when I say this I speak with caution .... You would say that Mother Boniface was one of the most extraordinary individuals you ever met .... In what was she extraordinary?

Mother Boniface never acted a part, ... there was nothing of affectation in her. Mother Boniface was extraordinarily simple. She was extraordinarily humble. She was extraordinarily self-effacing .... Mother Boniface never ... tried to bring anyone under her sway .... Mother Boniface’s reactions were to the last place -- to be hidden. Often when you saw her in action, she was forced into action. She was in action through obedience.

I want you to think of Mother Boniface today .... There are not many generations that produce such women as Mother Boniface. You never met many women like her in that extraordinary simplicity of hers; that extraordinary prudence, that extraordinary charity, that extraordinary self-sacrifice .... She was a forceful woman and yet, it was all hidden. I never met anyone who was afraid of Mother Boniface, but where do we find a woman of such strength of character, such a dominant personality as Mother Boniface? ... The highest evidence of majesty is the suppression of power .... It is not often that we find power so charitably disguised as in Mother Boniface. She was a strong woman. In a word, Mother Boniface was this: she was that good, strong, wise woman of the Holy Spirit. That synthesizes Mother Boniface’s life.

She was extraordinarily endowed -- physically, mentally, and spiritually. Well might any woman envy Mother Boniface her physical charm and grace .... In all her community life we did not know her to be sick or confined to her bed more than a day. The end came so suddenly. There was an attack of fever, and Mother Boniface was a martyr to that sickness. A mysterious sickness broke out at Holy Name of Jesus Hospital. That sickness only sought the Catholic victim .... Mother Boniface contracted that sickness caring for her children.

Mentally, Mother Boniface was extraordinary. Mother Boniface had what we call an intuitive mind .... Mother's judgments were always charitable. She had a most extraordinary fund of charity. She could always see the remedy. She could always see the reason. She seemed to be everybody's advocate .... She was a just woman and her ways were straight ways. Oh, Mother detested anything that was not straight; anything that was of duplicity was horrid to her ....

She was a woman of faith, otherwise she would not have begun or carried on the ventures in which she engaged herself .... Mother had a great faith because she was simple with God; she was direct with God. She had a great trust in Him because she had a great distrust of herself .... We know Mother's hope. It was abounding; it was courageous, that is, a hope ... in those moments of anxiety when we are in a Gethsemani of some kind, when the heavens seem deaf to our prayers. That is the kind of hope that does violence to the Kingdom of Heaven -- that takes the gates off their hinges." (MF 12254-58)

*Go back and read the article once again slowly. From Father Judge's description of Mother Boniface, what most strikes you or impresses you? Is there anything here that challenges you or gives you new insight?*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## **WEEK II**

### **Monday: Children and God's Heart**

*From Father Judge:*

“What a wonderful thing it is to take the hand of a little child in yours and trace that symbol of the Holy Trinity, that symbol of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, that symbol of the Incarnation. What a wonderful thing to teach a child about Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thing to introduce a child to its Eucharistic Lord. What a wonderful thing it is to prepare a child for the tribunal of Penance. Ministering angels you make yourselves, good angels to these children, and their holy Angels must like you for that. In days gone by the holy men and women of God thought it a great work to transcribe books. They etched and engraved and they painted the letters of our sacred liturgy. Therefore we have that transmission of beautiful and good literature of other days. But it is not as wonderful as what you are painting and etching on those little souls, whispering those beautiful truths in their ears.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 44-45)

*From the Word of God:*

“**13** People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples scolded them,**14** but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.**15** In truth I tell you, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’**16** Then he embraced them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.” (*Mark 10:13-16*)

*What makes the heart of a child so attractive? What are the qualities there that make Jesus use the child as a perfect example of the Kingdom of God? What are the things that threaten the lives of children today? What can you do about that?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Tuesday: God's Love -- the Heart of the Matter***

*From Father Judge:*

“The love of God makes all things easy . . . Love makes all labor light; it makes the sacrifice of ourselves as nothing, and what love is there comparable to the love of God? Work, pray, strive for that Divine love . . . No prayer will please heaven more than the prayer of the heart for charity . . . Love for the creature disturbs, defiles, enslaves the heart; the love of God ennobles, calms and delights, and there is no liberty so perfect as theirs who love Him.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, p. 39)

*From the Word of God:*

“**7** My dear friends, let us love one another, since love is from God and everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God.**8** Whoever fails to love does not know God, because God is love.**9** This is the revelation of God's love for us, that God sent his only Son into the world that we might have life through him.**10** Love consists in this: it is not we who loved God, but God loved us and sent his Son to expiate our sins.**11** My dear friends, if God loved us so much, we too should love one another.**12** No one has ever seen God, but as long as we love one another God remains in us and his love comes to its perfection in us.**13** This is the proof that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us a share in his Spirit.**14** We ourselves have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as Saviour of the world.**15** Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God.**16** We have recognised for ourselves, and put our faith in, the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.” (*1 John 4:7-16*)

*Do you experience yourself as loved by God without limits or conditions? When did you first have this experience? Was it one event or a gradual realization? If you had to use an image or a picture to describe God's love for you, what would it look like? Think about this for a few minutes.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **Wednesday: Loving God in the sister and brother**

*From Father Judge:*

“The love of our neighbor is a safe and rather accurate measure of our love of God . . . . We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. This love consists in wishing for him those blessings and graces and goods we would wish for ourselves. Love of our neighbor is proven in patience and in trial, in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. A treatment of our neighbor that is inconsiderate, harsh, unbrotherly or unsisterly is unChristlike, and argues a great want of the love of God. The love of God means a love of our neighbor. There is no better evidence, no truer proof of a great love of God than a great love of our neighbor . . . . If there be anguish in this world and we are indifferent to it, we are not right with God . . . . Ask the Holy Ghost that your heart may be right with the compassionate Heart of Jesus and the afflicted heart of your neighbor.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 39-40)

*From the Word of God:*

“1 My children, I am writing this to prevent you from sinning; but if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the upright.2 He is the sacrifice to expiate our sins, and not only ours, but also those of the whole world. 3 In this way we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.4 Whoever says, ‘I know him’ without keeping his commandments, is a liar, and truth has no place in him.5 But anyone who does keep his word, in such a one God’s love truly reaches its perfection. This is the proof that we are in God.6 Whoever claims to remain in him must act as he acted.7 My dear friends, this is not a new commandment I am writing for you, but an old commandment that you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the message you have heard.8 Yet in another way, I am writing a new commandment for you—and this is true for you, just as much as for him—for darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining.9 Whoever claims to be in light but hates his brother is still in darkness.10 Anyone who loves his brother remains in light and there is in him nothing to make him fall away.11 But whoever hates his brother is in darkness and is walking about in darkness not knowing where he is going, because darkness has blinded him.” (1 John 2:1-11)

*Are there people in your life whom you treat harshly or indifferently? Are there people in your life you make fun of? Are there people in your life you have not forgiven for past offenses? What is your attitude towards the suffering of others: indifference, compassion, or something else? Ask the Spirit to open your heart to all.*

**✎ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# **Thursday: Faith -- building on a solid foundation**

*From Father Judge:*

“How much is lost to those who have no faith! To them human existence is an enigma, and man’s wanderings on this planet are a delirium. A man without faith cannot understand himself. Within he detects the urge for happiness, a great happiness, a happiness that none of his creature-servants, animate or inanimate, can satisfy. He becomes a burden to himself, mocked by his desire for a happiness that the natural cannot achieve. How different is the thought of the man of faith: To him, Jesus Christ is his God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is his surety of his own happy resurrection from the dead; and a believing in this Savior and a faithful following of His precepts gives to the man of faith a call to share with his Redeemer the joys of a paradise that will be everlasting. It is only faith in Jesus Christ that can satisfy the aspiration to goodness and the craving for happiness within us.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 28-29).

*From the Word of God:*

“**1** So then, now that we have been justified by faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ;**2** it is through him, by faith, that we have been admitted into God’s favour in which we are living, and look forward exultantly to God’s glory.**3** Not only that; let us exult, too, in our hardships, understanding that hardship develops perseverance,**4** and perseverance develops a tested character, something that gives us hope,**5** and a hope which will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.**6** When we were still helpless, at the appointed time, Christ died for the godless.**7** You could hardly find anyone ready to die even for someone upright; though it is just possible that, for a really good person, someone might undertake to die.**8** So it is proof of God’s own love for us, that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.**9** How much more can we be sure, therefore, that, now that we have been justified by his death, we shall be saved through him from the retribution of God.**10** For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more can we be sure that, being now reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**11** What is more, we are filled with exultant trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.” (*Romans 5:1-11*)

***Who is the most faith-filled person you personally know? Why would you say this person is a “person of faith”? What are 3 qualities or actions that demonstrate this in their life? How is your faith at this point in your life: strong, lukewarm, passionate? Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with a strong and vibrant faith.***

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# ***Friday: The Works of Mercy***

*From Father Judge:*

*[Father Judge speaks often of the “works of mercy.” The following section from the Catechism of the Catholic Church explains a little more fully what these “works of mercy” really are.]*

“The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2447)

*From the Word of God:*

“**15** If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on,**16** and one of you says to them, ‘I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,’ without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that?” (*James 2:15-16*) “**11** [Jesus said], ‘Anyone who has two tunics must share with the one who has none, and anyone with something to eat must do the same.’” (*Luke 3:11*) “. . . **41** give alms from what you have and, look, everything will be clean for you.” (*Luke 11:41*) “**17** If anyone is well-off in worldly possessions and sees his brother in need but closes his heart to him, how can the love of God be remaining in him?” (*1 John 3:17*)

*Father Judge spoke often of the “spiritual and corporal works of mercy.” Which ones do you have the opportunity to practice most often? Give 3 examples of opportunities you had to practice the spiritual or corporal works of mercy this week. Did you respond generously or not to these opportunities?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **WEEK III**

### ***Weekend Reflection: Missionary Cenacle Beginnings***

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#### **in Father Judge's own words**

*[Address by Father Judge to Missionary Cenacle -- December 26, 1931]  
(Missionary Cenacle Meditations, pp. 346-347)*

I was ordained priest in 1899 by God's grace, and it was not long before I was in hard rural missionary work in Emmitsburg, [Maryland]. My own inclination was to study. I liked books and always wanted to study. It would have been a great joy to me if I had been called to the Professor's chair, but I did like missionary work which simply took a hold of me ....

There was a peculiar condition at this time .... Family life was beginning to break up .... There was a big leakage in the Church, and pastors were not facing it. It was too shameful a thing to acknowledge .... My mind was very much on this leakage all the time. Going among priests it was my whole talk .... It was no vision, no prophecy. I just saw things tracing from effect to cause and from cause to effect. The situation was reduced to this. If there was to be an increment to the Church in the U.S., it was to come first from birth, natural increase. At that time it was quite evident the Catholic family was being cut .... If there was to be an increment, it must come from immigration .... That all is cut off for some years .... The third source of increment is conversion ....

Look back and see those poor, simple people who kept little groups together waiting for the priests to come and give the Sacraments. Anybody can teach a child about God, teach a child to bless itself .... Here and there, a young man or young woman would be encouraged to be an influence for good. We have social service now and catechetical work, but this is all recent ....

Parish priests said you could not get men to go to Holy Communion -- not to dare speak of it: "high folly," "almost a heresy". Dr. Mullaney of Syracuse was a fine priest, one of the first men I got a response from. His men worked in car barns, and he was worried about them .... He had all kinds of communities give missions trying to get the men to go to Holy Communion every three months. I asked him: "Why every three months, why not every month?" He had never heard anything like that. Why not try it? .... The men so rallied to Holy Communion that there were more men going than women.

When I went to Brooklyn I was given charge of an orphan asylum. The children received Communion now and then. I started in by giving them frequent Communion .... I tried to bring my sick people Communion every morning .... Father McHale was hearing things about me, but

he was with me. He was hearing that I was a kind of a free lance, a dangerous man, ... getting priests worried and generally that I was some kind of a nut. But I always studied the Church on these things .... If the Bishop every asked me to help him out in planning a report from the parishes, there were two things I would add to the book: “How many sick are in the parish?” and “How many poor are in the parish?”

In going around the parish, I saw the power of the working girl, the power of a zealous laity. I was asked once to attend a banquet given to the Church Debt Society .... There were a number of girls from 15 to 21 belonging to the Society .... I told them ... that they were capable of doing great things .... They thought I was going to ask for more money. I told them, ... “You can be a help to me in going around; at least you can make a mental memorandum of the people you see that need spiritual help. You can reach people that we priests cannot get to.” They took this all in, and I thought to myself: “This is what these girls want to do. The Holy Spirit is working in them.” I touched the right chord in their hearts .... I never thought of a Cenacle in those days. In fact, I was bemoaning the lack of some community to do this kind of work. In simplicity, I said to one of the priests, “It is a pity that there is not some kind of a community to go around and do this missionary work.” He said, “I am going to report you to Rome ... for making an attack on our parochial school system ....”

In the meantime, I went to another community. They have Sisters. They are one of the most numerous in the U.S. .... I would put it before Reverend Mother .... I think she looked upon me as some kind of a fanatic, and it was up to her to protect herself and her Sisters from me. Rigidly and sternly she listened to what I said .... She said, “Father Judge, do you wish to make Salvation Army women out of my Sisters?” .... Look at what they would have had if they had taken the idea. It was the idea fro which they were instituted. They got away from this idea. You, too, can become that way and get away from our ideals. These sisters ... received their chance. That was from God, and it was taken from them. You can do to the same thing. You have it now because it was an abandoned idea, and that is why abandonment means so much to the Cenacle. Nobody wanted that idea. Now, they all want it. All are copying it. Professors are teaching it .... You don’t have to worry about this idea if it is from God. If not, it will fail. (MF 11467-84)

*Father Judge eventually saw things from a very simple point of view: do what you can and leave the rest in the hands of God. “If it is from God,” it will flourish or you will learn new and important lessons from the experience. If it is not from God, “it will fail” -- and you wouldn’t want it anyway because God doesn’t want it! How much does this reflect your own personal attitude? How do you seek to understand God’s Will in your life? What is your own personal “vocation story”? What are some key elements or moments in that story?*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **WEEK III**

### **Monday: The call to holiness**

*From Father Judge:*

“As the Saints are now, we may be. As we are now, once were they. Of what nature are these saintly beings? They are of our nature. They lived our life. They had no secret short-cut to the Kingdom of Heaven. They knew only the way that we know. They were our clay. Like ours, their minds were darkened and their wills were weakened, and like us poor, sinful beings, they also had an inclination to evil. Of them all only one escaped the blight of sin -- Mary Immaculate, the peerless Mother of Our Lord. But they fought the good fight. They accepted the helps of our holy religion and their reward was to hear these words, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter thou into the joy of they lord’ (Mt 25/21).” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, 20-21)

*From the Word of God:*

“**6** As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart.**7** I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith;**8** all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

*If you had to write down your life’s goal in one sentence, what would it be? Would it include the idea of becoming a saint or holy? If so, why? If not, why not? Ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of a deep desire to be holy, to be one with God and all creation in God.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Tuesday: Getting our priorities straight***

*From Father Judge:*

“Everyone should study carefully and meditate much on the difference between the salvation of our soul and its sanctification. God wishes, indeed, that all men be saved, but there is a more exacting will of God -- that men should sanctify their souls . . . Each and every one of us knows that we have only one work to do in this world and that work is to become a saint. And the way to be a saint we know also; it is to know and love and serve God . . . The first step toward becoming a saint is desire. This should be a strong desire: desire to advance, desire to emulate the saints, desire to do great things for the honor and glory of the Triune God, desire to live and die for Him. Whoever in any walk of life is not actuated by an earnest desire is losing time.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 22-23)

*From the Word of God:*

“**25** And now a lawyer stood up and, to test him, asked, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ **26** He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What is your reading of it?’ **27** He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ **28** Jesus said to him, ‘You have answered right, do this and life is yours.’

**29** But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ **30** In answer Jesus said, ‘A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of bandits; they stripped him, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. **31** Now a priest happened to be traveling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. **32** In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. **33** But a Samaritan traveler who came on him was moved with compassion when he saw him. **34** He went up to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him onto his own mount and took him to an inn and looked after him. **35** Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper and said, “Look after him, and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have.” **36** Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the bandits’ hands?’ **37** He replied, ‘The one who showed pity towards him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go, and do the same yourself.’” (*Luke 10:25-37*)

*Is there anyone or anything in your life more important than God? Be as honest as you can with yourself as you answer this question: who are the people, what are the things that have a higher priority in your life than God? Make a list of them.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **Wednesday: Working with God to make us saints!**

*From Father Judge:*

“We pity the poor untutored savage on some far-off, unknown isle, who, ignorant of treasure, becomes enchanted with colored glass or cheap trinket of some unprincipled trader. Immeasurably more are those to be pitied who find their solace in life’s passing show or the world’s possessions . . . . If strength and vigor and beauty of body can be enhanced, it is more true that the beauty of the soul can and should be enhanced. But how shall I get this or that virtue? How can I get more Faith, Hope and Charity, for instance? First of all, by prayerful, humble striving for it. Then consider the background of daily faults which block the way of grace and grieve the Holy Ghost. We must renounce any deliberate, habitual faults, and patiently work to root them out. At the same time pick out that virtue which you particularly need. Work at it. You will discover that the more you progress in one the more you will find the other virtues easy. Read what spiritual books says about it. Study all you can about that virtue and apply that study, a little at a time.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 22-23)

*From the Word of God:*

“**16** And now a man came to him and asked, ‘Master, what good deed must I do to possess eternal life?’ **17** Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one alone who is good. But if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.’ **18** He said, ‘Which ones?’ Jesus replied, ‘These: You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false witness. **19** Honour your father and your mother. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ **20** The young man said to him, ‘I have kept all these. What more do I need to do?’ **21** Jesus said, ‘If you wish to be perfect, go and sell your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ **22** But when the young man heard these words he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

**23** Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘In truth I tell you, it is hard for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven. **24** Yes, I tell you again, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the kingdom of Heaven.’ **25** When the disciples heard this they were astonished. ‘Who can be saved, then?’ they said. **26** Jesus gazed at them. ‘By human resources’, he told them, ‘this is impossible; for God everything is possible.’ **27** Then Peter answered and said, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you. What are we to have, then?’ **28** Jesus said to them, ‘In truth I tell you, when everything is made new again and the Son of man is seated on his throne of glory, you yourselves will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. **29** And everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or land for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times as much, and also inherit eternal life. **30** ‘Many who are first will be last, and the last, first.’” (*Matthew 16:19-30*)

*What virtue or character trait do you need most to grow in? Consider the list you made of things that have a higher priority in your life than God: what would be the virtue that would help you put God at the top of that list? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the virtue you most need to grow in. Ask a friend or spiritual director to help you on this.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Thursday: The Communion of the Saints***

*From Father Judge:*

“Our Holy Mother the Church sets before us the life and virtues of the saints, firstly, that we may glorify and thank God for His goodness to them and to us; secondly, that we may honor these great and proved friends of God; thirdly, that we may be encouraged to overcome ourselves in those things in which we are not saintly; fourthly, to encourage us to pray to them and to realize more and more how beautiful is that article of the Creed, the Communion of the Saints.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, p. 17)

*From the Word of God:*

“**1** Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of realities that are unseen.**2** It is for their faith that our ancestors are acknowledged.**3** It is by faith that we understand that the ages were created by a word from God, so that from the invisible the visible world came to . . . **8** It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.**9** By faith he sojourned in the Promised Land as though it were not his, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.**10** He looked forward to the well-founded city, designed and built by God.**11** It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise was faithful to it.**12** Because of this, there came from one man, and one who already had the mark of death on him, descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore which cannot be counted. **13** All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth.**14** People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of a homeland.**15** If they had meant the country they came from, they would have had the opportunity to return to it;**16** but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them.” (*Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16*)

*Do you know much about the saints? Are there any particular saints you most admire? Why? Who have been the “living saints” God has brought into your life? What most strikes you about their lives? Summarize it in a sentence and write it down.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

# ***Friday: Becoming an Apostle***

*From Father Judge:*

“What a grace to think the thoughts of an Apostle! What a blessing to pray the prayers of an Apostle! What a privilege to make the confession of an Apostle! What a destiny to be of the Church of the Apostles! . . . There are many gifts in the giving of the Church, there are many calls to special missions and privileged service, but the Church can invite souls to no higher way of living than that of the apostolic life. The apostolic spirit lives in the Church today and blessed indeed are they who possess it, because it is a rare spirit, it is a priceless spirit, it is a spirit high above that of those who are ordinarily devout. It is a spirit so ardent, so interior, so exhaustive of self, that those weak in virtue, or enslaved by attachments, think of it with dread. Without it there would be but little expansion, there would be but little spread of our Holy Faith; without it nations would sit in darkness and never see the light; without it works of zeal would dry up and the charity of many would wither. Without it little would be done for the salvation of souls, the cause of Holy Mother Church, and the honor and glory of God.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, pp. 18-19)

*From the Word of God:*

“Whatever bold claims anyone makes—now I am talking as a fool—I can make them too.**22** Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I.**23** Are they servants of Christ? I speak in utter folly—I am too, and more than they are: I have done more work, I have been in prison more, I have been flogged more severely, many times exposed to death.**24** Five times I have been given the thirty-nine lashes by the Jews;**25** three times I have been beaten with sticks; once I was stoned; three times I have been shipwrecked, and once I have been in the open sea for a night and a day;**26** continually travelling, I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from brigands, in danger from my own people and in danger from the gentiles, in danger in the towns and in danger in the open country, in danger at sea and in danger from people masquerading as brothers;**27** I have worked with unsparing energy, for many nights without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty, and often altogether without food or drink; I have been cold and lacked clothing.**28** And, besides all the external things, there is, day in day out, the pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.**29** If anyone weakens, I am weakened as well; and when anyone is made to fall, I burn in agony myself.**30** If I have to boast, I will boast of all the ways in which I am weak.**31** The God and Father of the Lord Jesus—who is for ever to be blessed—knows that I am not lying.**32** When I was in Damascus, the governor who was under King Aretas put guards round Damascus city to catch me,**33** and I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and that was how I escaped from his hands.” (2 Corinthians 11:21-33)

*Do you feel the call to be an apostle? What most challenges you about this call? What would most have to change about your life so that you could be an apostle? Ask the Holy Spirit for the grace and blessing to be an apostle in your daily life.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## **WEEK IV**

### ***Weekend Reflection: The Cenacle Spirit***

*[Conference give by Father Judge to Missionary Cenacle Family -- May 31, 1924]*

“All through the Gospels we find our Lord using souls as His instruments for good. The great Mystery of the Incarnation, at the beginning of His life in this world, bears witness to the fact that the human agent may participate in divine work. It is His will, understand, that this fire should scatter, that it should scatter through you and you may thank God for this grace, for your selection. It should give you, certainly, a holy joy and tremendous pleasure to think that you have been so chosen by the Almighty, that his Holy Spirit is to burn in you for others, and to be communicated through you to others.

How is this to be done? You are to inspire others to this Cenacle spirit. There is no problem about the extension of the ... Missionary Cenacle. The only problem is to keep in your heart the Cenacle spirit. The program and methods of the Missionary Cenacle are all worked out; you have your rules .... [You have] those different works, the preventive work, reclamation work, and so on. The great problem is this: being right with the Cenacle spirit.

What is the Cenacle spirit? What is our Lord's spirit? What is the apostolic spirit? What is the missionary spirit? What is this faith that works by charity? That is the Cenacle spirit. It is no spirit invented in modern times. It is no spirit produced by new methods of efficiency. It is a gospel spirit. It is charity, charity aflame. It is the breathing of the Holy Spirit. It is the sweet odor of Jesus Christ .... This is your vocation: first of all, you are called to reservoir that spirit in your own lives, that you own heart may be aflame with it; and secondly, you are to spread it; that is your mission.

The Cenacle spirit came from the Holy Spirit. Isn't that a beautiful thing! When with purity of intention, with no other purpose than the thought of God, zeal for religion and its interests, love of the Church and a wish to do something for souls, when, I say, we are so actuated, when the personal, as far as we can do so, is eliminated, when we place ourselves in the presence of God and invoke the Holy Spirit, and when all this happens as now during Pentecost week, on the eve of Trinity Sunday, I like to believe that is God blessing us. I see in this the handwriting of God on the wall in our favor. I see in this the loveliness of God in grouping us together, that He wants to bless us, that He wants to use us ....

It is the loveliest of Pentecostal exercises. The liturgy of the Church is replete with prayer to the Holy Spirit, and here is a body that for years and years has had a special devotion to the Holy Spirit, that is committed to spread devotion to the Holy Spirit, that is known to the Church ... as the Missionary Cenacle. We have reason, then, to believe that the Holy Spirit wants to bless us. This blessing is going to be ours if we will have this zeal toward the Cenacle spirit.” (MF 8478-79)

*In a certain sense, this small part of a conference captures the essence of Father Judge's spirit. Go back and read it over once again slowly. Underline what strikes you, challenges you, impresses you. Pause at the ideas or words you have underlined. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is it that strikes you about this? What challenges you? What encourages or excites you? As you reflect on this, write down key words or phrases. Together these will begin to help you understand the particular call the Holy Spirit has placed in your heart.*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## **WEEK IV**

### **Monday: The Cenacle Spirit -- a passionate spirit**

*From Father Judge:*

“[Our Lord] had very much at heart the creating of a spirit, a missionary spirit, an evangelical burning that would sweep over this world. He put no limitation on his message: His message was for all peoples, for all times and for all places. To safeguard that message, to insure its delivery, our Lord taught and enfibred into the hearts of His followers His own blessed adorable spirit. He protected that spirit with evangelical virtues. He made much of sacrifice. He declared that one condition of discipleship was the taking up of the cross. He promised the most extraordinary recompense to those who exhausted themselves for His sake. He reversed all the maxims of human wisdom when He said, ‘He that findeth his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for me shall find it’ (*Mt 10/39*); meaning that He would pour life and health and spirit and vigor into those who would forget themselves for His sake, into those who would become indifferent to the pangs of hunger, into those who would become unmindful of disease; whereas He would take life from those who considered ease, comfort and extension of life at the expense of His interests.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 182)

*From the Word of God:*

“**37** ‘No one who prefers father or mother to me is worthy of me. No one who prefers son or daughter to me is worthy of me.**38** Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.**39** Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.” (*Matthew 10:37-39*)

*Spend a few moments just looking at the Cross. What did Jesus give for you? Why is He there? What are you willing to give for Him? Tell Him exactly what is in your heart.*

**✎** Write down your reflections briefly here:

## ***Tuesday: God is not outdone in generosity***

*From Father Judge:*

“[Our Lord] promised hundredfolds of reward to those who would work and labor and toil in His name; in fact, our Lord encouraged His followers, and those who would follow His followers, by promising them that they ‘shall shine as stars for all eternity,’ (cf. *Dan 12/3*) that they would be beacons in every conceivable way. The best thing in His giving He promised to those would teach in His Holy Name. He just heaped curse upon curse upon those who would scandalize a child, and blessing upon blessing upon those who would edify a child. We are the inheritors of all those promises . . . There is a Cenacle spirit, but the Cenacle spirit is only the Catholic spirit. There is no progress in Church affairs, it matters not how generous the people may be, how great basilicas architects may plan or how much they may dream of beautifying the houses of God: bishops may publish pastorals, synods may meet, but if there be not a Catholic spirit, it will be of no use. The Catholic spirit is the fire the Lord came to cast upon the earth. It is the burning of the Sacred Heart. It is zeal. Zeal is the white heat of charity.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 182).

*From the Word of God:*

“**40** ‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.’ **41** ‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes an upright person because he is upright will have the reward of an upright person.’ **42** ‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then in truth I tell you, he will most certainly not go without his reward.’” (*Matthew 10:40-42*)

*Fr. Judge identifies the “Catholic spirit” with what he calls the “Cenacle spirit.” As he describes it here, where have you seen the “Catholic spirit” most alive? What did it look like, what was attractive about it? Think of an example of a person who is clearly living this “Catholic” or “Cenacle” spirit. Ask for the grace of the Cenacle spirit!*

**▶ Write down your reflections briefly here:**

## ***Wednesday: Sharing in the Mission of Jesus***

*From Father Judge:*

“The Missionary Cenacle has a mission, and there are many sides to that mission, but what more beautiful side is there than this, that you, by zealous practices, by living up to the conditions of the Missionary Cenacle, are going to do your share to conserve the fire Jesus came to cast upon earth, that you will be that light that is to be placed on the mountain, that you will be the good odor of Christ, that you will be the salt of the earth. If you keep alive your Cenacle traditions and if you zealously put into practice the lessons you are taught, I can assure you, you will be in a particular way dear to the Sacred heart of our dear Lord, and He will look upon you as a most devoted friend. Isn't this a glorious distinction for us? Isn't it a matter of extraordinary consolation to think that we can enter into the very plan of the Son of God?” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 183)

*From the Word of God:*

**3** How blessed are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. **4** Blessed are the gentle: they shall have the earth as inheritance. **5** Blessed are those who mourn: they shall be comforted. **6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for uprightness: they shall have their fill. **7** Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. **8** Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God. **9** Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognised as children of God. **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness: the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. **11** ‘Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.

**13** ‘You are salt for the earth. But if salt loses its taste, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled under people’s feet. **14** ‘You are light for the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. **15** No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. **16** In the same way your light must shine in people’s sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven.” (*Matthew 5:3-16*)

***In what ways has Jesus invited you to share in His mission? Think of a specific example of how you had the opportunity to do the work of Jesus this week in the providence of your daily life. How did you respond to this opportunity?***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# ***Thursday: The Cenacle Spirit, the Pentecostal Burning***

*From Father Judge:*

“I am speaking of the Cenacle spirit, for when I speak of the Cenacle spirit I speak of the Catholic spirit. If you have been trained for any purpose or made at all useful, it is that you might show forth that Christlike spirit, charity in good works. St. Paul puts it this way: ‘faith that worketh by charity’ (*Gal 5/6*). This is a faith that is restless until it finds expression in good works; and if you have that spirit you are going to communicate it. Why? Because the Holy Spirit wants it communicated: it is His flame, the Pentecostal burning. I wish that during this [meditation] you would, as it were, take your own temperature. How is that fire within me? Is it at white heat, is it intense, or is it a dull glow; or is it next to being extinguished? When the smith plunges the metal into the fire, if his fire be at its proper temperature, there is a fusion; but he might plunge that iron many times into the fire and it would be futile unless the fire was at white heat.” (*Missionary Cenacle Meditations*, p. 183)

*From the Word of God:*

“**1** When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together,**2** when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting;**3** and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.**4** They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves.**5** Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven,**6** and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.**7** They were amazed and astonished. ‘Surely,’ they said, ‘all these men speaking are Galileans?’**8** How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?**9** Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,**10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; residents of Rome—**11** Jews and proselytes alike—Cretans and Arabs, we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.’**12** Everyone was amazed and perplexed; they asked one another what it all meant.**13** Some, however, laughed it off. ‘They have been drinking too much new wine,’ they said.” (*Acts 2:1-13*)

***Take your “spiritual temperature.” How is the fire of God’s love within you? “Is it at white heat, is it intense, or is it a dull glow, or is next to being extinguished?” How is this love manifested in your daily works, your service to the poor, your treatment of your neighbor? Ask the Holy Spirit for the fire of God’s love to burn intensely, passionately within you.***

**Write down your reflections briefly here:**

# ***Friday: Mary, Queen of the Apostles***

*From Father Judge:*

“Be sure that one of the loudest notes of your worship be thanksgiving to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost for Immaculate Mary, for the great things done to her, for what has happened in the Church through her. Never in this world shall we realize fully how Mary is the cause of our joy. It is only in heaven that we shall see how her prayers, her maternal solicitude, her powerful help followed us in our sorrows, that we might receive comfort and consolation; how she presented her petitions to her Divine Son; how she saved us from temptations and falls; how she piloted us through countless storms on the sea of life.” (Fr. Judge, *Sparks of Faith*, p. 13-14)

*From the Word of God:*

“**13** and when they reached the city they went to the upper room where they were staying; there were Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Jude son of James.**14** With one heart all these joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (*Acts 1:13-14*)

*What has been my relationship to Mary, the Mother of Jesus? What role does Mary play in my thoughts and prayer? What characteristics of Mary’s life do I want most to emulate? Place your life and your missionary vocation under the care of Mary, Queen of Apostles.*

**p** Write down your reflections briefly here: