



CHRISTMAS PRAYER- MEETING OF GAZES

knowing that we are looked upon, knowing how to gaze



How important is the look now. We communicate with it, and we can even smile with it ... We invite you in this prayer to approach the mystery of God made man, and also the mystery of man and woman created in the image of God.



KNOWING THAT WE ARE GAZED UPON--

"....she raised her eyes and looked at me...She turned to look at me and she smiled, but said nothing to me...I was safe in such good company...I thought I was in heaven...and as I believe that this clear, pure intelligence looks at me and has seen me for all eternity, it was very natural that I should watch her eyes closely and want to see them open and looking at me, for I was looking at her. She looked at me Oh, how sweet would death have been for me then! I saw that she was looking at me with favorable eyes and with love."



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It is a text from *Mis Relaciones* (Fragments VI / 1861-64), but in this way any Christmas song could also begin in front of the Nativity scene, celebrating the “feasts of the cave”, as Fr. Francisco Palau said (cf. Letter 76, Barcelona January 6, 1862 to the Marias de Ciudadela); there in a cave he placed the child to give him a gift (cf. Letter 75 Barcelona, January 6, 1862, To Juana Gratas, in Ciudadela), and from there he teaches us to look and guides our gaze so that it meets that of the Beloved, with the Beloved, because ... "to believe is to see" (MR 4, 8; 20,8).

Song: Cuanto más te miro
 Iglesia Santa,
 Cuanto más te miro,
 más nueva te veo,
 Déjate ver, Iglesia

Biblical Text: Listening to the Word is to warm ourselves by the gaze of a God-with-us, today, now, in our concrete history. Let that Word made flesh flood our hearts, let his gaze meet ours:

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2, 8-18)

... KNOWING HOW TO GAZE

At Christmas we usually adore the Child, we approach Him in admiration, overwhelmed, grateful. After having listened to his Word, we invite you to make that gesture of adoration, in the way that each community deems appropriate: Approach and kiss him, take him in your arms, ... and learn from his gaze to look at the other, at your brother, at your neighbor, as did Fr. Francisco Palau:



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The shepherds saw the angel, his light enveloped them,
they welcomed the simple joy of a peaceful night;
what was announced to them,
they did not hesitate to go and contemplate ...

**On Christmas Eve, when Christ came down on the altar, He came as a child on the straw,
in Christ, the Church.**

They heard the cheers of Heaven,
and they made themselves listen and praise ...

**The voice of the Father was heard, who said: "This is my Daughter and your Daughter." And
Christ added. "She is my Spouse and your Spouse."**

When her eyes met those of the Child, with those of the Mother,
they could not silence her heart overflowing with joy;
they felt at home, in a family...
It was night, but it was not late ...

**After the mass I took the statue of the Child Jesus, we accompanied Him in the procession
to His crib in the cave, as we do every year. When we arrived, and I placed Him there, He
said to me: -This is my house and yours**

Emmanuel's gaze flooded them,
And as their eyes meets, the dialogue starts ...

-Who are you?

-The only Daughter of the eternal God and yours...

-You are my Daughter?

-Yes, and your Spouse.

Admiration, amazement, wonder, is what caused the encounter,
and the encounter became passion, the haste became path,
path of faith that blinds and illuminates,
path of desire, of reaching the unfathomable.

-Give me a sign that I may believe

-Have you no faith?

**-Yes, yes. Pardon my daring. I believe in your word more than any signs which my eyes may
see. Pardon my unbelief and help me against it.**

A baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger! That was the sign from Heaven!
A poverty that enriches, mystery of God made small ...

-You have asked for a sign and I am going to give you one.

-No, my Daughter. I do believe.

**-Yes, you believe. And because you believe, you will cast out devils from souls and from
bodies...**

His gaze was presence, his heart overflowed, time stopped ...

The shepherds could not keep the love received for them alone, locked up to themselves,



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So, they began to make known what had been announced to them.

On the second day of Christmas they brought us a mute who had his mouth closed; he did not speak or eat or drink...I was vesting to say Mass; it was 8:45.

-I am here—said the Girl.

-You make your presence felt...

The night had been filled with light, although the angels were gone,
the grateful heart, the heart of flesh,
knowing how to gaze from the inside, was their greatest lesson

At the appointed time, the demons departed, the young mute speak, he opened his mouth and went away healed. The presence of heaven was felt so much by all that we could sing the "Te Deum", we were so touched and religiously moved. Cf. MR 4,25-27

Song:

Que no se me olviden las ganas de verte
De amarte y seguirte, de reconocerte
En esa mirada, que todo lo puede,
Que me llena el alma y después me mueve...

***A ayudar a mis hermanos,
A vivir desde el amor,
Denunciando la injusticia y el dolor
A intentar ser más humano,
Compartiendo lo mejor
Regalando la alegría y el amor***

Que no se me olvide anunciar tu palabra
En cada momento, y darte la gracias
Las gracias que tienes y que me regalas

Para compartirlas allá donde vaya

A ayudar a mis hermanos, ...

Que no se me olvide que vale la pena
Ser más solidario con quien nada tenga
Que no se me olvide que con fe y esperanza
Todo lo imposible se consigue y se alcanza

*/que recuerde tu grandeza
Y también tu sencillez
Y que en cada hermano yo te sepa ver
Que mi fe y que mis creencias
Las recuerde el corazón
Porque el sentido de la vida es el amor/*

ORACIÓN PARA CONTINUAR VIVIENDO LA NAVIDAD:

O God made flesh, made body, made creature, You, the Creator, with your eyes you look at us, your gaze envelops us with light.

<i>We know we are gazed upon and called like the disciples,</i>	<i>(Mc 1, 16-17)</i>
<i>We know we are looked at and known as Nathanael,</i>	<i>(Jn 1, 48)</i>
<i>We know we are gazed upon and forgiven like Peter,</i>	<i>(Lk 22,61)</i>
<i>We know we are looked at and welcomed like Zacchaeus,</i>	<i>(Lk 19,5)</i>
<i>We know we are looked at with mercy and your gaze feeds us,</i>	<i>(Jn 6: 5)</i>
<i>We know that we are looked at and recreated as the sinner,</i>	<i>(Lc 7,44)</i>
<i>We know that we are gazed upon with love even when we do not realize it</i>	<i>(Mk 12: 41..)</i>
<i>We know that we are looked at with compassion and you raise us up</i>	<i>(Lk 7,13)</i>
<i>We know we are being looked at ... And you give us a mission.</i>	<i>(Jn 19:26)</i>



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May we learn to look at your Body of flesh,
also wounded today in many brothers,
that no one is left out of our sight.

Today we put in your hands, the hands of a Child ... (Invite to share)

the joy, the illusion, the hope of ... (community, congregational, world situations ...)

pain, suffering, concern of ... (community, congregational, global situations ...)

THEY ARE ALL YOUR BODY, THE CHURCH.

May our gazes and our hands be used by You today. AMEN.

Christmas song: Silent night

