

# GOD'S SALVATION AND GOD'S MERCY

Mosaic and symbolism



*Come to me, all you who are weary  
and are carrying heavy burdens, and  
I will give you rest. (Matt 11:28)*

**An invitation to you**



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## FOREWORD

At Easter we celebrate God's salvation. Out of love for us, God the Son sacrificed Himself for us on Good Friday and on Easter morning He manifested His salvation through His victory over death. On the Sunday after Easter – the Feast of Divine Mercy – the ninth day after Good Friday, the Church encourages us to focus specifically on that love. By dying on the cross, Jesus showed the magnitude of His Love and how far it will go to seek out those who in their despair are on the verge of losing hope or in their indifference are unaware of how much God loves them.

Salvation and mercy have thus become foreign words for many, even though they are the key to a true understanding of our lives. At some point in time we reach the limits of control over our lives and feel a sense of helplessness and at the same time the need for someone to stretch out his hands to save us. When we make mistakes, fail and believe that all chances have been wasted, we must realize that the loving God is always ready to accept us.

“God our Saviour desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (cf. 1Tim 2:4)

Apart from wanting to save us from damnation and helplessness, God also wants to have fellowship with us and to lead us to a life together with Him, who helps us to put everything into its right context. God's history with man is long and rich in events, right from the beginning of creation to His Son's life on earth. And yes, this story continues with each one of us.

This little book tells that story in a way that is easy to follow and invites us to take active part in God's plan.

God called Moses and others to be part of His plan, and His Son chose His disciples for the same purpose. Even today He is searching for people who will follow Him and help Him to find others. God created man in His image and greatly wants this image to become visible as early as possible. Therefore, young people have God's special attention, because His work needs youthful enthusiasm and He wants to give young people a good start in life.

The Church will again be celebrating a World Youth Day, gathering young people from around the world. It is a great opportunity to experience unity, but first and foremost a possibility to experience God, maybe helped by others who would like to share their faith and their enthusiasm. Many initiatives have been taken in preparation of this event; but I hope that this little book may prove to be a help. I thank the author for sharing her enthusiasm for God's story with people and hope that many will discover their role in this story.

+ Czeslaw Kozon  
The Easter Octave 2015

***Blessed are the merciful for  
they will receive mercy. (Matt 5:7)***

*(motto for The World Youth Days 2016 in Cracow)  
In WYD's logo we see the spark of God's mercy, which  
can be the right medicine for anyone who from his  
wounded heart shouts for help. The children around  
the logo in the mosaic symbolize all of us who are on  
our way to God – cheerful, sad, worried and happy.  
All the children form the Church's community. God has  
created us in His image, so we resemble Him, and He  
loves us as we are.*



***Join us in the Church's community, where it will be  
easier for you to find your way to God.***

**„GOD’S PLAN FOR SALVATION” - is an unusual mosaic which shows deep symbolism and conveys the message of salvation.**

***Let all nations know God’s salvation.***

***(see Isaiah 49:6)***

*The mosaic is made from 15 composite images. It is an open Bible with both The Old Testament and The New Testament, with Jesus Christ at the centre.*

***In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.***

***(Col 1:14)***

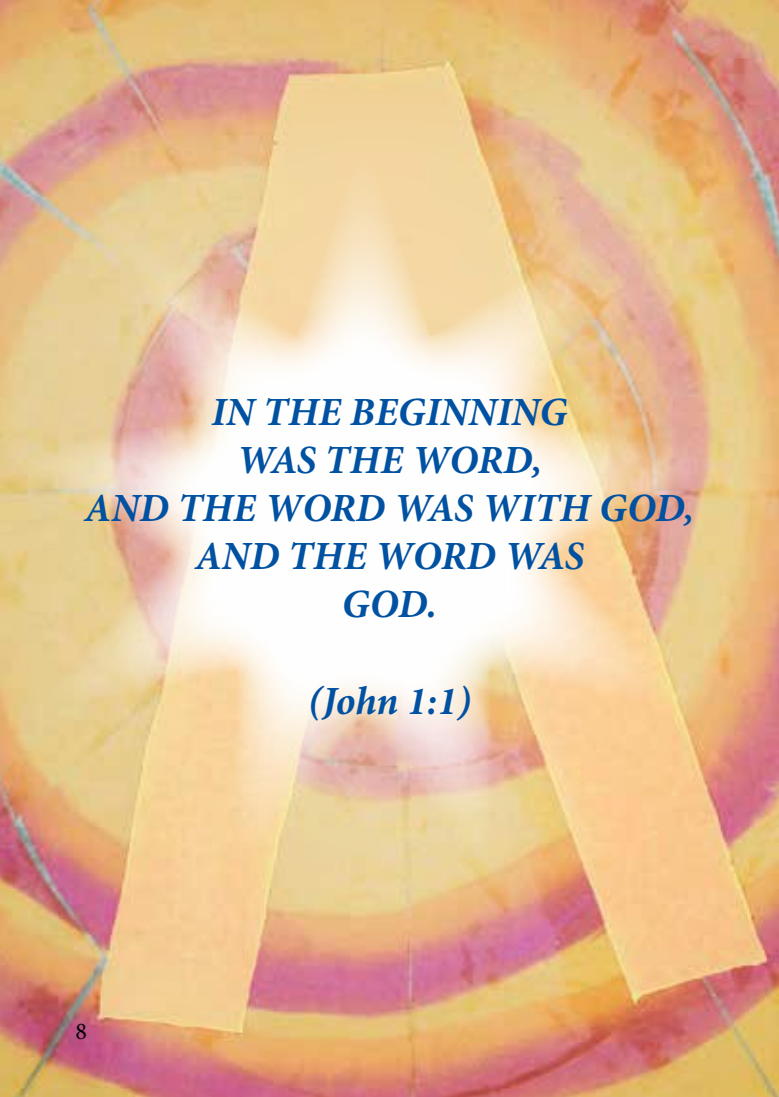
*All who choose Christ as their Lord will have their sins forgiven and be given resurrection to eternal life. The mosaic tells about God’s great love for mankind.*

***God invites you to make this story your story, and through you it can be passed on to others.***

## **Mercy is the way to salvation.**

*The greatest gift from God to any person, including you, is salvation. God has loved you for a long time and you are included in His plan for salvation. In order to understand this plan you must get to know it from beginning to end. God is continuously explaining His plan for mankind. He has sent angels and prophets, and today He speaks through various events, signs, other people, the Church's sacraments, your conscience and your heart.*

**Get going and discover the fascinating secret:  
THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S SALVATION**



***IN THE BEGINNING  
WAS THE WORD,  
AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD,  
AND THE WORD WAS  
GOD.***

***(John 1:1)***



***God is the Beginning and the End, Alpha and Omega***  
*(the first and the last letters in the Greek alphabet).*

***He, who always WAS, always IS, and always SHALL BE.***

***„He, who hopes, lives differently, will be reborn.  
Getting to know God – the true God – means  
achieving hope.” (Pope emeritus Benedict XVI)***

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

*In the images within the mosaic you find seven symbols from The Old Testament. They represent God's care for the chosen people and how He helped them to be strong in difficult situations, despite the fact that the people rejected Him time and again. The chosen people also symbolize you and the whole Church. God guides and helps you through your own difficult situations and relationships with others. Later in this book you will find symbols in the hands of angels that are a sign of God's fidelity towards mankind.*

***Do you know why God does it?  
It is because He can never stop loving you. He loves  
you all the time!  
Totally without cost! In spite of your sins.***



*The angel that you see here symbolizes the contact between God and man. Have you heard of the angel Gabriel, whom God sent to the Virgin Mary?*

*The angel came to her with the message that she had been chosen by God to give birth to His son Jesus, the Messiah the chosen people had been waiting for with deep longing for many, many years, as the One who would save the world.*

***What is your contact with God like? Who or what does your heart long for? Via this mosaic, God will help you by awakening a deeper longing in you, if you want it.***

## 1. The tree of knowledge of good and evil

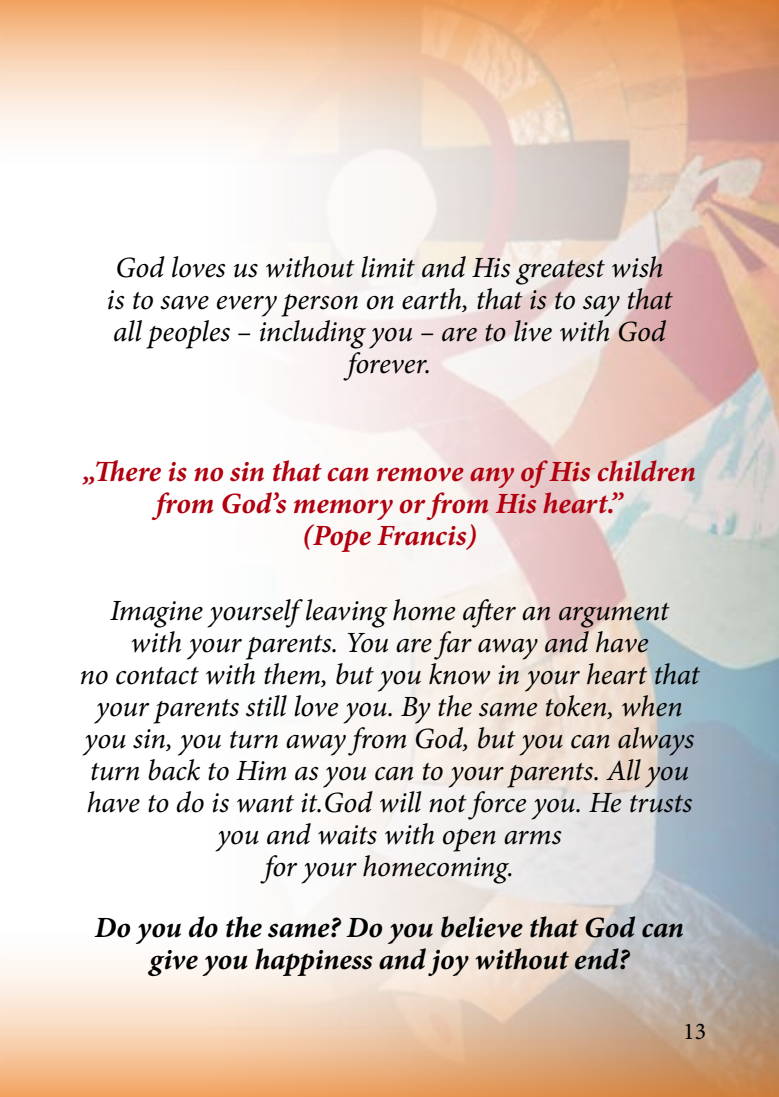


*It all started in the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve chose to defy God by plucking fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Their disobedience, which is also called **Original Sin**, was the reason they lost their innocence and eternal life with God. By sinning they turned away from God. The gate to eternal life with God in Heaven was closed to them.*

*(Genesis 3:13-15,23-24)*

*They quickly became aware that without God there is no life, just death.*

*In spite of this God promised that He would send the Messiah, who took upon Himself sin and its consequences in order to save man from sin and the powers of hell. That is to say, the door to God's house would again be opened to man, so we can live with Him for all eternity. God did this through Maria, who through her obedience to the Lord gave birth to God's son, Jesus, the saviour of the world.*



*God loves us without limit and His greatest wish is to save every person on earth, that is to say that all peoples – including you – are to live with God forever.*

***„There is no sin that can remove any of His children from God’s memory or from His heart.”  
(Pope Francis)***

*Imagine yourself leaving home after an argument with your parents. You are far away and have no contact with them, but you know in your heart that your parents still love you. By the same token, when you sin, you turn away from God, but you can always turn back to Him as you can to your parents. All you have to do is want it. God will not force you. He trusts you and waits with open arms for your homecoming.*

***Do you do the same? Do you believe that God can give you happiness and joy without end?***

## 2. Noah's Ark



*Symbol of man's salvation.*

*The rainbow – sign of a new covenant between God and man.*

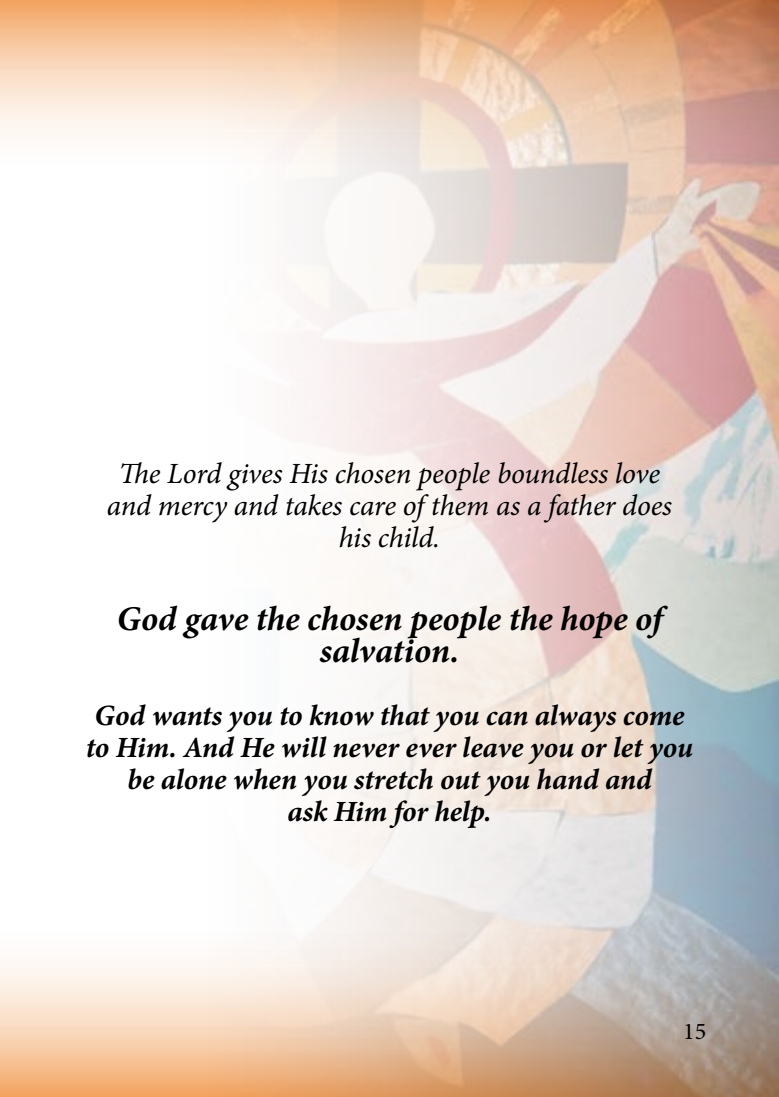
*(Genesis 7:1-5 and 9:11-17)*

*Noah believed and trusted in God like a child trusts its father. He built the ark, a huge ship that saved him and his family from the flood. A dove brought the first twig that grew after the flood. The rainbow was a covenant between God and man, a promise to man that there would never again be a flood to destroy the whole world.*

***„Faith is an unconditional gift from God that calls forth humility and courage so that we can trust and confide in God – and in this way discover the way of light between God and man, God's plan for salvation.”***

***(The Light of Faith, No. 14; Pope Francis)***

***You are free! You choose and decide for yourself and God accepts this completely. All He requires of you is that you have faith in Him, love and trust Him.***



*The Lord gives His chosen people boundless love and mercy and takes care of them as a father does his child.*

***God gave the chosen people the hope of salvation.***

***God wants you to know that you can always come to Him. And He will never ever leave you or let you be alone when you stretch out your hand and ask Him for help.***

### 3. The Burning Bush

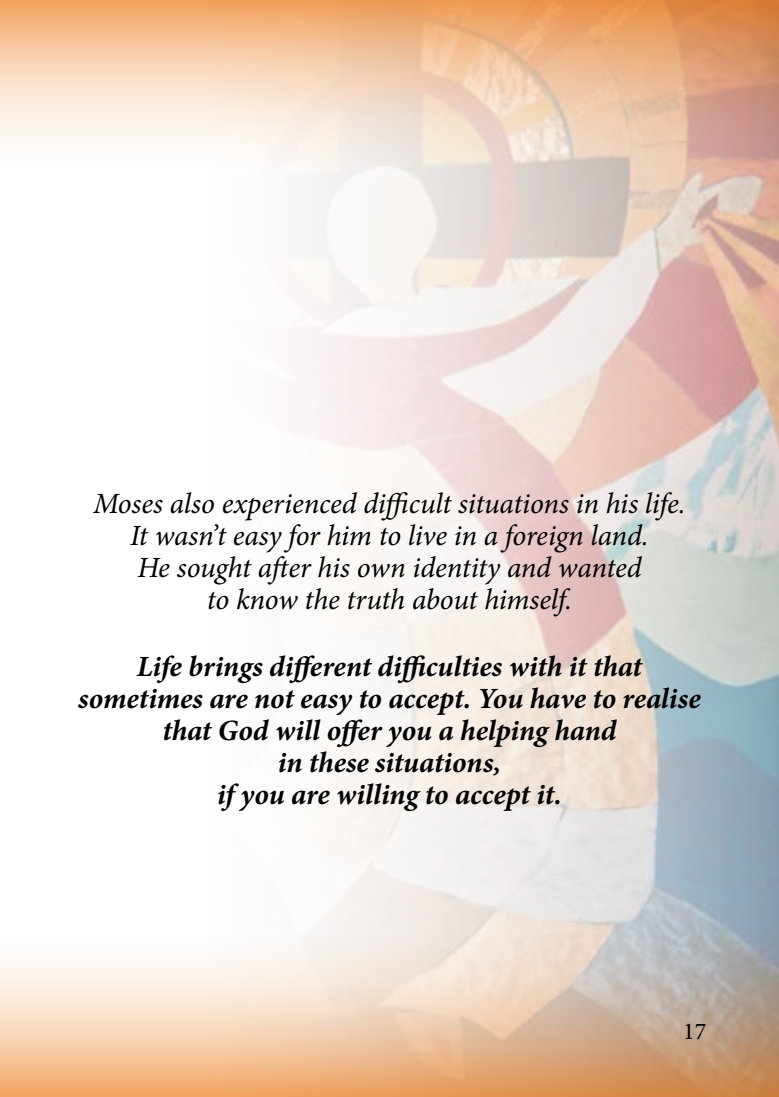


*God begins to fulfil His promise of salvation by calling Moses.*

*(Exodus 3:1-6)*

*Moses didn't know God, because he was adopted as a baby by the Egyptian princess, who didn't teach him about the true God. God showed Himself to Moses in the burning bush and chose him to set his people free from Egyptian captivity. Moses trusted God and fought bravely for his people's freedom. He didn't give up on the way, but returned ten times to Pharaoh in order to serve his people and free them from Egyptian slavery.*

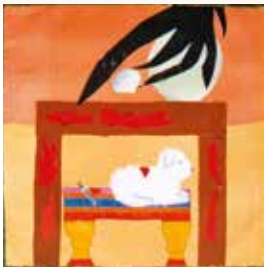
***Every person has a task here on earth. You must not be afraid to have big dreams and to aim high. You can do a little thing in your life, which makes a great difference to others. Trust in God, don't give up, and you will never be disappointed.***



*Moses also experienced difficult situations in his life.  
It wasn't easy for him to live in a foreign land.  
He sought after his own identity and wanted  
to know the truth about himself.*

***Life brings different difficulties with it that  
sometimes are not easy to accept. You have to realise  
that God will offer you a helping hand  
in these situations,  
if you are willing to accept it.***

## 4. The Passover Lamb

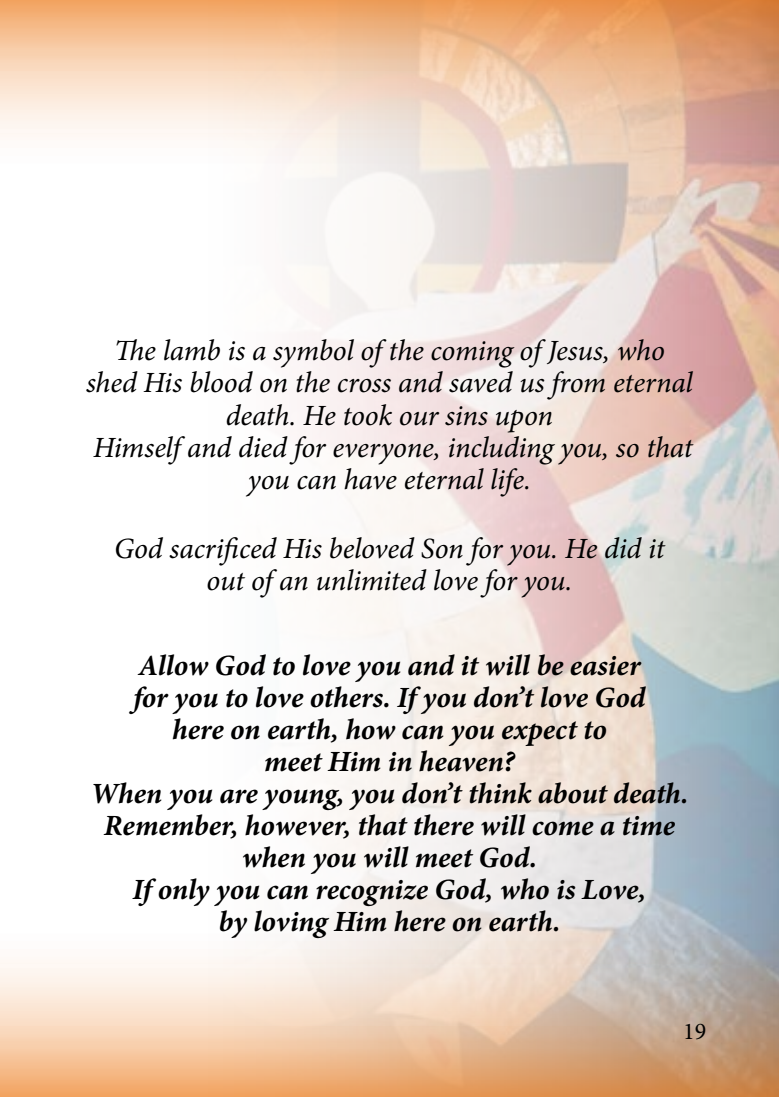


*A sign of God's salvation – freed from eternal death  
(Exodus 12:1,11-14)*

*It is the last night in Egyptian captivity for  
the chosen people.*

*Precisely on that night the Israelites become a free  
people, thanks to the blood of the innocent lamb that  
was slaughtered. The blood of the lamb was smeared  
on their doorposts and saved them from death. The  
angel of death was near but walked passed those who  
believed in God, and the first-born were saved  
from death, whilst the first-born Egyptians died.*

***Look closely at the picture.  
Have you ever considered what you can expect  
in eternity?***



*The lamb is a symbol of the coming of Jesus, who shed His blood on the cross and saved us from eternal death. He took our sins upon Himself and died for everyone, including you, so that you can have eternal life.*

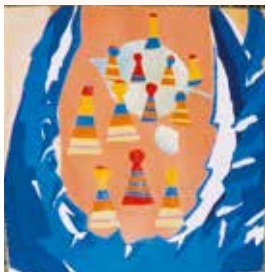
*God sacrificed His beloved Son for you. He did it out of an unlimited love for you.*

*Allow God to love you and it will be easier for you to love others. If you don't love God here on earth, how can you expect to meet Him in heaven?*

*When you are young, you don't think about death. Remember, however, that there will come a time when you will meet God.*

*If only you can recognize God, who is Love, by loving Him here on earth.*

## 5. The Passage through the Red Sea



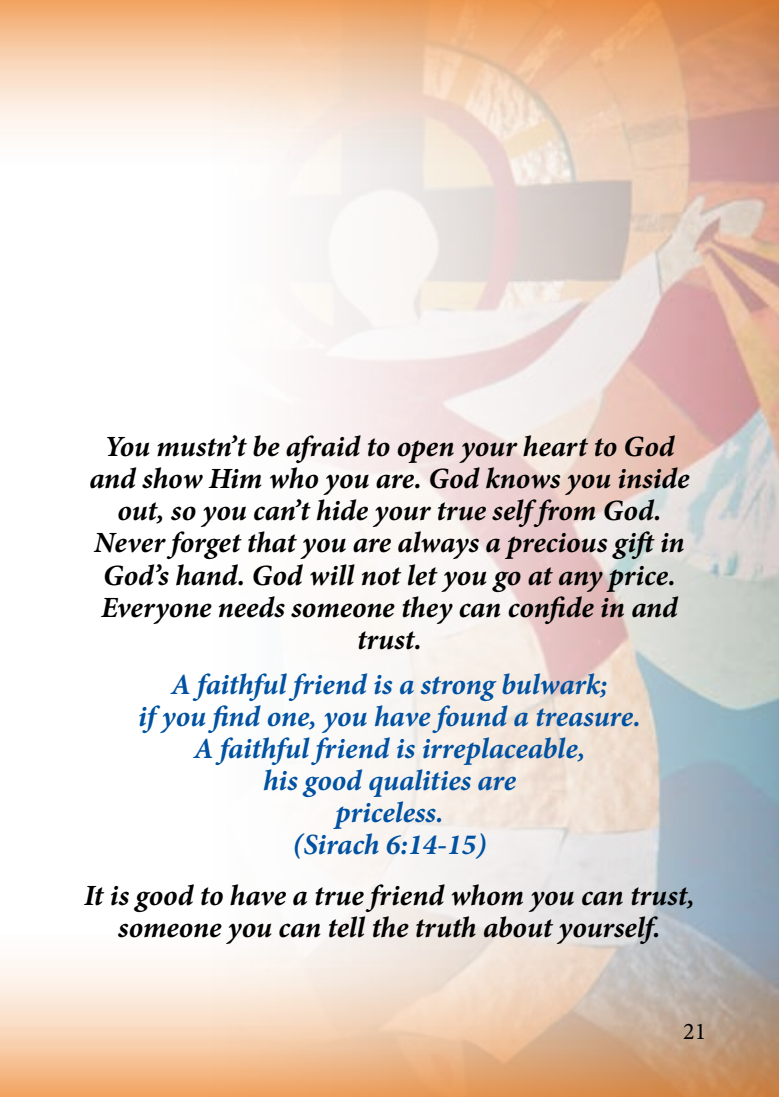
*God frees His people from slavery and leads them to the promised land.*

*(Exodus 14:21-23,26-28,31)*

*God led the Israelites to the edge of the sea with the Egyptian army at their backs. With the help of God, Moses miraculously made a passage through the sea, so that the Israelites could get to the other side. When all the Israelites had made it to the other side, Moses caused the sea to fall back again and the Egyptian army drowned.*

*We are often struck by painful experiences that we find difficult to handle and can't find solutions or any way out. Sometimes we are unable to receive outside help, because we do not acknowledge our problem.*

***Think about whether you are honest with yourself and with God.***



***You mustn't be afraid to open your heart to God and show Him who you are. God knows you inside out, so you can't hide your true self from God. Never forget that you are always a precious gift in God's hand. God will not let you go at any price. Everyone needs someone they can confide in and trust.***

***A faithful friend is a strong bulwark;  
if you find one, you have found a treasure.  
A faithful friend is irreplaceable,  
his good qualities are  
priceless.  
(Sirach 6:14-15)***

***It is good to have a true friend whom you can trust,  
someone you can tell the truth about yourself.***

## 6. The Ten Commandments



***God makes the people His Chosen People, from which the Messiah will come. God delivers The Ten Commandments through Moses.***

*(see Exodus 20:1-5,7-17)*

*On Mount Sinai God gave the stone tablets with The Ten Commandments to Moses.*

*The Ten Commandments tell us what is good and evil in God's eyes, rules that are intended to guarantee man's happiness.*

*God's laws apply to everyone on earth from the beginning of time to its end.*

***What can you do to make the world a better place? You are young and full of energy. Don't waste your chance. The earth's future depends on the young, including you. If you follow your heart and live according to God's commandments, your life will be more beautiful. It demands courage to go against the current and hold on to your own convictions.***

- I. I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other God before me.**
- II. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain.**
- III. You shall remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**
- IV. You shall honour your father and mother.**
- V. You shall not kill.**
- VI. You shall not commit adultery.**
- VII. You shall not steal.**
- VIII. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.**
- IX. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.**
- X. You shall not covet those things that belong to your neighbour.**

**„The law as a whole, which was written a long time ago on stone tablets, was at the same time written from the very beginning in man's heart. Those people who do not know The Ten Commandments, know their content anyway.”**  
**(Pope Saint John Paul II)**

**Sometimes it seems like you know best and simply live the way you want to. You don't believe you should pay attention to God's word. Perhaps you think you have time enough to return to God, but you can never be sure when your time will run out. Therefore, live your life with God so that you won't be ashamed of yourself when you finally meet God face to face.**

## 7. Jonah and the Whale



*God's salvation is for all peoples. Jonas reminds us of this. He was in the whale's belly for three days and nights.*

*(Jonah 2:1-3,10-11)*

*This is a symbol of Jesus who lay in the grave for three days. God takes pity on those who do evil things and sends His prophet to remind them of it, so that they have a chance to repent their wrongdoings and return to God.*

***„God can truly save and free us.***

***God is greater than our sins and He always loves us without reservation.”***

***(Pope Francis, 2014)***

***Do you have enough pity for other people and do you want to help them? Do you show them your compassion or do you think only of yourself and don't care what happens to your fellow man?***

## *Christ invites you*



*Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
(Matt 11:28)*

*Christ stretches out His arms to you and is ready to embrace you, because you are unique to Him.*

*Christ says:  
I am the way, the truth and the life.  
(John 14:6)*

*Look at the picture. What does it tell you? Don't be afraid to listen to His loving words. They can be a balsam for your soul.*







*Look closely at the icon. The oval around the cross that reminds you of an eye is a symbol of God the Father, from whom His son, Jesus Christ, comes. At the same time the Son is closely united with the Father through an infinite love that is the Holy Spirit. God shares His boundless love with man. God's limitless love encompasses you like the sun. You surely know that God is a trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, i.e. three persons in one God, who are profoundly united with each other and form a TRINITY.*

***Christ can be your Master, your power, your strength and your Saviour if you invite Him into your life: in prayer, through confession, through Holy Communion, through reading the Bible...***

***Do not wait until tomorrow.  
Do it today and you will not regret it!***



*Look at the icon: Christ conquers against the background of the cross. Through His death on the cross He has liberated you from eternal death.*

*Christ's face is hidden in the picture. God isn't visible to the eye of man. God has created man in His image and we must make God's presence visible in our lives. We can in this way feel God's love through other people.*

***Look at Christ's FACE. The FACE you see in the picture is the face of every person you meet on your way. It is also your face. Through other people we feel God's love.***

## Christ's defeat of Satan



*Through the cross Christ has defeated evil. Here you can see the defeated dragon that has no body or tail; it is a symbol of Satan. Satan accuses us in front of God, reveals our many sins and says we are guilty of death, but Christ has already paid the price for our salvation. He is devoted and obedient to His Father of His own free will. This freedom comes from love for the Father and makes Jesus our saviour. Obedience to God's will makes us free people and gives us the power and the strength to let God work within us. Jesus Christ has defeated hell and Satan. Christ is the Lord of life and King of the world and all must serve Him.*

*God came to earth in Jesus Christ, freely took upon Himself the punishment for our sins through His suffering and death on the cross, and fulfilled the promise of salvation.*

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved by Him.*

*(John 3:16-17)*

*God promises you eternal life in joy, glory and boundless happiness. Rejoice already today because of this!*

## **THE NEW TESTAMENT**

*The mosaic is composed of the seven sacraments that are found in the Catholic Church and which are described in The New Testament. All the sacraments are Christ's concrete presence. The sacraments communicate Christ's sanctifying salvation, which we receive in various situations throughout life.*

*The sacraments are a gift to the Church. They are also a gift to you. Reception of them is a sign of your friendship with Christ, and that you have chosen Christ as your saviour.*

*The sacraments are confirmation of God's infinite love for and mercy towards man, i.e. towards you and me.*

# 1. Baptism



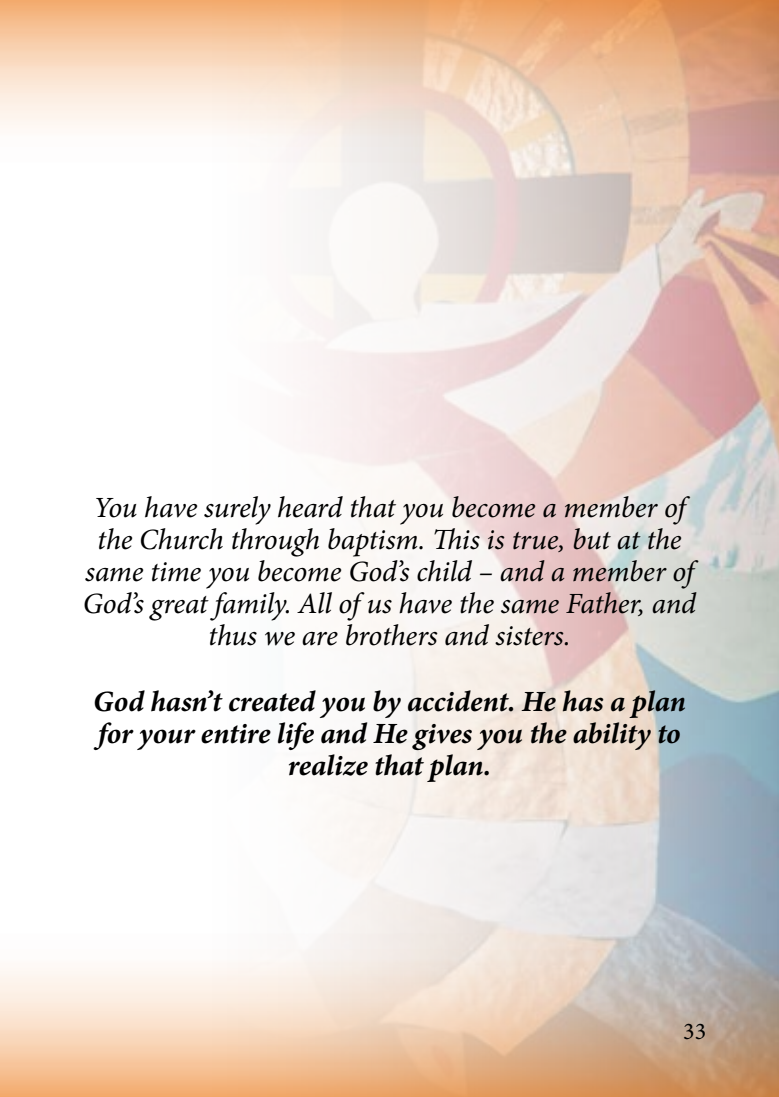
*Baptism is the foundation for all Christian life and the gateway to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first of the seven sacraments. Our Christian life begins with baptism. We are cleansed and freed from original sin through baptism, which is symbolized by the white dress. We are also filled with the Holy Spirit, which from that moment begins to dwell in us.*

*(Matt 28:18-19)*

***God calls you by name! He comes to us through the name we are given in our baptism.***

*I called you by name. You are mine!  
(see Isaiah 49:1-3)*

***You are unique! No other person is like you and no other person than you can fulfil God's plan for you.***



*You have surely heard that you become a member of the Church through baptism. This is true, but at the same time you become God's child – and a member of God's great family. All of us have the same Father, and thus we are brothers and sisters.*

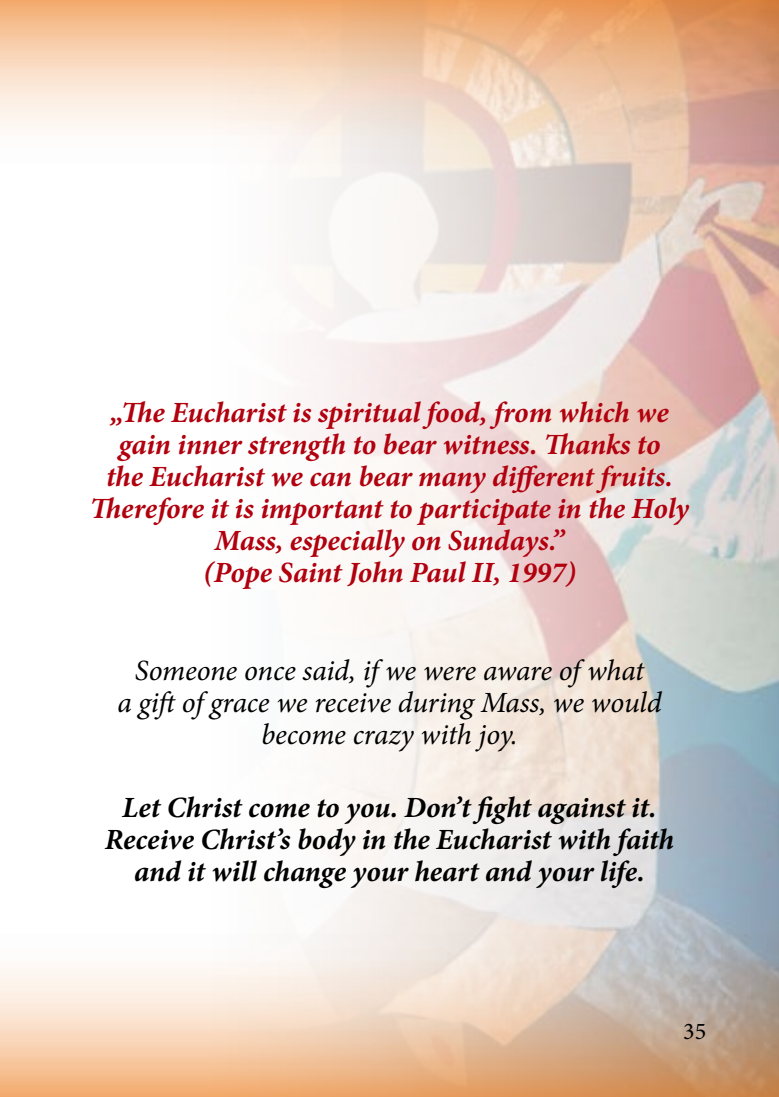
***God hasn't created you by accident. He has a plan for your entire life and He gives you the ability to realize that plan.***

## 2. The Eucharist



*The Eucharist makes Christ's suffering, death and resurrection present in a very concrete way and leads man to oneness with Christ.*  
*(see Luke 22:19-20)*

*The Eucharist is the source and center for Christian life. In every Mass Jesus is born, dies and is resurrected from the dead. He becomes one with us in Holy Communion. In this sacrament God satisfies our hunger with Himself, just like the time in the desert where Christ satisfied the hunger of several thousand people with five loaves and two fish.*



***„The Eucharist is spiritual food, from which we gain inner strength to bear witness. Thanks to the Eucharist we can bear many different fruits. Therefore it is important to participate in the Holy Mass, especially on Sundays.”  
(Pope Saint John Paul II, 1997)***

*Someone once said, if we were aware of what a gift of grace we receive during Mass, we would become crazy with joy.*

***Let Christ come to you. Don't fight against it. Receive Christ's body in the Eucharist with faith and it will change your heart and your life.***

### 3. Confirmation



*Confirmation confirms and strengthens the sacrament of baptism and completes it. Through this sacrament we receive the Holy Spirit's gifts and commit ourselves as witnesses to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ in words and deeds.*

*(see Acts 2:1-4)*

*Just as the Holy Spirit was sent to the assembled disciples on Pentecost Sunday, it comes to everyone who is baptized and asks the Church for its gifts. The Holy Spirit strengthens us so that we can bear witness to Christ in our lives. In Confirmation we receive power to bear witness to God's love and holiness. Thanks to the Holy Spirit we know what we have to do.*



**”You are the future of the world!  
You are the Church’s hope!”**  
*(Pope Saint John Paul II, 1978)*

*God needs you, your energy and enthusiasm, your eagerness to spread His message to other people. You can also build the Kingdom of God here on earth if your heart is in it. This may seem completely crazy. And you are right, because today the world needs people crazy enough to conquer the whole world for Christ, not through war but through witnessing to love and mercy in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

***Don’t be afraid! Trust Christ and the Holy Spirit. God will give you the strength to complete the task through prayer. Give it some thought. You will discover that prayer has an unbelievably strong power, and it can change people, things and problems.***

## 4. The Sacrament of Penance



*The sacrament of reconciliation communicates God's merciful forgiveness and re-establishes our innocence. On behalf of Jesus Christ the Church communicates forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God.*

*(see John 20:21-23)*

*Only Christ can forgive us our sins, because He is God. Christ took our sins upon Himself in order to make us God's free children. Only He, who is God's Son, can say:*

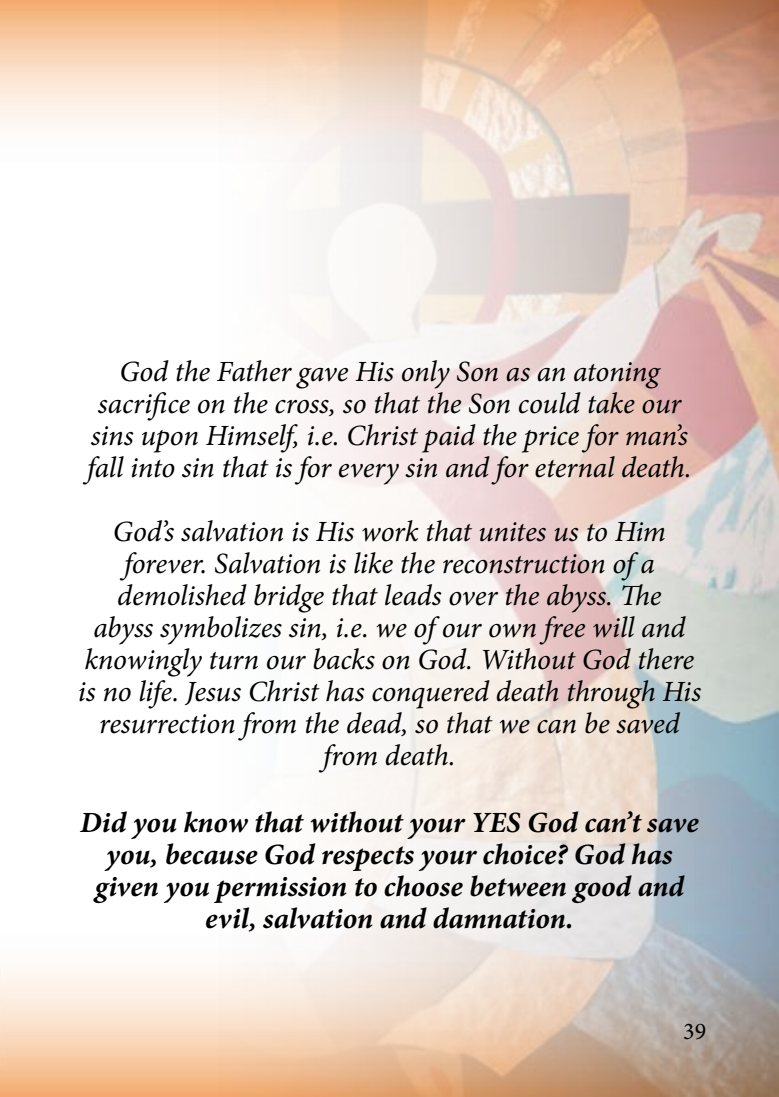
***Your sins are forgiven. (Luke 7:48)***

***„Those who allow themselves to be saved by Christ are freed from sin, from all sadness, from emptiness and isolation... God never becomes tired of forgiving us.***

***We are the ones who become tired of praying for His mercy.”***

***(The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis)***

***Don't forget that God loves you in spite of your weaknesses and falls. He is waiting for you to come back to Him. So you can be free.***



*God the Father gave His only Son as an atoning sacrifice on the cross, so that the Son could take our sins upon Himself, i.e. Christ paid the price for man's fall into sin that is for every sin and for eternal death.*

*God's salvation is His work that unites us to Him forever. Salvation is like the reconstruction of a demolished bridge that leads over the abyss. The abyss symbolizes sin, i.e. we of our own free will and knowingly turn our backs on God. Without God there is no life. Jesus Christ has conquered death through His resurrection from the dead, so that we can be saved from death.*

***Did you know that without your YES God can't save you, because God respects your choice? God has given you permission to choose between good and evil, salvation and damnation.***

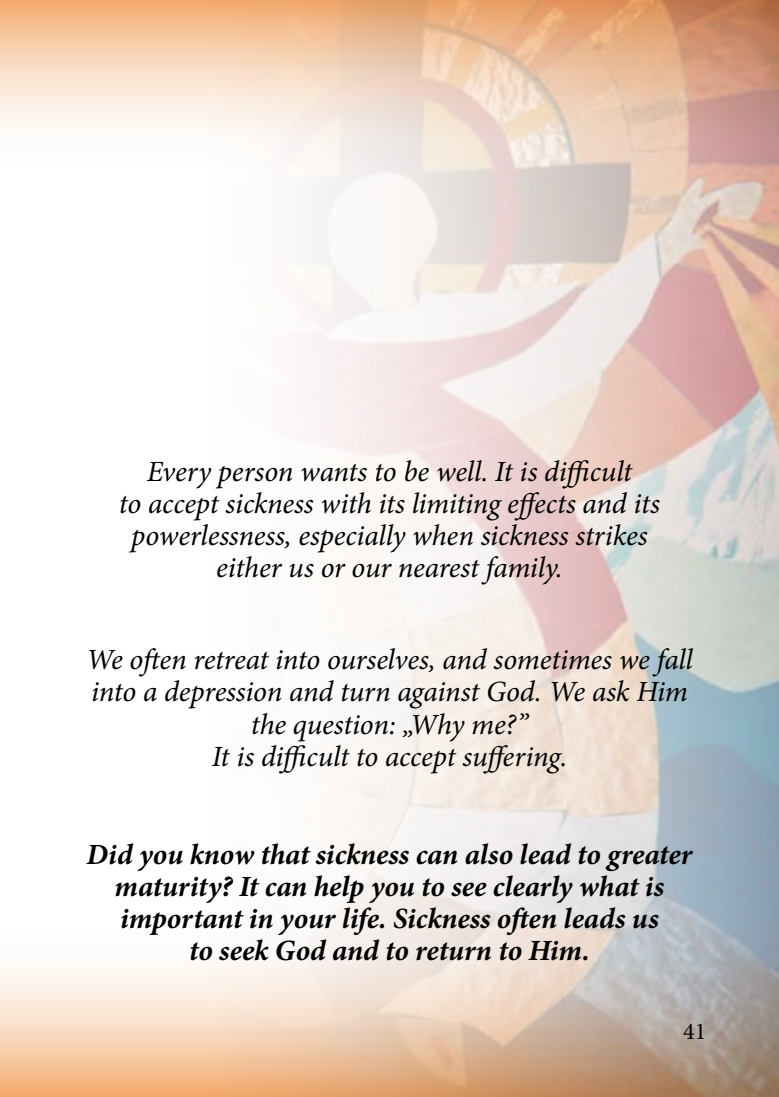
## 5. Anointing of the Sick



*Through the anointing of the sick Jesus effects the healing of both body and soul (see James 5:14-15), like the sacred oil in the dish that is used to give strength to the sick. This strength is symbolized by the green twig on the cross.*

*The Church helps the sick by anointing them. Jesus gives us strength through anointing and the prayers of the congregation. Every sickness reminds us that even we must die at some time. Sickness is thus always a warning that we don't live forever. When a body is anointed, it is also anointed for the coming Resurrection. Life with Christ leads to our being raised to eternal life with Him.*

***Do you want to be together with your nearest and dearest in heaven with God?***



*Every person wants to be well. It is difficult to accept sickness with its limiting effects and its powerlessness, especially when sickness strikes either us or our nearest family.*

*We often retreat into ourselves, and sometimes we fall into a depression and turn against God. We ask Him the question: „Why me?“  
It is difficult to accept suffering.*

***Did you know that sickness can also lead to greater maturity? It can help you to see clearly what is important in your life. Sickness often leads us to seek God and to return to Him.***

## 6. The Sacrament of Ordination: Deacon, Priest and Bishop



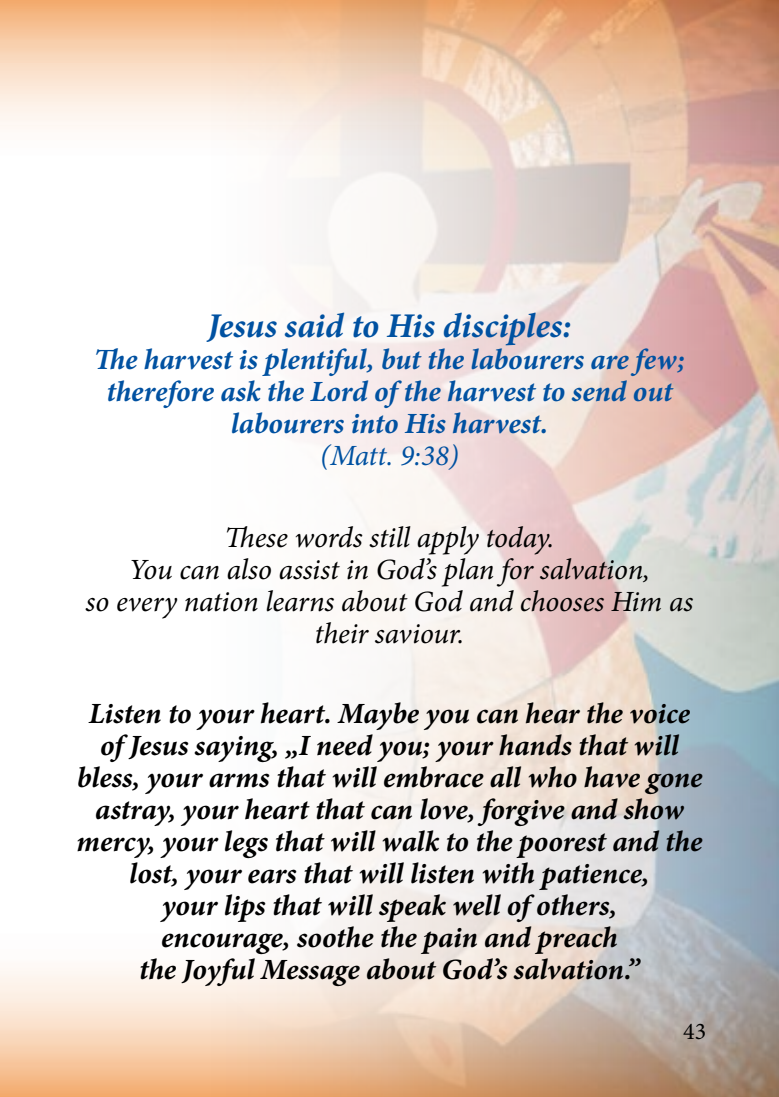
*The sacrament of ordination makes Christ's sanctifying, teaching and pastoral office present in the pastoral and sacramental ministry in the Church and in Her being built up.*

*(see Acts 14:23 and 2 Tim 1:6)*

*The ordained deacon or priest is that person to whom Christ entrusted His care for man's soul. They must reflect Christ's mercy and teach others to be merciful.*

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. (Matt 5:7)*

*Have you the courage to say „Yes”, if Christ chooses you to complete His work? You can also say, „Here I am, Lord, use me and send me wherever You will.”*



***Jesus said to His disciples:  
The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few;  
therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out  
labourers into His harvest.  
(Matt. 9:38)***

*These words still apply today.  
You can also assist in God's plan for salvation,  
so every nation learns about God and chooses Him as  
their saviour.*

***Listen to your heart. Maybe you can hear the voice  
of Jesus saying, „I need you; your hands that will  
bless, your arms that will embrace all who have gone  
astray, your heart that can love, forgive and show  
mercy, your legs that will walk to the poorest and the  
lost, your ears that will listen with patience,  
your lips that will speak well of others,  
encourage, soothe the pain and preach  
the Joyful Message about God's salvation.”***

## 7. The Sacrament of Marriage

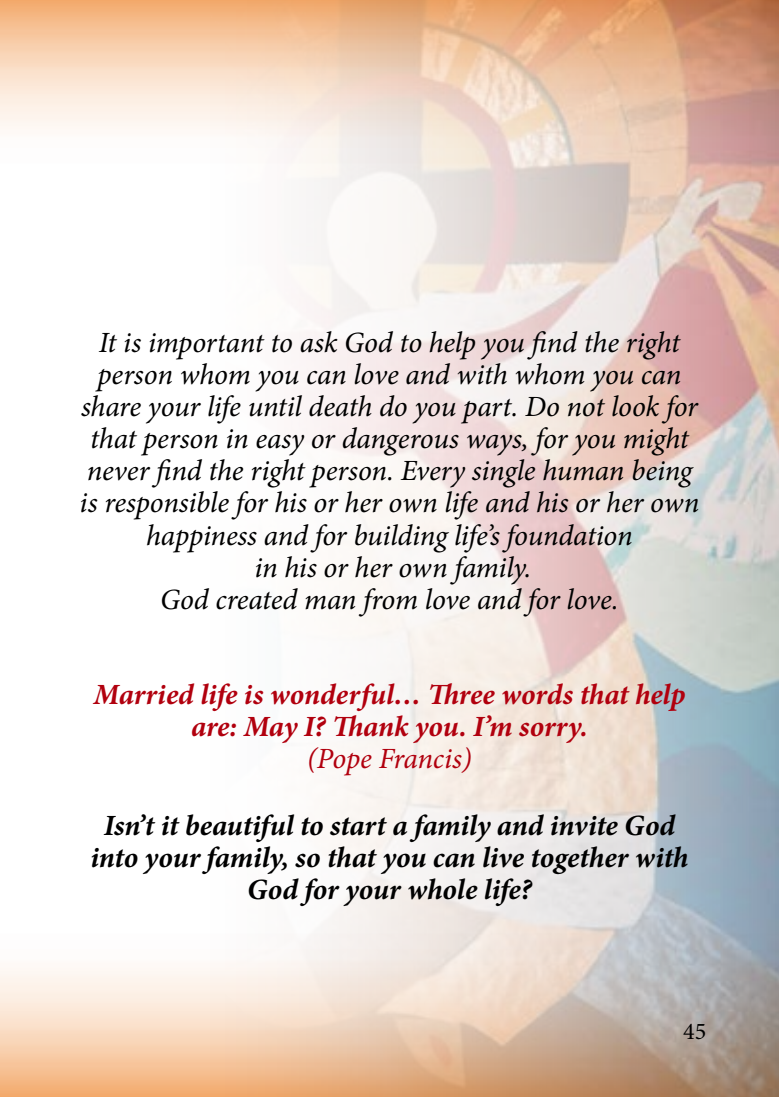


*The sacrament of marriage expresses a man's relationship of love towards a woman which must be like Christ's loving relationship to the Church. Love between man and woman must also be faithful and enduring. (Mark 10: 6-9) The cross and the rings are a symbol of marriage in the sight of God, who is Love itself.*

***„The great gift in the sacrament of marriage is that the Trinity is reflected in man's love.”***

***(Pope Francis)***

*When a woman and a man love each other with pure love, they are united to each other in the sight of God in the sacrament of marriage, and promise each other love and fidelity, for better or for worse, until death do they part.*



*It is important to ask God to help you find the right person whom you can love and with whom you can share your life until death do you part. Do not look for that person in easy or dangerous ways, for you might never find the right person. Every single human being is responsible for his or her own life and his or her own happiness and for building life's foundation in his or her own family.  
God created man from love and for love.*

***Married life is wonderful... Three words that help are: May I? Thank you. I'm sorry.  
(Pope Francis)***

***Isn't it beautiful to start a family and invite God into your family, so that you can live together with God for your whole life?***

*If you want to, you can pray to the Holy Spirit for advice on making the right decisions in your life.*

**God the Holy Spirit, I ask you**

- for THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM that allows us to recognize both the divine reality and God's will in daily relationships;**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING that through faith helps us to recognize the mystery of salvation and in the final reckoning to ,see God';**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL that leads our hearts towards God's will in all situations and leads us on the road towards eternal salvation;**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF STRENGTH to receive the power and courage to resist evil and faithfully follow Christ, especially when it is most difficult;**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE that guides our faith and teaches us to differentiate between true and false;**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF PIETY to obey God and seek Christ;**
  - for THE SPIRIT OF FEAR OF THE LORD that teaches us about true reverence for God so that we in genuine love avoid everything that outrages God and seek out everything that is to His honour.**
- Amen.**

*Are you busy and don't have enough time for yourself?  
Take a rest from life's marathon! You don't need to run so fast.  
You won't lose anything! Allow yourself to be found by God.  
Don't run away! Step into the way of light and God will guide  
your path in the future. Wait for a moment and think about why  
you are alive and what the meaning of your life is. Take a deep  
breath and feel God's presence. God is by your side!  
It is like sunbathing. Isn't it a wonderful feeling?*

**To live  
close to God  
is my blessing.  
(Psalms 73:28)**

*Give God permission to touch you  
with His light  
and with the warmth of His love.*

*This little book is written in answer to Pope Francis' appeal to preach the gospel with joy for all nations. The Pope's motto for the youth of Brazil are these words of Jesus:*

***Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations.***  
*(Matt 28:19)*

*They fit neatly with the motto of the mosaic:*  
***Let all nations learn God's salvation.***

***Mercy is the way to salvation.***

*The book is based on the motto of The World Youth Days in Cracow 2016.*

***Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.***  
*(Matt 5:7)*



*All the pictures are joined together in a panorama picture that consists of 15 plates from Alpha to Omega. It is a fabric mosaic that was made in 2003 by students at St. Alban's School and Catholic youths from Sct. Alban's DUK (Denmark's Young Catholics) in Sct. Alban's Parish in Odense. The frieze has been used many times for New Evangelizing at different locations in Denmark and Poland. The project's coordinator and author is Sister Terezja Piekos, who belongs to the Sisters of Mary Immaculate from Debica in Poland. Sister Terezja has worked with children and young people in Odense for many years.*

*A grateful thanks to all who have helped with the translation to different languages and with spiritual and economic support for the book's publication.*

*A grateful thanks to all the young people who have provided input, and to all those who will read the book and submerge themselves in the mystery of God's salvation.*

*Translation and proofreading*

*Peter Nash*

*Joy Christensen*

*P. Paul Marx O.M.I*



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### *Prayer*

*Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer, you have opened the gates of heaven for all those who of their own free will choose you as their Lord. Show us your mercy so that we follow the right path that leads to our salvation. We ask you merciful Lord to let all nations get to know your salvation. Jesus Christ, you paid the price for our salvation with your suffering and death on the cross.*

*Teach us to show mercy to others and open the gates of heaven for us, so that we can rejoice together with you in heaven for all eternity.*

*Amen*