



2026 New Jersey Triduum

Every Part of My Life

St John Paul II's Apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte* #29 states

"I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28:20). This assurance, dear brothers and sisters, has accompanied the Church for two thousand years, and has now been renewed in our hearts by the celebration of the Jubilee. From it we must gain *new impetus in Christian living*, making it the force which inspires our journey of faith. Conscious of the Risen Lord's presence among us, we ask ourselves today the same question put to Peter in Jerusalem immediately after his Pentecost Speech: "What must we do?" (Acts 2:37)

"what must we do" not only on mission but in our prayer life. We compartmentalize them, but for God it is all one. What do you say Lord? Do we ask Christ what we should do? Like a case study – what is Christ asking us to do? Study Christ as the new Adam to give us a way of life. Our yearly retreat is like this- it's Jesus – he renews our prayer life and takes us along to give more of himself to us to prepare us for his mission. He is a great master. Mission and prayer life are one. In school you learn by doing. Same is true with prayer. On the other end of the conversation is God. Techniques are only means/tools to God. When the tool isn't working put it down. Mother Teresa didn't teach her sisters how to pray – the heart to heart will teach. It comes down to heart to heart – "Lord what must we do?"

John 2:1-11

Scripture is the living word of God. We can always be refreshed by it. Don't rush, read it slowly giving consent to God to speak to me through it. Perfect love requires consent. It doesn't force, manipulate, deceive, give half truths, etc. It is respectful of our freedom.

Icons are sacramentals; you can pray with them. The figures, space, colors all convey meaning.

Gold-heavenly realities

Green-earthly realities

The person in the center has a place of honor

Faces – where they are looking conveys importance

Wedding banquet – husband and wife are at the center but they are looking at Jesus. Almost everyone is too. Sky is gold – ground is green. Jesus is seated with his feet on a cushion everyone else is standing on the ground. Jesus is on earth but not of the earth. Jesus is looking at Mary- he values Mary highly. Jesus calls Mary "woman" not in a disrespectful way, but rather acknowledging her place in salvation history as the new Eve. Together they undo what the first Adam and Eve failed to do.

Jesus is our savior and model of how to be fully alive. He chooses not to sin, but by being a human being he is not exempt from having to discern the voices in his head. He recognizes the will of his Father through humanity- his earthly mother. God had to become man so man could become God.

There is one person who isn't looking at Jesus and Mary or talking about what they are doing- the servant filling the pitcher. He is concentrating on his labor so much that he misses the most important thing – the visitation of the Lord – grace at hand. He's so careful to not spill a single drop – to get it all right – that he misses the most important thing. Only so much we can do and then we have to surrender to God. It's not a contract/servant relationship – if I work hard enough then my apostolate will flourish. The water jar is touching the ground- earthly realities.

Serving pitcher represents us in baptism. We were made like Jesus. Submerged, plunged, baptized- pulled up full to the brim- a new creation. Sin washed away- through death we are raised up to new life in Christ.

Look at the large water jars. What do you say Lord? Fill the jars! Divide your life into 5 time periods- put everything in that period into the jar. Not only the best pure water- put all the stuff in there. Review it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Withhold nothing – fill it to the brim. Give permission to talk about everything. Jesus blessed it and it became the choicest of wine. Things change. God can do that in my life too. The 6th jar is what life is like now. Take your time to let the Lord walk you through your life. Don't be driven by anxiousness or scrupulosity – but everything in right order and see what God says to you as you ask for his blessing.

Jesus trusted his mother- so filled with the holy Spirit- Jesus recognized the voice of his Father through his mother Mary. "Do whatever he tells you" She is so trusting. It doesn't matter WHAT as long as it is WHO – Jesus. What he pronounces is trustworthy. Pray with that this evening so you can grow in your ability to hear the voice of God.

Wedding Feast of Cana is the first of his signs and revealed his glory to his disciples and they believed in him. The theological virtues are gifts we can't increase them on our own. His glory will be revealed when I give him permission to bless my entire life by bringing it all to him.

