

MAY

Act of Presence of God

1. “And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them [...] And his mother kept all these things in her heart” (Luke 2:50-51). Do I trust God as Mary does, and do I realise that I will only understand some things with the passage of time? Do I respect my friends' and siblings' freedom? Do they realise that I make allowances for them, that I really want to help them? Do I spend some time with them every day so that they can chat with me?

2. Do I consider how our Lady would carry out the same tasks as I do at home? Do I ask her to make my house bright and cheerful, like Nazareth was?

3. Do I entrust my friends and family members to the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God and our Mother – my parents and siblings, my nephews and nieces, and my siblings' friends also?

4. Do I have recourse to our Lady, asking her with the joy of a Christian son that my family and the family of my acquaintances, may grow closer to God? Am I ready to accept their total dedication to Him? Do I communicate this same generosity to my friends?

5. As at the wedding feast of Cana, Mary intercedes with God for all our needs. Do I say the Rosary devoutly and trustingly? Insofar as possible, do I honour our Lady by saying the family Rosary at home?

6. “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them” (Matt 18:20). Trusting in God's presence in my home, do I beseech him, transcending the small daily disagreements, to imbue our family life with a deep and genuine charity, a profound peace, fruit of a real living faith? Do I listen to my parents and siblings, showing them that I really do love and understand them?

7. “The measure you give will be the measure you get” (Matt 7:2). Do I realise that pride is the greatest enemy of harmony in families? Am I willing to give way in unimportant things? Do I give way to anger, impatience, laziness, disorder, or doing my own thing? Do I say sorry, even if it's difficult? Do I avoid gossiping or being judgmental?

8. Do I appreciate that there cannot be genuine joyful love without the virtue of chastity? Do I have humble recourse to the Blessed Virgin to grow in this virtue?

9. “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt 6:21). Do I realise that, in order to follow Christ and be happy, I cannot set my heart on earthly goods? Is this obvious whenever I have to consider making a purchase?

10. Do I practise the works of mercy, and do I contribute to the material needs of the Church, for example by supporting the apostolic enterprises of Opus Dei, or other enterprises?

11. By my own example and words, do I foster a sober life-style in my family and among my friends, in accordance with a spirit of Christian poverty?

12. “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me” (Matt 28:10). Do I trust in the grace of the risen Jesus to put the resolutions of this recollection into effect? Do I implore the help of his holy Mother?

Act of Contrition