

LOVE to the **MAX**



LIVE to the **MAX**



HOLY to the **MAX**



Holy Week is rapidly approaching. Many of you will participate in various liturgical celebrations in preparation for Easter. It is a really beautiful time when we remember Christ's greatest miracle and the road leading to it: His suffering, Death, and Resurrection.

We find, again, that contemplation and action are inseparable. Jesus' great action is only possible when it flows from His Divine Contemplation. So many times in His life He went off to pray in the Desert and praised His Father. Yet, we do not fully know His deep union with the Father, until Holy Thursday.

On this Holy Night, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Our Lord was tempted to abandon His Father and run from His cross. He was thrown into a bloody sweat. The heroic and self annihilating task pressing upon Him required that He place Himself in the presence of His Father and submit His will to His Father's. In short, Jesus needed to contemplate, in order to act. We know from the Gospels what Jesus chose:

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup (the act of His suffering and death) pass me by. Still, let it be as You will, not as I."
(Mt. 26:39)

Though Christ is one with the Father as His Divine Son, as a man Christ had to choose to unite His human nature with His Father's. Because He did, we have been saved, and have the opportunity to follow Him. Let us take up the challenge, entrusting ourselves to the care of Mary, and go forward with absolute confidence. His will be done!

CHALLENGE

Choose something in your life that is difficult, but necessary. Think about Christ in the garden, and PRAY WITH HIM, "Let it be as you will, not as I," and then ACT WITH JOY.



Words Of Wisdom

**LOVE IS A CHOICE:
take it or leave it!**

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YOUTH IN ACTION

Hello, my name is Brian Moyer. I am a 27 year old seminarian for the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. I have been in the Army for over ten years, which has given me many opportunities to deepen my relationship with Christ, especially the year I spent in Iraq. The entire time I was deployed to Iraq, I always kept a Rosary in my pocket; it was always with me. There were many times in which my soldiers and I were protected from danger, and I know in my heart that Mary's intercession is the reason why. After coming home, this fact weighed heavily on my decision to enter the seminary.

I spent a lot of time in adoration discerning God's will for my life. I knew I wanted to live a life of sacrifice and service, so after talking with a priest I entered the seminary. Towards the end of my first year at the Seminary, I headed to my first MI retreat at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. It was at that retreat that I consecrated myself to the Immaculata. Learning to approach Mary and Her Son as a child has brought me a great sense of peace and consolation. Quite often during times of trial we can feel that no one knows our pain and suffering. But, Mary knows our pain, and she tells her Son of our suffering. A devotion to Mary is of critical importance to my vocation, because I must know and identify with the sufferings of the people whom I am ministering to. God willing as a future priest, I envision myself asking for Mary's guidance in knowing and understanding the problems facing people, just as she did at the wedding feast at Cana. For me, this is what Contemplation in Action means.

My prayers are with you, please remember me in yours.