

Laments of 2022

Hopes for the New Year

VESPERS



Opening Prayer



Leader:

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, we come before you on this night, nearing the end of the year 2022. We gather with hearts that have known deep lament and holy longings. This year we have once again been united with our brothers and sisters around the world in suffering through a global pandemic. Help us to discover the 'hidden treasures' it came to teach us. Release us from the sorrows and anguish we have borne in unison with others around the world. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Father Medaille's death anniversary



Leader:



Yes, this night also marks the anniversary of Jean-Pierre Medaille's death on December 30, 1669. He was 59 years old and at the time of his death he was already considered an apostle and a saint by the bishops and laity who came to know him.

We, the daughters and sons who have found our home within the spirituality he taught and wrote, give thanks for his wisdom and steady guidance throughout our journey. Tonight we celebrate with thanksgiving and hope.

Rest in silence ...



*Put your ear down
close to your soul
and listen hard.*

Anne Sexton

My soul laments ... Psalm 77



Reader 1:

I cry aloud to You, O Friend,
to the Eternal Listener,
that I might be heard.

In the day of trouble I seek the Beloved;
In the night my hand is
stretched out in prayer;
my soul yearns to be comforted.

My soul laments...



Reader 2:

I think of my Beloved, and I moan;

I meditate, and my spirit is weak.

You trouble me and I cannot find peace;

I am so fearful, I cannot sleep;

I am so filled with fantasies I cannot speak out.

How well I remember years past,

When You were a companion close by.

My soul laments ...



Reader 1:

I commune with my heart all through the night;

I meditate, my spirit seeking its Friend:

“Will you abandon me forever,

and leave me comfortless in my distress?

Where is your steadfast Love

that made my soul to sing?

Are your promises empty, that I feel so alone?”

My soul laments...



Reader 2:

“Where is the Comforter to ease this emptiness?

How have I offended You, O Friend,
that I am so alone?”

And I wonder,

“Is it those walls of fear and guilt,
that separate me from the very Heart of my heart?”

My soul laments...



Reader 1:

I call to mind the closeness of my Friend;
yes, I remember the joy of the Beloved's presence.
I contemplate in the Silence,
recalling how you led me along the Way;
For your Way, O Beloved, is holy.
There is no other like You!

My soul laments...



Reader 2:

You are the One
who will bring us to wholeness,
You manifest your Love
to all who call upon You;
With You the peoples are redeemed,
the nations brought to peace.

My soul laments ...



Reader 1:

When our fears sense You, O Beloved,
when our doubts encounter your Love,
they are afraid and attack.

Our eyes pour forth oceans of tears;
our countenance grows cloudy;
we hide behind walls of resistance.

My soul laments...



Reader 2:

The power of Love seems too much for us;
Your Light unveils the secrets hidden in our heart;
Can You wonder that we tremble?
Yet, You stand beside us as we walk through
our fears to the path of wholeness and love,
though our footsteps are unsure.

My soul laments ...



Reader 1:

You send the Counselor as a guide
to lead us
on the road of peace,
truth, and love.

Pause and reflect ...

It is time to say “good-bye”
to the worries and woes of
YEAR 2022.

NAME YOUR STRUGGLES AND CHALLENGES!

SHARING HEARTS ... in visiting rooms

**Where did your heart 'lament'
this past year?**



CROSSING THE THRESHOLD ... into 2023

Reader 3:

The pilgrims paused on the ancient stones in the mountain gap.
Behind them stretched the roadway they had traveled.
Already a far journey... was it a lifetime?

Ahead, mist hid the track.
Unspoken, the question hovered:
Why go on? Is life not short enough?

Why seek to pierce its mystery?
Why venture further on strange paths, risking all?
Surely that is a gamble for fools... or lovers.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD ... into 2023

Why not return comfortably to the known road?
Why be a pilgrim still?

A voice they knew called to them saying:
This is Trasná, the crossing place.

Choose! Go back if you must,
You will find your way easily by yesterday's fires
there may be life in the embers yet.
If that is not your deep desire, stand still.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD ... into 2023

Lay down your load.
Take your life firmly in your two hands,
Gently... you are trusted with something precious.

While you search your heart's yearnings:
What am I seeking? What is my quest?

When your star rises deep within,
Trust yourself to its leading.
You will have the light for first steps.

Choose! This is Trasna, the crossing place. Come!

Father Medaille's MAXIM of TRUST

Reader 4:

Never
think of the future
except in connection with the present,
but refer all to the
Providence of God.
(M. P. 10:4)

My soul hopes... Psalm 132



Reader 5:

Enter into the Silence,
into the Heart of Truth;
For herein lies the Great Mystery
where life is ever unfolding;
Herein the Divine Plan is made known,
the Plan all are invited to serve.

My soul hopes...



Reader 6

Listen for the Music of the Spheres
in the resounding Silence
of the universe.

May balance and harmony be your aim
as you are drawn into the
Heart of Love.

My soul hopes...



Reader 5

Those who follow the way of Love
with calm and faith-filled intent,
know that all is working toward
healing and wholeness.

And may the healing power of Love
lift you from the limitations of fear and ignorance
into the arms of freedom.

My soul hopes...



Reader 6

May the peace of the Spirit bless you,
and lead you on life's journey.

Be not afraid of the Silence,
for Wisdom's Voice is heard there!

My soul hopes...



Reader 5

As you follow the Light,
you become gentle and kind,
you come to live in the Light
and see through Love's eyes.

My soul hopes...



Reader 6

Children enter the world radiating the Spirit –
learn from them of innocence
and simplicity;
learn to co-operate with the unseen realms,
to see beyond the veil.

My soul hopes...



Reader 5

Wise are those who learn through silence;
learn then to listen well.
For beyond the silence and stillness within,
you will come to know a profound
and dazzling Silence ---

My soul hopes ...



Reader 6

Herein Lies the Music of the Spheres,
the harmony of creation.
Enter into the Sacred Altar within,
converse with the Beloved in sweet communion.
Blessings of the Great Silence be with you as
you help rebuild the heart of the world
with love!

Pause and reflect...

**It's time to “welcome”
the hopes, dreams and possibilities of
YEAR 2023**

NAME YOUR HOPES AND NEW BEGINNINGS...

Sharing hearts ... in visiting rooms

What does your heart “long for”
in this coming year 2023?



A Reading from the Writings of Father Medaille

Reader 7:

My Prayer for this New Year 2023...

I want to live by your life
through efforts at perfect imitation.
Remain before me, my dear Jesus,
like a great exemplar
on whom I model all my works
from the greatest to the least.

Father Medaille ...

In order to possess such happiness,
I want to place myself in your presence
at the beginning of my actions.

I want to contemplate the manner
in which you performed your actions.

And all the while,

I will strive to form mine on this divine model.

Father Medaille...

Thus, whenever I am going to pray,
to meet with and instruct others,
to eat, to rest, or to perform similar deeds,
not only will I unite these practices of mine to yours,
not only will I join to them your intentions and perfections,

Father Medaille...

but, through a desire to become wholly like you,
I will keep your divine actions before me
as the model of mine.

I will make every effort to have mine
conform to this sublime model.

Father Medaille...

I hope from your goodness that, by means of this practice,
I will merit the grace that I cannot really understand
but which, however, is in your holy Gospel:
That is, I will merit that you live in me
in a more particular way so that **as time goes on**,
feeling my own life completely self-emptied,
I may say with Saint Paul: “I live, but it is no longer
I who live; it is Christ Jesus who lives in me.”

Father Medaille ...

I love through his love and with his love;
I humble myself through his humility
and together with his profound self-emptying;
 I see through his eyes;
 I speak through his words;
In a word, I exist only through him
and I act only through his actions.

Father Medaille...

Be pleased, good Jesus,
to grant me this favour which is the most desirable
that we can wish for in this mortal life.

May I live with you in God your Father in this life
so that I will live in him more perfectly in eternity,
wholly transformed in you
and in him through your glory. Amen.

Silent reflection

Allow this beautiful prayer to sink
deep into your heart...

Amen. Fiat. Let it be done in me.

Sharing intentions and blessings for 2023

SHARE

**your spontaneous prayers, blessings,
good intentions, hopes for yourself and
for humanity...**

“Be concerned about the good use of TIME...”



TIME is precious and its loss is irreparable!”

Jean-Pierre Medaille, S.J. M. P. 14:1



Closing Prayer

Leader:

Loving God of the universe, you pour forth your goodness and kindness upon all of us gathered here tonight. You set your seal upon our hearts and we commit to remaining faithful and constant in all our undertakings.

Through the loving intercession of Jean-Pierre Medaille, our spiritual father and guide on the journey, we embrace the newness of this coming year 2023 with ready hearts and keen minds, open to whatever the Spirit desires for us.

We make our prayer in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Credits

PSALMS from the book:

PSALMS FOR PRAYING: AN INVITATION TO WHOLENESS

by Nan C. Merrill

TRASNA

A Celtic poem by Raphael Consedine, PBVM

READING from the book:

WRITINGS OF FATHER MEDAILLE, S.J. 1610 -1669

(Toronto edition)

Beloved,

I pray that you
may prosper
in all things
and be in health,
just as
your soul prospers.

III John 1 : 2