



To keep growing in the spirit of the first Handmaids to strengthen the ACI Family

21st February 2021

FIRST WEEK OF LENT



The 21st February is the first week of Lent. On this date, a clear reference is made to the temptations Jesus suffered in the desert.

- in the relationship with God..... idolatry
- in the relationship with people ...
“objectification”
- in the relationship with the Creation....
destruction

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread”. Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “He will command his angels concerning you and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Mt 4, 1-11

As members of the ACI Family and according to the Gospel and the spirituality of St. Raphaela, this week we are invited to keep growing in the spirit of the first Handmaids, so that we continue to strengthen our lives in the middle of a society based on idolatry, consumerism and power in relation to the creation.

These words of St. Raphaela should be deeply engraved in our hearts:

“We should work so that every person shall know Him and love Him, so that every people shall adore Him as Saviour and Lord and not be slaves to any creature, so that all children of God welcome the mercy that He wishes to bestow upon them, the flood of love, that eternally flows from His Heart.”

Lets us pray with St. Rapahela Mary



Lord Jesus, I want to trust in You, in the strength that comes from prayer; see how the devil is constantly tempting me as it did to you in the desert of Judea; I ask You, Lord, to give me the strength of your Holy Spirit to win over all temptations.

I recognise that I am fragile: to possess, to have pleasure and power are always very attractive. Withou You I cannot win, give me, Lord, the grace of constant prayer and the strength to remain in You.

Lord, I praise You because your Word is alive and effective, I praise you Lord, because you defeated the Tempter in every occasion and with You, I am victorious. Thank you for Your love for us.

Thank you Lord, because you walk with us and your Spirit leads and strengthens us.

Thank you, beacuse you give me words to defend myself from my enemies. Thank you, Lord, because You love me.

Warm regards,

Claudia Iwanica, Isabel Branco, Juan Jairo Laverde, Silvestra Bardeskar, Vanessa

Amarelle, Sr. Brigit Viji, Sr. Pilar Guzmán, Sr. Maria Vaz Pinto

International Commission of the ACI Family