Host or designated reader/leader begins the Upper Room prayer hour by reading this message from Fr. David:

Message for June

Dear friends in Christ:

This month we will consider "New Law" or Law of the Gospel. The New Law or Law of the Gospel is the perfection here on Earth of the divine law, natural law revealed. It is the work of Christ and is especially expressed in the Sermon on the Mount. It calls us into an extreme way of living; a most challenging way of life that we may think only God, the Saints and Angels can live. We examine this New Law in our Upper Room this month.

In Christ;

Fr. David

Open with Sign of Cross and Prayer to the Holy Spirit Prayer

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

L: **Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and they shall be created.**

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

L: **Let us pray – God our Father, pour out the gifts of your Holy Spirit on the world. You sent the Spirit on Your Church to begin the teaching of the Gospel; now let the Spirit continue to work in the world through the hearts of all who believe. Through Christ our Lord.**

R: Amen

L: **You, O lord, will open my lips.**

R: And my tongue shall announce Your praise.

L: **Incline unto my aid, O God.**

R: O Lord, make haste to help me.

L: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**.

R: As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Read these Chapters and verses from Matthew 5:17-7:29 either aloud or to oneself, then do these two things:

1) Small Group project

Consequences for sinful actions (evil) and rewards for virtuous (good) acts are clearly separated by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. As a group project, work through the verses (you just read) and separate into two lists the words or ideas that can be associated with either the "light" or the "darkness" and put the number of the verse after the phrase.

Light	**Darkness**
(for example, from Chapter 6)	
Go to your inner room (6)	Do not be like the hypocrites (5)
Your Father knows what you need (8)	Do not babble like the pagans (7)

2) The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1972) says:

The New Law is called a law of love because it makes us act out of the ***love*** *infused by the Holy Spirit, rather than from* ***fear****; a* law *of grace, because it confers the strength of grace to act, by means of faith and the sacraments; a law* of ***freedom****, because it sets us free from the* ***ritual and juridical observances*** *of the Old Law, inclines us to act* ***spontaneously*** *by the prompting of charity and, finally, lets us pass from the condition of a servant who "****does not know what his master is doing****" to that of a* ***friend of Christ*** *- "For all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" - or even to the status of son and heir.*

By way of analogous thinking consider what it meant for you to "grow up" or to become an adult.

Now read this paragraph again from the CCC

Discuss how much of Christianity is a religion that demands a mature response to God and what this means

Please Pray

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Keep us from being pre-occupied with money and worldly goods, and with trying to increase them at the expense of justice …Our Father

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth." Help us not to be ruthless with one another, and to eliminate the discord and violence that exists in the world around us.…Hail Mary

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Let us not be impatient under our own burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others.…Our Father

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled." Make us thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and actively spread your influence in our private lives and in society. …Hail Mary

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Grant that we may be quick to forgive and slow to condemn …Our Father

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God." Free us from our senses and our evil desires, and fix our eyes on you…..Hail Mary

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Aid us to make peace in our families, in our country, and in the world…Our Father

Lord Jesus, you said, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for the kingdom of heaven in theirs." Make us willing to suffer for the sake of right rather than to practice injustice; and do not let us discriminate against our neighbors and oppress and persecute them. …Glory Be

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July's topic – Obedience to the Church