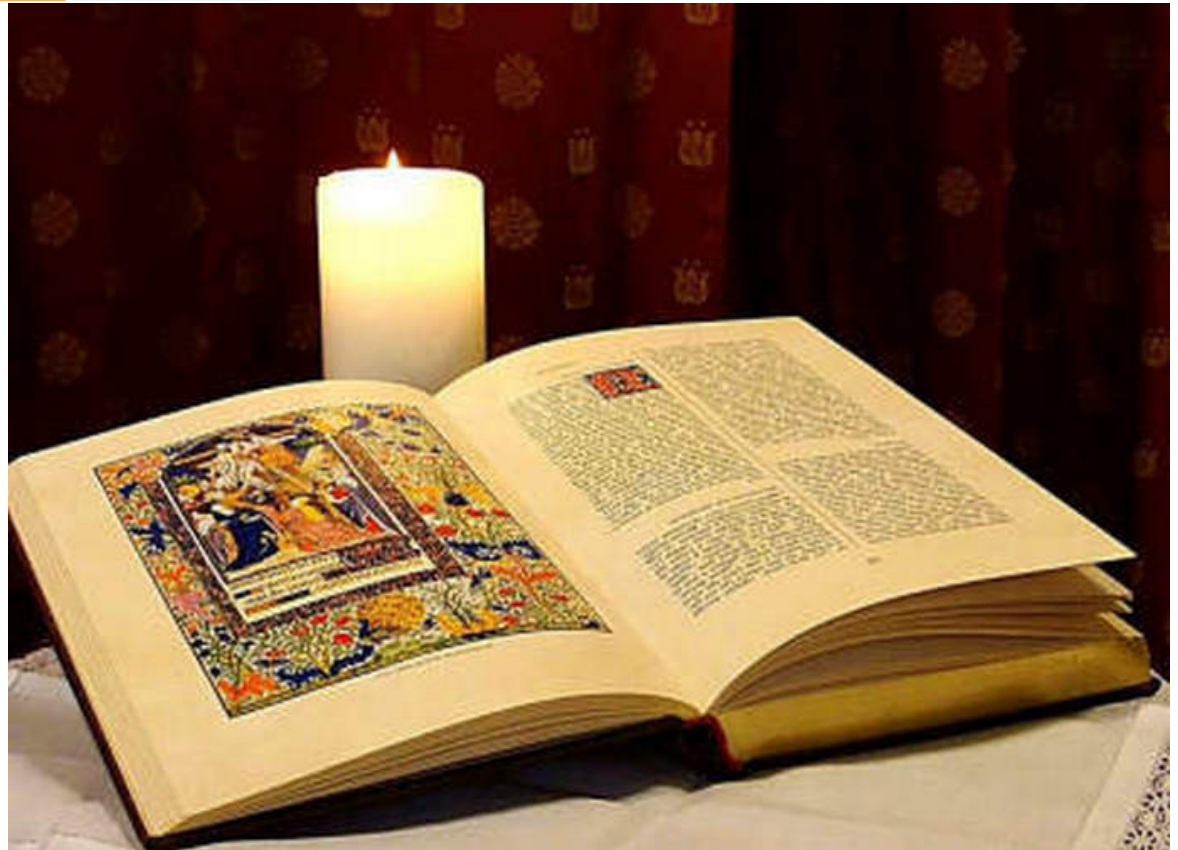


GOSPEL PEARLS

The secret strength of our fingers

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Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you

friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another. (John 15: 9-17)

Jesus has chosen us both as individuals and as a community. We must not neglect to cultivate love for our souls, nourishing them with divine grace through the sacraments, but we must also try to cultivate love for the people who walk with us on the path to Jesus: we must correct and support each other in adversity. In this way, we become like our hand's fingers, weak when we're working separately, perhaps only able to tap away individually on a mobile phones, but become very strong when they come together to hold an object.