

OneWith Session #1:

9th Grade Orientation/Discipleship Reflection

October 11, 2020

Zoom Gathering (6:00)

- Zoom Link:
- Mute mics.
- Welcome youth/parents.
- Outline Schedule
 - OneWith Orientation (6:05-6:20)
 - OneWith Schedule 2020-201
- **Discipleship Group Reflection – Individual Sessions (6:25-7:ish)**

OneWith Orientation – Barry (6:05-6:20)

- What is the goal of OneWith
 - What's different about this formation
 - Expectation of participants.
- What will OneWith look like during Covid-19
 - What's different about this this year
 - Expectation of participants & parents
 - Reflection Packet explanation
- Discipleship Groups
 - Purpose
 - Participation
- OneWith Schedule for 2020-21 (as I know it...)
 - Virtual Sessions
 - On-Site Session?

Discipleship Group Reflections (6:25-7:15)

9th Grade Discipleship Groups: *Liturgical Reflection* (Discipleship Group Leaders)

- Introductions
- Virtual OneWith Reflection
- Theological Reflection
- Prayers of the faithful

OneWith Session #1

Discipleship Group Reflection (30-45 Min. – Discipleship Group Leaders)

This session at a glance...

I - Introductions

- Introduce yourself
- Youth Introduce themselves

II -Intro to OneWith

- Hopes & Goals
- Participation Expectations
- Group Rules?

III - Virtual OneWith Reflection

- Review/questions about the Virtual **OneWith** Reflection packet
- Reflection Discussion - Analysis
- Reflection Discussion – Application
- Discipleship Challenge

IV - Theological Reflection

- What do you believe about God? (Make a list of all answers)
- Make a list of the top 4-5 that everyone in the group can agree on.

V - Prayers of the faithful

- What can we pray for in your life? (Grandparents/loved ones, general or specific health needs, other stressors, etc.)
- Add these intentions along with the Church's Global intentions

I. Introductions

Get to know with each other!

- Introduce yourself + why you are interested in being a **OneWith** leader.
- Have youth introduce themselves.
 - What is your favorite memory from this summer?
 - Name one thing that you are looking forward to this year?
 - And/Or try the following name game...

Optional Ice Breaker...

My name is? [Optional Activity for 9th Grade]

Go around the group and ask each young person to state his/her name and attach an adjective that not only describes a dominant characteristic, but also starts with the same letter of his name e.g. generous Grahame, dynamic Dave. Write them down and refer to them by this for the rest of the evening.

II. Intro to OneWith

*Not a class... **OneWith** was intentionally designed to NOT be school. **OneWith** is designed to provide youth with Catholic worship and discipleship experiences that will help them form a vision of their own life as a Catholic Christian. The formation focuses breaking open the symbolism of Catholic liturgy as well as analysis and application of Sacred Scripture. We deliver these experiences through “hands-on” participation and ministry during our **OneWith** Teaching Mass and in focused practical discussions on faith with their peers. It is also notable that this formation was developed to be as enriching for adults (and their families) as it is for teens. **OneWith** is formation of the person... for the whole Church!*

- Come Prepared
 - Until we are able to resume our on-site **OneWith** Teaching Mass, all youth will need to reflect on the Sunday liturgy with their parent, Confirmation Sponsor (10th/11th graders) or some other adult spiritual mentor prior to your Discipleship Reflection Session
 - You have several Options for attending/watching Mass...
 - Attend a **Catholic Mass** in person – Any Catholic Church – any Mass on the same weekend as your scheduled session (Saturday or Sunday)
 - Watch a **Catholic Mass** – Any Catholic Church – any Mass on the same weekend as your scheduled **OneWith** session (Saturday or Sunday). St. Joe’s Virtual Mass can be viewed at www.sjtw.net beginning at 5 pm on the Saturday prior to your scheduled **OneWith** Session.
 - With the help of a parent/spiritual mentor, complete the **OneWith** Virtual Reflection that corresponds to the date of your **OneWith** Session.
 - The reflection should be completed BEFORE your Discipleship Group Session – as you will be asked to refer to your notes to aid in your peer group discussions.
 - If you are watching a pre-recorded Mass – make sure it corresponds the date of your scheduled **OneWith** session (not a daily Mass or from a previous week – otherwise, the readings and the homily will not match your group discussion).
 - Of course, we believe this is important stuff... Please make note of the meeting dates and be on time for all sessions.
- Discussions:
 - Make it real – let’s have authentic discussions on faith and how that impacts your life. Let’s not settle for “I don’t know”/answers you think everyone wants to hear...
 - Be curious: **OneWith** format encourages questioning, reflection and action.
 - Don’t be afraid to ask questions... If you are thinking it, chances are someone else is too – Be the One. Be the one to ask that question.
 - We are going to have different points of view – let's talk about that too (Catholicism is a “Big-Tent” religion!).
 - Have fun! Faith should be integrated into you daily life which hopefully is not dull and boring! Look for the joy, hope and humor in your life and how that connects with your “spiritual self”!
- Respect: Be kind to each other!
 - We are all precious children of God! Treat others like the royalty they are.
- Establish/review group rules, participation expectations (in group & at Mass)
 - Attendance, discussion (everyone shares), confidentiality, etc.
 - Please stress the importance/need to be on time for all sessions – especially once we get back on-site!

III. “Virtual” OneWith Session

The Catholic Mass is an inexhaustible Mystery! Not the kind of mystery that you don’t know/cannot find the answer to – but a spiritual mystery that continues to open up new layer after new layer... the more carefully you look the more exquisite and profound its meaning. What layer of mystery did you uncover today?

*Youth should use the notes from their “Virtual” **OneWith** Reflection Packet to help them participate in the following discussions...*

Liturgical Reflection

This part of the reflection is deigned to get youth familiar with the different “movements” of the Mass as well as the many “rites” of worship that it contains.

(Youth should have prepared a reflection of 2-3 sentences on this question)

What was the one element of the liturgy that stood out to you? How did it helped focus or enrich your experience of Mass.

*(See the “Virtual” **OneWith** Reflection Packet for full details about this reflection.)*

- Introductory Rites Reflection:
- Liturgy of the Word:
- Liturgy of the Eucharist:
- Closing Rites:

Scripture Reflection

The ability to listen deeply to God’s word and extract its wisdom and meaning for our lives today is vital to the life of a Christian disciple! This part of the reflection is designed to help youth develop the skill set to be able distill the meanings and wisdom that are found in the weekend scripture AND (with a little help from the priest or deacon – perhaps) apply these lessons/wisdom to our own life. This is not easy task! Be patient, but persistent – our youth are pretty sharp, and they should be able to borrow from their academic skill set of literature analysis, etc.

Scripture Readings of the week

- Reading #1: Isaiah 25:6-10
- Responsorial Psalm: 23:1-4
- Reading #2: Philippians 4:12-14
- Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

[A full copy of the readings for the week can be found on the U.S. Bishop’s website: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101120.cfm>]

Choose one of the readings used at Mass this weekend...

- *Who is speaking in this passage?*
- *To whom are they speaking?*
- *What is the main “message” from this passage and how might that be applied in your own life? (3-4 sentences)*

What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon’s homily (preaching)? How does this message connect to your lived experience? (2-3 sentences)

IV - Theological Reflection

One of the goals of our formation is to help our youth build a foundation for their own personal relationship with God and the Catholic community. Here's the reality... It is more likely than not, that up to now, one or more of a youth's parents have been "driving the faith bus". This is what we believe, what we do, when we do it, don't hit your sister, because that's what the pope/father said (probably paraphrased, maybe 50% accurate), etc. This is someone else's faith, not their own. One of the reasons we find low engagement among youth is because there is low ownership of their own faith to say nothing of an understanding of how it is to be celebrated/lived.

*The journey we will take this year is to unpack, bit-by-bit, what the Church professes about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, etc. And, more importantly for our youth, what **THEY BELIEVE** about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Church, etc.*

This year we will be exploring what YOU believe... What you really *BELEIVE* about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Church, and more!

Remember that this year we want to hear from you... your thoughts, beliefs, questions about our Catholic faith. So, with that in mind - What do you believe about God? I'd like for us to make list things that YOU believe about God. Qualities, facts, ideas, etc.

(Make a list of all answers - you will want at least 8, but the more the better. These can be anything, but just as an example – Creator of everything, Loves everyone, All knowing, Watches us from a distance, etc.

- **Follow question, are these things you believe, or things other people believe (parents, grandparents, "the Church," etc.)?**
- **Ok, we'd like y'all to work together to make a list of the top 4-5 that everyone in the group can agree on.**

Keep your lists – we will refer back to them later in the year. Some things we will use, some things we might not (like the example above that "God watches us from a distance"... it makes a catchy song lyric but is also heresy - deism. You can write it all down now and we will sort out the truth and error later)

V - Intercessory Prayer

Take a few minutes to bless each other and pray for your needs (and those of the whole world).

Praying for each other, those who are suffering in this world, and for those who have passed from this world is one of the great Traditions of Catholicism. In a moment we will pray with a liturgical form that is called Intercessory Prayer. But first we need to add YOUR “intentions” to our list of prayers tonight...

What can we pray for in your life? (*Grandparents/loved ones, general or specific health needs, other stressors, etc... Make a list and insert them as indicated below*)

Each session one of you will be asked to lead our closing prayer – we will rotate so that everyone gets a chance to serve as prayer leader and to avoid the awkward “I’m not going to move or make eye contact” stand-off...

This is how it will work, the leader will end each prayer petition by saying “**We pray to the Lord...**”. Everyone else responds by saying “**Lord, hear our prayer**” following each intention. Is there someone who would like to a volunteer or should we start alphabetically?

Leader: For the Church, may always be instruments of peace - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For victims of war, refugees, widows and the orphans - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For victims of systematic injustice - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For profound peace in our world, nation and community - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all who are from the Covid-19 Virus and its effects - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all essential and health care workers - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the victims of natural disasters - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our sister parish, St. Catherine’s in Bouzy, Haiti - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who have died - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For [Read your group’s intentions here...] - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the prayers we hold in silence, (pause) - “*We pray to the Lord.*”

Re: Lord, hear our prayer.