

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

February 21, 2021

Virtual Reflection Outline Grade 10-11 ~ Session #10



Session Goals

Scripture Unpacked:

- Articulate the meaning of a Scripture passage from the Sunday readings (or homily).
- Reflect on *and articulate* at least 1 way these lessons could apply to contemporary life.
- Make a Lenten commitments to **Fast, Pray, and Give** aid to the Poor this Lent (*yep, that's 3 separate commitments from now till Easter*).

Catholicism Unpacked

Reflect on selected “Eucharist” passages in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Discuss and reconcile these doctrinal tenants to inform and shape the youth’s own understanding of Eucharist.

Learning Outcomes:

- *The CCC is a “compendium of all Catholic doctrine regarding both faith and morals.”*
- *The Eucharist is “the source and summit of the Christian life CCC#1324*
- *The whole Church is united with the offering and intercession of Christ. CCC#1369*
- *Holy Communion augments our union with Christ. CCC #1391*

Scripture Unpacked (5-8 minutes)

As Catholics, we believe that the Bible is the living Word of God. That alone should give us reason to pay attention, but there's more! Scripture offers us lessons and wisdom that can be beneficial to OUR lives – right now!

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start—a clean slate—for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe!

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Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

Choose and discuss one or more of the following questions:

- Why do you think it necessary for Jesus to go out into the wilderness before he began his public ministry?
- What does it mean to you to know that Jesus was capable of being tempted?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, "The kingdom of God is at hand"?

Homily: What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon's homily? How does that message tie back to the bible readings and/or your life?

Scripture Application Questions

Disciples Do! The "Discipleship Challenge" asks our youth to take the practical lesson/wisdom that they have discerned from the Scripture readings (aka – the Bible) and/or the homily – and apply that in the context of their own lived experience.

Note: We are looking for something specific/concrete for them to commit to. "Being a better person" would be too generic... We also want to stay away from "praying" or "praying for someone" - We certainly want them to pray, but prayer is a separate practice of discipleship. If a youth is having problems coming up with something, start with their learned lesson/wisdom and work from there. The point here is to put faith into action by working up a tangible way for them to become agents of mercy, justice and love in their families, among their friends and in our world.

"Discipleship Challenge"

- What is one "practical lesson" or bit of wisdom that YOU can take away from the Bible readings and/or homily?
- How will you **Fast, Pray, and Give** aid to the Poor this Lent (*yep, that's 3 separate commitments from now till Easter*)?

Catholicism Unpacked (12-15 minutes)

The Eucharist & The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a summary of the official teachings of Roman Catholic beliefs including creeds, sacraments, commandments, and prayers. The Catholic catechism is divided into four parts:

- *Profession of Faith (the Apostles Creed)*
- *Celebration of the Christian Mystery (the Sacred Liturgy, especially the sacraments)*
- *Life in Christ (including The Ten Commandments in Roman Catholic theology)*
- *Christian Prayer (including The Lord's Prayer)*

The CCC extensively references Scripture as well as the writings of the Saints, Popes, ecumenical councils, and other "authoritative" works. Even though it is a "summary" the CCC is 100's of pages long (my copy is over 800 pages of tiny text) And is broken down into 2,865 numbered paragraphs detailing many of the core tenants of our faith. Here is just a fraction of the wisdom that the CCC has to offer us about the Eucharist...

CCC #1324 The Eucharist is *"the source and summit of the Christian life."* "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself..."

CCC # 1333 At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood. Faithful to the Lord's command the Church continues to do, in his memory and until his glorious return...

CCC #1335 The miracles of the multiplication of the loaves, when the Lord says the blessing, breaks and distributes the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, prefigure the superabundance of this unique bread of his Eucharist.

CCC #1340 By celebrating the Last Supper with his apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to his father by his death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom.

CCC #1369 The whole Church is united with the offering and intercession of Christ.

CCC #1378 In the liturgy of the Mass we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine by, among other ways, genuflecting or bowing deeply as a sign of adoration of the Lord

CCC #1391 *Holy Communion augments our union with Christ.* The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. Indeed, the Lord said: *"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."* (John 6:56)

CCC #1405 There is no surer pledge or dearer sign of this great hope in the new heavens and new earth than the Eucharist.

[Group Share]

- Which of these statements "speaks to your heart"? Why?
- Which of these tenants seem strange, hard to understand, or difficult to believe?
- Which of these can you use to help inform/incorporate into your own "What Eucharist means to me" statement?

“What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Project

So, the original concept was/is to help each of the youth to craft their own definition of “what is Eucharist to me”. Once this is complete... then each group would work together to make a 3-5 minute video that would incorporate the youth giving voice to their definition. See the Sample Videos below for examples from 2019.

Covid, of course, has changed things. It will undoubtedly be more difficult to collaborate on making these videos – perhaps prohibitively so. You know your group best. If this is something that you think your group would like to move forward with I will be happy work with you to make that happen. If this seems like an insurmountable task, then concentrate on developing the individual definitions and having them share that with the rest of the group.

*The bottom line is we want each youth to be able to “think through” and be able to articulate their own understanding of – and connection to - this “central theological mystery of our faith” – the Eucharist.
Barry*

Sample Videos

- Lovedahl Group - <https://youtu.be/d51USmGJ-gw>
- Mayer/Schindele Group - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcCC19Y4t6o&feature=youtu.be>
- Lape/Allen Group - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be

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Session References /Resources

Scripture:

Sunday Readings:

Reading #1: Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-9

Reading #2: I Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

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/022121.cfm>

Gospel Reflection (Video)

Reflection on the 1st Sunday of Lent (*Jeff Cavins – Bible Scholar, Author and SJTW parishioner!*)

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/the-first-sunday-of-lent-b/>

Eucharist:

Links to get you thinking about ways to explain Eucharist...

“Jesus is McDonalds on Sandals” (Video: Fr. Mike Schmitz – *Bread of Life Discourse: John 6:22-59*)

Fr. Mike Schmitz has one of the top podcasts in the US. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbxiIVx2jV0>

“See You in the Eucharist... No, Really” (*Life Teen blog post*)

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/see-you-in-the-eucharist-no-really/>

Bread of Life (*Loyola Press reflection on bread*).

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/jesus-and-the-new-testament/who-do-you-say-that-i-am-names-for-jesus/jesus-the-bread-of-life/>

“What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Sample Videos

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- Mayer/Schindele Group - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcCC19Y4t6o&feature=youtu.be>
- Lape/Allen Group - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be

Links for total nerds

- Euchaayrist: Meal, Sacrifice, Presence (Video: Bishop Robert Barron) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFsFv-TWVfY>
- Breaking of the Bread (a short article on the Fraction Rite) - https://rcspirituality.org/finding_the_plug/the-liturgy-of-the-eucharist-the-communion-rite-the-fraction-of-the-bread/
- Order of the Liturgy of the Eucharist (*US Bishops – breakdown of each segment of the rite*). <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist>

Gospel Reflection – Session #10

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of reestablishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start—a clean slate—for humankind. It is a clear indication of God’s commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God’s constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go—give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it’s time to repent and believe. It’s a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

Questions for Youth

- Q. Why do you think it necessary for Jesus to go out into the wilderness before he began his public ministry?
- Q. What does it mean to you to know that Jesus was capable of being tempted?
- Q. How can you use Lent as a time to respond to the call to “Repent and believe the Good News”?

Questions for Parents/Sponsors

- Q. What did Jesus mean when he said, “The kingdom of God is at hand”?
- Q. When have you felt that you were in a desert period of your life?
- Q. How do you prepare yourself for something that you know is going to be challenging?
- Q. In what areas of your life do you need to see someone or something with “new eyes”?

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