

Mentoring Session 5
Discernment
January 24, 2009

Opening Prayer: St. Anselm

Sharing of Prayer on Times of Decision: St. Joseph, Jesus' Baptism, Jesus in Desert

Discernment not "Jesuit" or even "Ignatian" Anselm, 1100.

Ig contribution was to provide a practical method for both individual and communal discernment.

Discernment= P&F + First Week (Discernment of Spirits) + Call of the King + Two Standards + 3 Classes of Persons + 3 Levels of Humility + Examen

Discernment: 1st week between Good and evil, 2nd week between good and God.

1st Week: Discernment of spirits (4th and 5th pages)

2nd Week: Response to a call.

All skills needed to make decisions freely.

Work through sheets: Marian Cowan's materials..

#1. Perfectly clear. Examples??

#2 Personal Vocation. What are MY values?

#3 a. Four column method.

Always ask for confirmation:

Interior- sense of peace.

Exterior - How does it work out over time? Legitimate authority? For the good of the community? Not done in isolation.

Evaluate/review.

Discernment is not magic. Or infallible. Authenticity of the discernment depends on the quality of degree of spiritual freedom, the information you are working from.

Paradoxicality: Spiritual freedom. Both/and. Ying-yang. Creative tension (See article)

Rules for Thinking with the Church.

Despite initial resistance came to appreciate some powerful nuggets of truth hidden in the cultural, theological, and ecclesial structure of the day.

During time of the reformation.

Response to the writing of Erasmus which were satirical.

Discussion whether part of Exercises or meant for those involved in public Church ministry

Rules = Guidelines

Thinking = Sentir, felt-knowledge, loving reverence

Recognition of church that is human and divine, with both affection and critical loyalty.

Recognition of the reality of need to be connected to the broader community.

Discernment, even individual discernment, should not be done outside of the context of the larger community. Confirmation comes from the larger community. How is my discernment in accord with my faith tradition?

Be more inclined to praise than to blame. Assume person is acting out of sincere motives. Remember each of us has part of the divine truth.

“black appearing white” refers to mysteries of the Church, not blind obedience.

Invitation to hold even my discernments lightly, indifference.

A Prayer from Anselm of Canterbury

**O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you,
where and how to find you...
You are my God and you are my All and I have never seen you.
You have made me and remade me,
You have bestowed on me all the good things I possess,
Still I do not know you...
I have not yet done that for which I was made...
Teach me to seek you...
I cannot seek you unless you teach me
or find you unless you show yourself to me.
Let me seek you in my desire, let me desire you in my seeking.
Let me find you by loving you, let me love you when I find you.**

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