

Mentoring Program
Session 7
Fourth Week

CONTEMPLATING THE RESURRECTION

Initial sharing: Recall your contemplation of "Jesús Appears to Mary, His Mother"
 Recall the scene
 What is Mary doing?
 Are you there with her?
 Jesus appears...
 What fruit did you draw from this contemplation?

Place in Exercises:

Continuing of compassion - experiencing joy with another's joy
Focus on community (church) Jesus dies as an individual, rises as a community (Christ)

Presenting the Fourth Week contemplations:

After the intensity of the Third Week, culminating with the death and burial of Jesus, a pause, like Holy Saturday, is needed.

Time to let the reality soak in

Time to quietly let go of the normal ways we have been encountering
Jesus

Time to begin the movement from discipleship (learning) to apostleship (being sent)

The grace asked for in the Fourth Week: Joy with Christ in joy

This is a grace to be asked for

Not an emotion we stir up in ourselves

Being glad with Jesus about His triumph over death

The Appearances of the Risen Christ

(The bulk of week not on resurrection, but on Jesus' appearances)

His Mother

Mary Magdalene and the other women go to anoint the body of Jesus

Announcement to the Eleven

Mary Magdalene at the tomb

Announcement to the Eleven

Looking for Jesus as he was before

- Do not cling

- How does my name sound when Jesus calls my name?

Peter and John run to the tomb

Go to see for themselves

The ten disciples in the upper room

Jesus comes through closed door

The importance of forgiveness

Movement from focus on themselves to focus on Jesus

Thomas and the other ten disciples

Doubt or challenge?

Two Disciples on the road to Emmaus

How do we encounter God when we don't really recognize Him until after the event?

The disciples go fishing

Stranger: "Cast your nets on the other side."

Recognition / Peter rushing to Jesus

Go help your brothers

Bring some of your fish: fruit of their labors

Walk with Peter, "Do you love me?"

The Ascension

Go, make disciples of all nations

Change of disciples into apostles

Don't be precipitous

Wait until the Spirit moves you. Don't run ahead of grace.

Discuss: Why Jesus' not recognized?

To be available to everyone Jesus had to die — not available as Jesus, but as Christ.

THE CONTEMPLATION ON DIVINE LOVE

(Bookends: P&F and Contemplatio)

Pre-notes: Love expresses itself in words AND deeds

Affective love becomes effective love (George Ganss)

True love is mutual: Lover and Beloved exchange roles in gratitude to one another

Grace: Intimate understanding of God's great love for me poured out in all things and the ability to pour out my love in active response

(Four points correlate with 4 weeks of exercises)

First: All that God has given me in love: God give me all of creation, redemption, all my abilities and gifts and all the helps I need to use them, including God's very self. It is only fitting that I desire to give all that I have, even my very self in response to so much love.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, my entire will - all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours. Do with it whatever you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me.

(Walk through Suscipe with retreatant)

Second: God's self-giving to me: God is not aloof from all the gifts poured out for me but fills all of creation, preserving us in life. Jesus, the very embodiment of God is given to me and feeds me in Eucharist. I am made in the image and likeness of God, a Temple of the Holy Spirit. My fitting response is to be present in everything I do, to everyone I meet, and especially in prayer, saying "*Take, Lord, and receive...*"

Third: God labors for me: Through all of creation, in every circumstance of my life, God continues to woo me. I keep God busy as I wander from the path to true life. God assists me in my important choices, etc. So, I want to labor in like manner, opening myself to experience God in all things and say, *"Take, Lord, and receive..."*

Fourth: God actually shares Divine life with me: Every created thing is an expression of God, each in its own way. I am an expression of God, and the power for good I experience within me is actually the power of God within me. Justice, goodness, mercy, etc. are already within me; all I need is to unblock these attributes of God to let them flow. Because God's life is within me, I am like the sunbeam to the sun, or like the drop of water to the waterfall. The sunbeam is not the sun, but contains all of the sun within it. The drop of water is not the waterfall, but contains the waterfall within it. I am not the sun; God is. I am not the waterfall; God is. I wonder what God is saying to the world by speaking me into existence. And so I say ever more deeply, *"Take, Lord, and receive..."*

This is the prayer of the disciple-turned-apostle.

This takes my affective love for God and makes it effective in the Universe.

This is the prayer that sustains me as I leave the retreat.

Closing the Retreat

Discuss with retreatant possible:

- post-retreat shock
- loss of structure
- frustrations
- sense of 'let-down'

Similar to the experience of the apostles after the Ascension.

Mission the retreatant

*"Let the beauty you love, be the beauty you do.
There are many ways to kiss the ground."
— Rumi*