



Week Leading up to 4.11.21: Divine Mercy

***(Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 20:19-31

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You continually come to us in our hiding spaces with a great desire to shower Your mercy over us. Open our hearts that we may acknowledge our sinfulness so that we may be showered with your forgiveness and grace. Strengthen our faith that we may always believe even though we do not see. In Your loving name. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In the reading today we hear about Jesus working many signs. Have you experienced a sign from God?

YouTube Video: How we participate in Divine Mercy with Fr. Mark-Mary (8:53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=tvR5B0KsSHo>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What do you think/feel mercy from God is? Do you think/feel that only Jesus can extend mercy or can we also?
3. The video and the reading refer to Jesus saying, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you" to the disciples. What do you think/feel Jesus is asking of us in this verse?
4. What do you think/feel it means to forgive as you've been forgiven? Who are the hardest people for you to forgive? (Those closest to you, family, those you work with, or others? How about yourself?)
5. Have you ever considered that your not forgiving someone keeps the Father's family fractured and the kingdom of God in need of repair? What are your feelings or thoughts about this concept?
6. Have you ever experienced a sort of ripple effect (e.g. cascading sins) as a result of an unwillingness to forgive someone?
7. Fr. Mark-Mary indicated that we can insert the name of a person into the Divine Chaplet. Have you ever prayed this way? What change do you believe will come about if you pray like this?

Session Challenges: { Choose one, two or all }

- Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church sections to learn more about mercy: [210-11](#), [270](#), [545](#), [1439](#), [1473](#), [1829](#), [1846](#), [1847](#), [1864](#), [2040](#), [2091](#), [2447](#), [2677](#), [2840](#)
- Consider a person in your life you need to forgive. Ask the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary for help in your forgiveness. Insert the name of this person as you pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at least 3 times this week.
- Fr. Mark-Mary indicates that we are all given the keys to God's mercy. Are there additional specific ways that you can be a missionary of mercy to others? Read [CCC 2447](#) and consider additional possibilities.

Closing Prayer: Pray or sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet together. Instructions can be found here:

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet> or pray together in music

format: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSVvBQoSqFM>

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [Acts 4:32-35](#) Sunday Reading 2: [1 Jn 5:1-6](#)

Additional Info about Divine Mercy: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message>

Additional Info about Mercy and Compassion: <https://uscatholic.org/articles/201705/is-there-a-difference-between-mercy-and-compassion/>



Week Leading up to 4.18.21: Kerygma Saves

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Lk 24:35-48

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, just like the two disciples we wish to have our minds opened to understand the Scriptures. We understand our need for repentance and ask for the Holy Spirit to enliven our hearts to Your mission and how best to share it with others. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Is there anything that you found striking from this reading?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on the Meaning of the Gospel (10:56)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=UiFPkwTPjY4>

Reflection or Discussion Questions: {Leaders before starting the discussion, it may be helpful to explain the definition of these terms: Faith, Grace and Kerygma. Refer to the definitions found on the next page. }

2. Did you find anything of particular interest in this video?
3. How would you answer the questions, "What is the Gospel? What is the Good News? Are you saved by faith alone?"
4. Have you ever had an experience of sharing the Kerygma with someone? How did it go?
5. Bishop Barron shares that through faith alone we are given access to God's house, an invitation to His army. Have you ever thought of yourself as part of Jesus' army? If so in what way?
6. Bishop Barron indicates that faith is the beginning of our salvation journey. He lists some ways that allow us to participate in faith and continue to grow. What are ways you participate in faith and continue to grow in relationship with God?
7. Bishop Barron indicates that the Catholic view of salvation is a bit more complicated than being saved by faith alone. What is your perspective on salvation? Can you explain why you believe this?

{Leaders please let your group know that if they have any additional questions regarding the session today, that they are encouraged to follow up with Mike Chamberland at mchamberland@olsorrows.com or by calling 248-474-5720. }

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both }

- Read more about the Kerygma from the apostles in these verses: 1 Cor. 9:16, 2 Cor 4:5, Rom 1:15-16, 1 Peter 3:15
- Write a version of the Kerygma in your own words so that you are ready to share the basic message of the Gospel with others. Practice sharing this with one other person you trust. Refer to this website for helpful information: <https://catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/the-content-of-the-kerygma-good-news-for-the-world>

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Dear Jesus, You truly are our Good News. Your life on earth and Your Resurrection have allowed us to share in Your divinity. Give us the courage to share Your message with others that they may know You and come to love you fully through the Eucharist. In Your loving name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 Sunday Reading 2: 1 Jn 2:1-5a

Additional Info: <https://www.youcat.org/news/kerygma/> and <https://clarionherald.org/news/the-mass-explained-final-blessing-and-dismissal>

Week Leading up to 4.18.21: Continued...

Faith: Hebrews 11:1-3: *Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.* Refer to <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/05752c.htm> for more details.

Grace: Grace is the supernatural gift that God, of his free benevolence, bestows on rational creatures for their eternal salvation. The gifts of grace are essentially supernatural. They surpass the being, powers, and claims of created nature, namely sanctifying grace, the infused virtues, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and actual grace. They are the indispensable means necessary to reach the beatific vision. In a secondary sense, grace also includes such blessings as the miraculous gifts of prophecy or healing, or the preternatural gifts of freedom from concupiscence. - <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/dictionary/index.cfm?id=33791>

Kerygma: It is a Greek word that means proclamation. In terms of Christianity, we are to proclaim our salvation through Jesus Christ or the Gospel. It is the core and heart and basics of the Christian faith. We proclaim the Gospel to call those that don't know Jesus to become His disciples. There are 7 key elements to the Kerygma:

1. God loves you and has a plan for your life.
2. Sin will destroy you.
3. Christ Jesus died to save you.
4. Repent and believe the Gospel.
5. Be Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit.
6. Abide in Christ and
7. Go and make disciples.

Included below is a sample Kerygma:

God's plan for humanity is that we would always be in relationship with him. In fact, we are made to be with God forever, because he made us in his "image and likeness".

But humans have sinned, and this sin has caused a break in our relationship with God. Still, God had a plan to save us.

He sent his Son, Jesus, to come and win us back to God. He lived, died, and rose from the dead in order to gain power over our sin and death. He laid down his own life, so that we can have eternal life.

Now that we have this opportunity, it is up to us to respond to his gift of grace and mercy. Jesus waits for each of us to say "yes" to repenting of our sins, believing in him, being baptized, and living a life that glorifies God, so we can live forever in Heaven with him and as many others as possible.

The choice is your own. Would you like to choose this grace today?

Source - <https://catholicmissionarydisciples.com/news/the-content-of-the-kerygma-good-news-for-the-world>



Week Leading up to 4.25.21: Laying Down Ones Life by Picking Up the Cross

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 10:11-18

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You so willingly laid down Your life for us. For this we offer great praise and gratitude. Inspire in us the awareness to follow Your example in our daily lives. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In the reading today we hear Jesus say, "I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep." What does this verse mean to you? How does it directly apply to your life?

YouTube Video: How to Pick Up Your Cross with Fr. Schmitz (10:58)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=WhivUtZhdRI&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What are your thoughts on the concept of "harder is holier"? Does it change your perspective of God knowing that this is a myth?
3. Fr. Schmitz shares that taking up your cross means to align our wants to God's will for us. Sometimes it will be the same and other times it may not be. How do we know what we want is in alignment or in conflict with what God wills?
4. Have you ever experienced taking up your cross with or without Jesus? Was there a difference? Is there a personal cross that you are dealing with right now that you would like to share?
5. Regarding active purification, have you thought of a cross as something you've chosen? How do you make the most of the crosses you have "chosen"? {Active purification means we take action for those things we have chosen to do for God. Passive purification means we say "yes" to those things we do not choose or do not want in our lives. In both cases God calls us to engage in the situation.}
6. Is there an example of a passive purification that you have experienced that you can share? Would you consider COVID-19 a passive purification opportunity?
7. Which do you find harder to do - Active purification or passive purification? Why so?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all }

- Write Jesus a short note thanking Him for all of the passive crosses in your life and how they have helped you draw closer to Him.
- It requires practice to actively pick up our crosses. Choose one thing and do it every day this week to show God that you are picking up your daily cross.
- Look for a person you know who has a heavy passive cross in their life and send him/her a note or text letting him/her know that you are thinking of him/her.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear Jesus, in Your Holy Name there is great power. May we call on it to align our will to Yours, so that we may truly become the holy people You know we can be. We rest in the confidence of knowing that You wish to help us, walk with us, and share Your strength with us when we carry our own crosses. We ask for Your continued guidance to be Your active disciples, willing to take up our own crosses as well as walk and support others who have especially heavy crosses to bear. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that we may discern with Your wisdom, act with Your courage, and love with a heart as endless as Yours. In Your great name, we pray. Amen*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 4:8-12 Sunday Reading 2: 1 Jn 3:1-2



Week Leading up to 5.2.21: Remain In Me

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 15:1-8

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, teach us and guide us to remain in you and recall often that we are being loved into existence at this very moment. May we know deep within that all the good we do, and love we give, is a result of being connected to You just as a branch is connected to the vine. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

In the reading today we hear Jesus say, "Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me."

1. Can you think of a specific time you saw that remaining in Christ bore fruit?

YouTube Video: How to Practice the Presence of Christ with Fr. Schmitz (7:25) <https://youtu.be/XTfPd2x16lU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions: {Leaders: We have incorporated a couple of questions to allow participants to reflect on how ESG has impacted their lives. Please mention this prior to the discussion.}

2. Reflecting on the Gospel and Fr. Mike's video, how do you think "the pruning" can relate to remaining present in Christ? How have you seen pruning bring about fruitfulness in your own life?
3. Fr. Mike mentioned that remaining in Christ is as simple as asking him to come with you (even in mundane tasks and typical life). Has there been a time in your life when you did this? How would or could your day be different if you ask God to be with you in each moment?
4. Fr. Schmitz shares that the awareness of the presence of God takes practice. Have you found that ESG has helped you practice being more aware of God's presence? If so, how so?
5. Has there been anything specific from a past ESG meeting that has helped you become more aware of God's presence? Has your awareness of God changed how you view others in any way?
6. How has your participation in ESG reshaped your understanding of God and Church?
7. What are some practical things you have done or could do to maintain a mindfulness of Christ's omnipresence (always being there)?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or all}

- Do your best to PRACTICE the presence of God throughout each day (i.e. inviting God to join you every time you move rooms, start a new task, leave the house, pick up your phone, etc.).
- With a childlike curiosity, take 10 or more minutes of prayer and reflection while closely examining a plant (its vine and branches, stem and leaves, fruit, etc.). How does the examination of this plant deepen your reflection on the vine and branches example used by Jesus?

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) We thank You, Jesus, that You are the Vine and we are the branches. Help us day by day to abide in You and to be fruitful in all we say and do. We know that without You we can do nothing, but we also know that as we rest in You we can bring forth the sort of fruit that is pleasing to the Father. We want to abide in You and rest in You and remain in You. Help us, Jesus, we pray in Your great name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 9:26-31; Sunday Reading 2: 1 Jn 3:18-24



Week Leading up to 5.9.21: You Were Made for Love

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 15:9-17 and 2nd reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, right now You are loving us into existence. You have made us from love and for love. Help us to more profoundly realize the love you have for us but also that the very love you pour unto us is meant to be poured out through us to others. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

In the second reading we heard, "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love."

1. This might be one of the most profound sentences in all of the Scriptures. Read this again, pause, and share what comes to your mind. What is God saying to you today in this profound scripture? How is God calling you to apply this scripture concretely in your life?

YouTube Video: Love is a Virtue with Bobby Angel (6:40) <https://youtu.be/MP9TFX6X05w>

Reflection or Discussion Questions: {Leaders: For groups that meet weekly, please focus on questions 2-7. no need to ask questions 7-9 since they were asked the previous week. Bi-Weekly groups: we have incorporated a couple of questions to allow participants to reflect on how ESG has impacted their lives. Please mention this prior to the discussion. It would be best to focus on questions 2-4 & 7-10 in your discussion time.}

2. When is a time you felt and knew deeply that you were loved?
3. When is a time that you struggled to love another, found it difficult, but did it anyway? What did you learn from that experience?
4. Bobby says, "For true love to be love it must cost and even hurt." Why do you think it works this way?
5. Bobby shares that love is a willingness to be interrupted, to stretch, and to sacrifice. Share a time when you were called to sacrifice or step outside of your comfort to love another.
6. Bobby indicates that love can have a ripple effect. Do you think/feel that love always has a ripple effect? Why or why not? Have you ever experienced a ripple effect of love? If so, please share...
7. Bobby expressed that God is waiting to stretch us so we can become radical examples of love that the world so desperately needs. In what ways can you be a radical example of love?
8. Was there something specific from a past ESG meeting that you discussed, learned, or were challenged by that has given you a greater insight to love God or others better?
9. Has your participation in ESG changed how you love or view others in any way?
10. How has your participation in ESG reshaped your understanding of God and Church?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Pray for an increase in the virtue of love - an increase in the ability to sacrifice for another out of love for the other.
- Read or listen (audio book) to *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis - [https://archive.org/details/TheFourLovesCSLewisPart3ErosSexualLove/The+Four+Loves+-+CS+Lewis+-+Part+1+-+Storge+\(Affection\).mp3](https://archive.org/details/TheFourLovesCSLewisPart3ErosSexualLove/The+Four+Loves+-+CS+Lewis+-+Part+1+-+Storge+(Affection).mp3)
- Be creative, plan, and do a loving act before the next meeting (one that is going to cost you some time or energy or money).

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together in fellowship. Please use our time and dedication to gatherings to bear great fruit in the lives of those around us and even our enemies. We ask all this in the great name of Jesus Christ. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Sunday Reading 2: 1 Jn 4:7-10



Week Leading up to 5.16.21: The Ascension Fulfills

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 16:15-20

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You have risen and ascended into heaven with Your father. We wish to be Your disciples and believe in the power of Your name so that we, too, may bring Your healing message to the world. In Your Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Was there anything that resonated with you from the reading today?

Leader Note: This video will refer to the Hebrews readings for the Ascension. Although this Hebrew reading is not the gospel reading for this year it is helpful in clarifying the topic of the Ascension. Your group can read Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23 prior to the video if you wish.

YouTube Video: The Ascension with Dr. Pitre (6:45)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=0uM9ByIh6qU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions: {Refer to the Additional Information below for an explanation of some of the terms used in the video.}

2. Was anything from this video new to you?
3. What do you think/feel that Dr. Pitre means when he says Jesus fulfills the feast of the Passover while on earth and fulfills the Day of Atonement through His ascension to heaven? Why do you think/feel Jesus needed to go to heaven? {To serve as the perfect sacrifice for our sins on our behalf outside of all time.}
4. Have you ever wondered how the ascension eliminated further need for more sacrifices?
5. What do you think/feel is the role of a priest? Do you think/feel we still need priests?
6. Did anything in this video change your perspective of the Mass and how Jesus becomes present in the Eucharist?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Read Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23 and ponder what word or phrase that tugs at your heart as you read it. Read it again more slowly and consider how it relates to your life and talk to God about what you've read and felt.
- There are graces and benefits that we receive by attending Mass in person. Read about them here: <http://www.pauline.org/Pauline-Books-Media-Blog/ArticleID/3960/3-Ways-to-Find-Meaning-at-Mass> or <https://mariancatechist.com/the-holy-eucharist-the-triple-sacrament-the-triple-source-of-grace/>. After reading these articles, consider your disposition at past Masses and how God might be calling you to surrender your will to His so that you may more abundantly receive His graces at Mass.
- Read the following sections from the Catholic Catechism on priesthood: CCC 1536-1540, 1544-1568. Make sure to thank a priest this week for making the presence of Christ as head of the Church visible.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) Dear Jesus, You have fulfilled the Old Testament promises with Your ascension into heaven. Help us to truly appreciate all that You have done for our salvation and through the Holy Sacrament of the Mass. In Your Great name. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [Acts 1:1-11](#) Sunday Reading 2: [Eph 4:1-13](#)

Week Leading up to 5.16.21: Continued...

Additional Information:

To understand topics covered in this video we have included some additional information below that can also be found at <http://www.thesacredheart.com/dictionary.htm#P>

For a more detailed study utilize this free course on Feasts of Faith: <https://stpaulcenter.com/feasts-of-faith/>

How Jesus is a **prophet, priest, and king**: <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-prophet-priest-and-king/>

Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from death by the blood of the lamb sprinkled on the doorposts in Egypt, which the angel of death saw and “passed over.” The Eucharist celebrates the new Passover, in which Jesus ‘passes over” to his Father by his death and resurrection, thus anticipating the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the Kingdom. Read Exodus 12-1-51 for the details.

To learn about the **Day of Atonement** read [Leviticus 16:1-34](#)

Expiation is the act of redemption and atonement for sin which Christ won for us by the pouring out of his Blood on the cross by His obedient love “even to the end”. The expiation of sins continues in the mystical Body of Christ and the communion of saints by joining our human acts of atonement to the redemptive action of Christ, both in this life and in Purgatory.

Paschal Mystery is Christ’s work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, whereby “dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life”. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated and made present in the liturgy of the Church, and its saving effects are communicated through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, which renews the paschal sacrifice of Christ as the sacrifice offered by the Church.

More detail about the Ascension can be found here: http://www.lectorprep.org/ascension_yrABC.html
The chart below shows how Christ's Ascension relates to us.

Old Way (in Judaism)	New Way (in Christ)
Priest enters a man-made sanctuary	Christ enters heaven
The next contrast is not between Old Way and New, but between all other humans and Christ	
Priest offers sacrifice annually	Christ appears once before God at the end of ages, to take away sin by his sacrifice
All men and women die once, then appear for judgment	Jesus was offered once, and will appear bringing salvation
Priest enters sanctuary with lamb's blood	We have confidence of entry into heaven through Jesus' blood
Priest enters sanctuary through a veil	We enter through the veil that is Christ's flesh
He's just a priest	Christ is "a great priest over the house of God"



Week Leading up to 5.23.21: The Holy Spirit Has Great Power

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 20:19-23

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, it is Your desire for us to be with You always. Through Your great love for us You have sent the Holy Spirit as our advocate to guide us in truth. Dear Holy Spirit, we now ask in great humility to put into words what is on our hearts. We invite you into this space and ask for Your graces to wash over us like water so that we may have a new spiritual awareness of You in our daily lives. May the wind carry Your whispers to our ears so that we can hear Your wisdom as we journey forward. Infuse in us a fire burning with great desire to intentionally be your disciples. We ask for all this in the Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Do you have a personal experience of the Holy Spirit you would like to share?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church (7:49)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=QH3tF7abpts&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Bishop Barron indicates that the Holy Spirit can be dangerous or destructive. Have you ever considered the Holy Spirit to be dangerous or destructive? How so?
3. Bishop Barron says that, "the love of God is not a warm fuzzy." What do you think/feel he means by this?
4. What do you think/feel about the concept of the Holy Spirit handing us over to the enemy to be purified?
5. What do you think/feel about the priestly sex abuse? What do you think/feel is our responsibility/role in regard to this type of abuse? Can you think of tangible ways that we can assist in healing needed from this type of abuse?
6. Have you ever found it difficult to see the good that God can do through the evil or destruction in this world?
7. What are some things we can do to better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Attend Mass on Pentecost and speak to the Holy Spirit from your heart, thanking Him for the ways He has made Himself known to you and ask for a greater outpouring of His grace in your life. If you struggle with faith in the power of the Holy Spirit, ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen Your faith.
- Say this prayer daily, "Holy Spirit, come into my heart. I believe in You and submit my will to Yours."
- Read CCC 687-741 to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Holy Spirit, we have a holy fear of your great power. Help us to see the good that can come from your destruction. Help us to turn to you for discernment and guidance. May our will be aligned with Your will so that we can cooperate more fully with You. Watch over our group this summer and keep us safe from all harm and keep our eyes centered on You. In the name of Jesus Christ, we ask for these blessings. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Acts 2:1-11 Sunday Reading 2: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13