

STAFF DISCUSSION JOURNAL

Going Deeper

PART 1

Scripture Reflection

As a staff, take a few moments to sit in total silence. Silence is a rare commodity and central to how God speaks with us.

Slowly read aloud this passage from the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 25

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

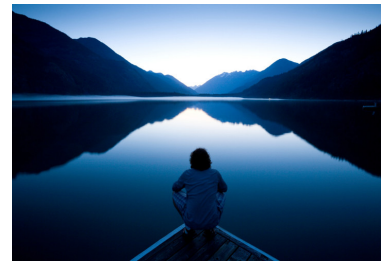
40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Now, take a few moments in silence and then read it one more time.

Questions For Group Discussion:

This scripture highlights the need to be deeply involved in the real lives and the real needs of real people. What are some of the issues you see as crucial in the lives of your students? What are their deep needs and aspirations?

How effective is your school community at seeking to understand the world of your students? Do staff know the 'smell of the sheep?'



"Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?"

St. Gerard Majella

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PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from Pope Francis

“The priest who seldom goes out of himself ... misses out on the best of our people, on what can stir the depths of his priestly heart. ... This is precisely the reason why some priests grow dissatisfied, lose heart and become in a sense collectors of antiquities or novelties — instead of being shepherds living with ‘the smell of the sheep.’ This is what I am asking you — be shepherds with the smell of sheep.”

While these words come from a homily to priests how can you apply Pope Francis insight into your work with young people?



“Let us all resign ourselves into His hands, and pray that in all things He may guide us to do His Holy Will ... When thoughts of this or that come I turn to Him and say: “Only what you will, my God. Use me as You will.”

St. Mary Mackillop

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Lord,

We pray this week that you would convict us and challenge us to seek out 'the smell of the sheep'. Help us to not just teach subjects or work in the office but to seek out the lost, the wounded, the scared and the hurting right here among us.

Give us the grace to know the world of our students. Give us an openness to, and an interest in, their aspirations, fears, sadness and joy.

Help us to be humble and open to knowing them better so that we may better lead them to you.

We make this prayer in your name Jesus.

Amen