

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 John Chapter 14 23 - 24

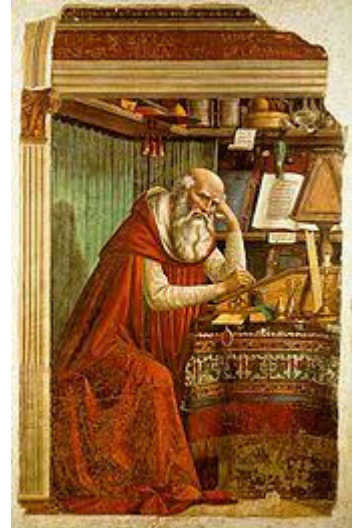
23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

In this Gospel verse we see the link between obeying and following Jesus and how this leads to the Father and the Son making a 'home' within a person. What implications do you see here for the way a 'home' environment might come into existence in your Catholic school?

What factors do you feel make it hard to create a sense of 'home' in a modern school context? What pressures, systems or expectations can make it difficult to create this environment that needs to be 'humanly and spiritually' rich?



“Be ever engaged, so that whenever the devil calls he may find you occupied.”

St. Jerome

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PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote from The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School n.27

"...students can be made to feel "at home" even when the surroundings are modest, if the climate is humanly and spiritually rich.

What are the strengths of your school community that make it feel humanly and spiritually rich? What are you currently doing really well to bring this into existence for young people.

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for sending each young person to be a part of this school community.

Help us to create a school climate which is humanly and spiritually rich. Help us to play some small part in bringing love and acceptance and encouragement into the lives of young people whose home situations may be difficult or bereft of love and warmth.

Remind us each day Lord that a simple smile, a moment of warmth and gentleness may be the exact way in which we become your hands and feet to a lonely, sad or discouraged student or even colleague.

We need your grace, your power, your insight, your promptings to build our little corner of your kingdom into a spiritual home for each student. We cannot do this relying upon our own capacity Lord Jesus, so please carry us this coming week.

We ask this in your Holy Name,

Amen.



"If I saw the gates of Hell open and I stood on the brink of the abyss, I should not despair, I should not lose hope of mercy, because I should trust in You, my God."

St. Gemma Galgani