

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 13

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds[b] of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

Questions For Group Discussion:

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

This parable expresses how the seed of the Gospel can work its way throughout a whole culture or society. How effective do you think your school is at present with regard to helping the Gospel impact the wider world?

What is your sense of the relationship between the Gospel and culture or faith and reason? How do your students see things? As staff, what are some ways you might be able to deepen your own understanding of how the Gospel can impact the culture that surrounds you?



“The way to begin healing the wounds of the world is to treasure the Infant Christ in us; to be not the castle but the cradle of Christ; and, in rocking that cradle to the rhythm of love, to swing the whole world back into the beat of the Music of Eternal Life.”

Caryll Houselander

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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.31

The Catholic school is one of these pastoral instruments; its specific pastoral service consists in mediating between faith and culture: being faithful to the newness of the Gospel while at the same time respecting the autonomy and the methods proper to human knowledge.

How might it be truly pastoral to help build bridges between the Gospel and 'the autonomy of human knowledge'? How can the Gospel help ennoble, dignify and elevate human knowledge?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We pray for the grace to be modern day missionaries who build bridges between our culture and your Gospel of Life.

Help us to help our students see beyond artificially constructed walls and barriers between faith and reason, belief and science. Help us to give them a rich and expansive vision of all that is true, good and beautiful

We pray for the grace to teach our subjects within a greater and more divine vision of the human person and what they are called to do, give and become.

Help us to mediate between the Gospel and culture and help our students to play their role in the future in building a more Christian and human world.

In your name Jesus we pray.

Amen.



“The days in which we live now require heroic Catholicism, not casual Catholicism. We can no longer be Catholics by accident, but instead be Catholics by conviction.”

Bishop Daniel Jenky