

# STAFF DISCUSSION JOURNAL

## *Going Deeper*

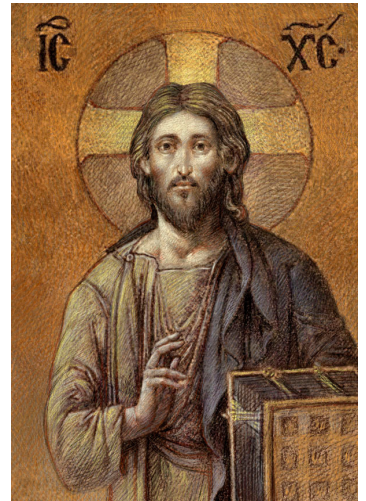
### PART 1

## 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 Marks Gospel Chapter 9

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. 15 When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. 16 He asked them, 'What are you arguing about with them?' 17 Someone from the crowd answered him, 'Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; 18 and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.' 19 He answered them, 'You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.' 20 And they brought the boy[e] to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it threw the boy[f] into convulsions, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 Jesus[g] asked the father, 'How long has this been happening to him?' And he said, 'From childhood. 22 It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.' 23 Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out,[h] 'I believe; help my unbelief!' 25 When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You spirit that keep this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!' 26 After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand.



"The Christian life is a continuation and completion of the life of Christ in us. We should be so many Christs here on earth, continuing His life and His works, laboring and suffering in a holy and divine manner in the spirit of Jesus."

St. John Eudes

## Questions For Group Discussion:

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

What does this Gospel story tell us about the love of a parent? Can you share a time from your own childhood when one of your parents came through for you or demonstrated love in a memorable way?

How can we do more to encourage, inform, educate or inspire our parent community? What could we try to help parents connect more deeply with their role and find more confidence to live it?

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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.43

The first and primary educators of children are their parents. The school is aware of this fact but, unfortunately, the same is not always true of the families themselves; it is the school's responsibility to give them this awareness.

How do you experience these words? Are they a burden? On top of all that you already do, do they seem like even more? Being honest with your group share your general attitude toward parents. What experiences have conditioned this?

## STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We thank you that you have called each of us in this room to partner with parents to bring about your plans for each precious young person.

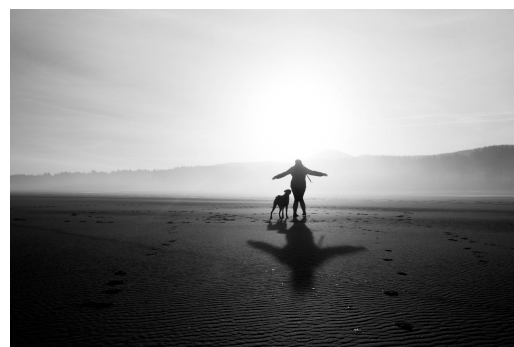
We need your grace to encourage and help parents to carry out their sacred responsibility. Help us to challenge each parent in gentle ways to step up and into the role that only they can fulfil.

Holy Spirit we pray that you would come and inspire us here with creative ways to reach out to parents. Help us in the busyness of each day to make contact with parents and bring them more closely into partnership with you through the mission and ministry of this school community.

We pray Jesus, for your grace and power to touch the lives of all our families. May this become a 'kingdom place' of hope, light and genuine love.

In your name we pray

Amen.



“God created shadows to better emphasize the light.”

Pope John XXIII