

# 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 John 15

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

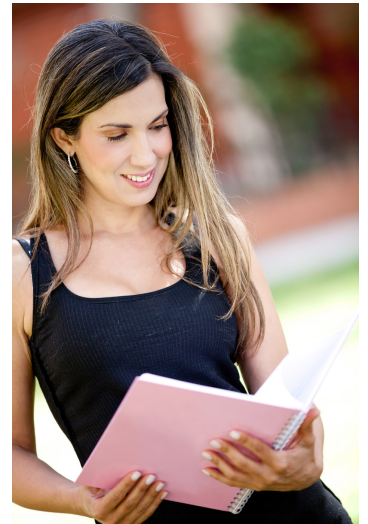
"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."

## Questions For Group Discussion:

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

What do you think Jesus means when he says 'whoever believes in me will do greater works than these'? How do we have the power to do this?

How can this truth change how we approach our vocations as teachers? How does it relate to what Jesus said about the Spirit abiding in us?



"Learning unsupported by grace may get into our ears; it never reaches the heart. But when God's grace touches our innermost minds to bring understanding, his word which has been received by the ear sinks deep into the heart."

St. Isidore of Seville

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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.96

"The religion teacher is the key, the vital component, if the educational goals of the school are to be achieved. But the effectiveness of religious instruction is closely tied to the personal witness given by the teacher; this witness is what brings the content of the lessons to life."

What is the most effective way that we as Catholic teachers can give a witness of our faith? How can we better share the Gospel with our students?

### STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for calling us to the vocation of teaching young people. Thank you also for the grace that you give us to be a witness of your love and truth.

Help us to seek you ever more closely. Develop our natural gifts and talents into something that blesses the heart and mind and life of every young person. Give us the supernatural grace to fulfil our vocations.

Help us to fill our teaching with a true witness of the Gospel message. Help us to create a climate in this school where hearts and minds can be shaped by relationship with you.

We pray that our students would encounter you through our teaching and through the life of our school. Help them to develop their faith just as they develop their minds and characters.

In your name, Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



"We know certainly that our God calls us to a holy life. We know that he gives us every grace, every abundant grace; and though we are so weak of ourselves, this grace is able to carry us through every obstacle and difficulty."

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton