

# 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 Matthew Chapter 5.

3 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor[i] and hate your enemy.’<sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Now, take a few moments in silence and read it one more time and then discuss the following questions in a small group

## Questions For Group Discussion:

Who do you find hardest to love in your school community? Without any harsh self-judgement, just be honest and share whom you find it difficult to relate to or to interact with?

How do these words of Jesus about loving those we find it hard to love speak into our situation as educators? How does our incapacity to do this effectively relate to our need for prayer, sacrament and grace?



“Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be – and becoming that person.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

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### PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the issues listed from the document  
The Religious Dimension of Education In A Catholic School n.108

- **Teachers take advantage of every opportunity to encourage and strengthen students in those areas which will help to achieve the goals of the educational process. The teacher's words, their witness, their encouragement and help, their advice and friendly correction are all important in achieving these goals, which must always be understood to include academic achievement, moral behaviour, and a religious dimension.**

Share with your colleagues a student whom you feel really needs encouragement. As a staff group how could you work together over the coming week to try and bring the love of Jesus to this student? How could you work together to 'will their good'?



"We are to love God for Himself, because of a twofold reason; nothing is more reasonable, nothing more profitable."

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

## STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We ask for your grace this week to love those among us who we often find hardest to love.

Help us to be patient as you were patient, kind as you were kind and encouraging as you were encouraging to those you encountered here on earth.

Help us to have a hunger to seek out those who feel they cannot be loved or who are lonely and lost. Help us all to 'will the good' of every student and to also love each other as colleagues and friends.

Give us the desire to seek you in prayer and sacrament in the knowledge that our own will to love is insufficient and that we need your grace in all things.

In your name we pray, Jesus.....amen