

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 1 John 4

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

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:

What does the parable suggest about the role of persistence in prayer? Share with your group your own experience of praying for students. If you don't pray for students then be honest about why you don't.

Can you share a story with your colleagues about a time when you began to pray for a student? Did your attitude toward them change in any way? Did the circumstance change?

Who is a student in your school community that you really believe needs prayer at the moment. Can you take a moment together and pray for them now?



"God wants the whole person and He will not rest till He gets us in entirety. No part of the person will do"

A.W Tozer

PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the issues listed from the document *The Religious Dimension of Education In A Catholic School* n.111

- *Each of the students has his or her own life, family and social background, and these are not always happy situations. They feel the unrest of the child or adolescent, which grows more intense as they face the problems and worries of a young person approaching maturity.*

What do you feel are the major issues, problems or worries that students are facing at this moment in history as they begin the journey toward adulthood? What do you feel your school community can do to help address these issues in any way?

STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Help us to pray for our students. Give us a heart to seek their good in all things as we seek your guidance and will for their lives.

In the midst of each busy day help us to stop and take time for moments of prayer. Help us to see the needs all around us and to bring those needs to you in trust and dependence.

Help us to be like the persistent widow. Give us the grace to keep praying when little seems to be happening. Help us to know that while you may often change the situation through prayer, you will always change us.

In your name Jesus, we pray.



“If you obey God with your whole heart, you'll usually scare off the folks who want you to obey them.”

Meg Moseley