

# 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.

After some time in silence, have one person read the following scripture from Matthew Chapter 9

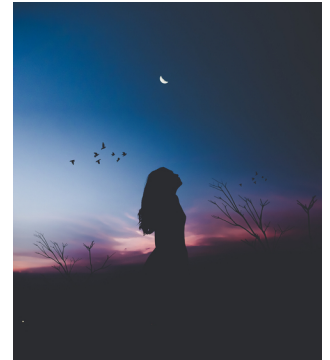
Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

#### Questions For Group Discussion:

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

In what way do you feel some of your students are like 'sheep without a shepherd?'

What issues facing young people allow a sense of compassion to motivate you as Catholic educators. What practical steps are being taken to help address these issues? What else could be tried?



Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you.

Eagerly enter into the treasure house that is within you, and so you will see the things that are in heaven; for there is but one single entry to them both. The ladder that leads to the Kingdom is hidden within your soul.

Saint Isaac the Syrian

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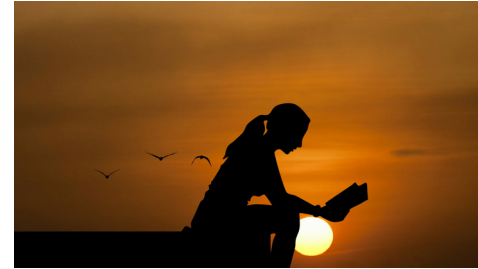
### PART 2

Take a moment to read aloud the following quote:

Spurred on by the aim of offering to all, and especially to the poor and marginalized, the opportunity of an education, of training for a job, of human and Christian formation, it can and must find in the context of the old and new forms of poverty that original synthesis of ardour and fervent dedication which is a manifestation of Christ's love for the poor, the humble, the masses seeking for truth.

The Catholic School On The Threshold Of The Third Millennium n.14

When it comes to addressing the various types of poverty that students may experience what do you feel is the source of what sustains you as staff in this mission? Is it a partnership with 'Christ's love for the poor or is it more of a human inspired activity?



It seems to me that I have found my Heaven on earth, since Heaven is God, and God is in my soul. The day I understood that, everything became clear to me. I would like to whisper this secret to those I love so they too might always cling to God through everything.

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity

## STAFF PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

We pray this week for all our students who experience different forms of poverty.

We pray for those who may not lack food or shelter but other needs such love, belonging or friendship.

We ask that you would guide us to be your presence for each young person enduring difficult circumstances.

We pray for their families also. We pray that your presence would enter the difficult situations faced by some of our families.

May they receive the support and care of our whole school community.

In your name, Jesus, we pray. Amen