

# STAFF DISCUSSION

## Going Deeper

### PART #1

### Scripture Reflection

#### STEP ONE

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 aloud:

#### *A Reading from the Gospel of John Chapter 3 v 16 – 17*

31 “WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, HE WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE. 32 ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE GATHERED BEFORE HIM, AND HE WILL SEPARATE THE PEOPLE ONE FROM ANOTHER AS A SHEPHERD SEPARATES THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS. 33 HE WILL PUT THE SHEEP ON HIS RIGHT AND THE GOATS ON HIS LEFT.

34 “THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT, ‘COME, YOU WHO ARE BLESSED BY MY FATHER; TAKE YOUR INHERITANCE, THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD. 35 FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK, I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU INVITED ME IN, 36 I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU CLOTHED ME, I WAS SICK AND YOU LOOKED AFTER ME, I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO VISIT ME.’

37 “THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, ‘LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED YOU, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK? 38 WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND INVITE YOU IN, OR NEEDING CLOTHES AND CLOTHE YOU? 39 WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK OR IN PRISON AND GO TO VISIT YOU?’

40 “THE KING WILL REPLY, ‘TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF MINE, YOU DID FOR ME.’

41 “THEN HE WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS LEFT, ‘DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO ARE CURSED, INTO THE ETERNAL FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS. 42 FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME NOTHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME NOTHING TO DRINK, 43 I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU DID NOT INVITE ME IN, I NEEDED CLOTHES AND YOU DID NOT CLOTHE ME, I WAS SICK AND IN PRISON AND YOU DID NOT LOOK AFTER ME.’

44 “THEY ALSO WILL ANSWER, ‘LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY OR THIRSTY OR A STRANGER OR NEEDING CLOTHES OR SICK OR IN PRISON, AND DID NOT HELP YOU?’

45 “HE WILL REPLY, ‘TRULY I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU DID NOT DO FOR ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE, YOU DID NOT DO FOR ME.’

46 “THEN THEY WILL GO AWAY TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS TO ETERNAL LIFE.”

#### STEP TWO

In small groups discuss how this Gospel story relates to your role as lay people and to the practical work you do each day in your school.



“The temporal order must be renewed in such a way that, without detriment to its own proper laws, it may be brought into conformity with the higher principles of the Christian life and adapted to the shifting circumstances of time, place, and peoples

DECREE ON THE APOSTOLATE OF THE LAITY #17

# STAFF DISCUSSION

## Going Deeper

### PART #2

#### STEP ONE

Take a moment to read the following quote from the Church documents:

“Holiness is not limited to the sanctuary or to moments of private prayer; it is a call to direct our whole heart and life toward God and according to God’s plan for this world. For the laity holiness is achieved in the midst of the world, in family, in community, in friendships, in work, in leisure, in citizenship. Through their competency and by their activity, lay men and women have the vocation to bring the fight of the Gospel to economic affairs, “so that the world may be filled with the Spirit of Christ and may more effectively attain its destiny in justice, in love, and in peace.

*US Catholic Bishops Conference 1986 – Economic Justice For All.*

#### STEP TWO

In a small group share what concept or phrase most speaks to you from the quote above. What is notable or special for you about it?



“The world is thy ship and not thy home”

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

## Closing Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for the gift of vocation.

Thank you for the gift of knowing who we are in the world and who you call us to be.

We pray this week for a deeper awareness of our special task in being your hands and feet in real and practical ways.

Give us a deeper sensitivity to the needs of our students and parents and our colleagues gathered here with us.

Help us to pause in the busiest moments of each day and remind ourselves of who we are in you and what we are called to do in your healing plan for the world.

Amen