

**April 2017**  
**Spiritual Director Training NOTES**

**Friday April 7**

Spiritual Check-in

***Quote of the night: "My pickle-ball days are over." (Ralph Guidroz)***

**Saturday April 8**

**The Principle and Foundation (handout)**

- engage all the Rules of Discernment
- little gods
- true desires, motivations, discernment
- true self

Don't put the reign of God off to the future.

The abundance we are promised is here now, but we need to appreciate it and live it.

God is not in the future; nor is He in the distance.

God continually creates.

**Tetlow p22 Intro: "Ongoing Creation in the Concrete"**

God creates us concretely, not in the abstract (ongoing creation). Without this understanding, "prayer is likely to remain on the surface or be about something other than God."

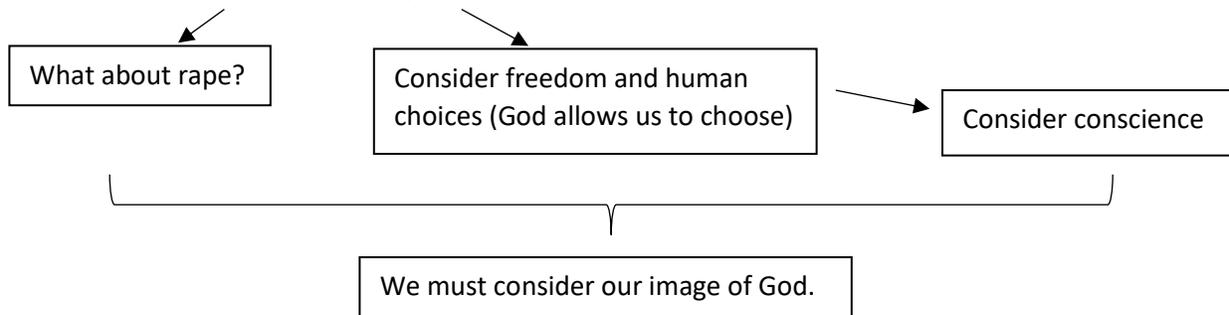
Spiritual director's work is not to ask why or how, but to lead the person to a Christ-like life.

Dossier is an important prayer, but it takes people a while to do this. Stumbling blocks appear and are possibly traumatic.

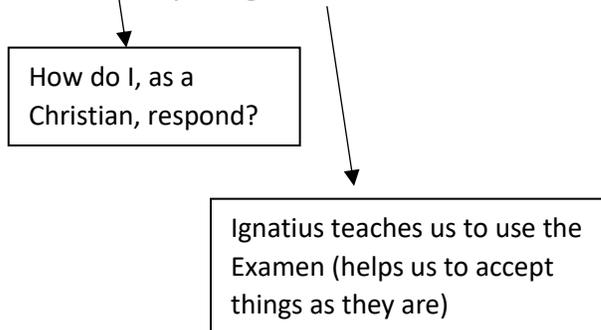
**BREAK**

**Tetlow p22 par 3:** "God directly and personally creates each human life in the mother's womb. Not two, but three are involved in each human life's beginning."

“God chooses the moment and place of our birth.”



Consider “the way things are”



par 7: We are participants (“co-creators of our life-world, and even of our selves”)

par 8: “Personal vocation is a kind of lived dialogue with God”

Spiritual director should suggest things that can help the directee listen to the Spirit.

In the director’s listening and the directee’s telling, the Spirit works.

**Case Study:** Xavier (p25)

Let him know that you hear his emotions.

Consider the morality question.

**Role play:** George

LUNCH

Everyone you meet has a wound

- physical
- spiritual or
- emotional

“Every parent has a child who’s doing something not right.” (Brianna)

**Case Study:** Xavier (continued)

In the Church, we have Scripture, Tradition, Magesterium  
In Spiritual Direction, we deal with Scripture, Tradition, and the person’s experience.

(note in the case study, Xavier is going through the grief process)

*[What is there, that will move the person to Christ-like?]*

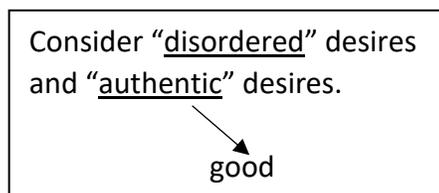
p24: Some thoughts about desire

How much of what we do is God’s choice? }  
How much of what we do is our desires? }

p24: “...to every single person, God reveals what He wishes. he does this, first, by giving us concrete gifts that enable and also limit what we can do: being male, Chinese, healthy. Our gifts indicate God’s wishes in us and God’s hope for us. The intelligent person, for instance, can be sure that God wishes her to think and grow wise.

God makes us intelligent and free, so that we must decide what God wishes for our life as a whole and in particular matters. God does this giving us desires. A personal vocation in life rises first as a desire to do or be something.”

Quote from class: “There is no such thing as a bad desire.”



Consider “disordered” desires  
and “authentic” desires.  
↓  
good

God wants the best for us: He wants us to choose Him.

p24 last paragraph: “We tend to desire things that are not authentic to our selves. In most matters, what we want is of no great consequence (sugar in your coffee? No?). But what we want in big things counts.

Much fruit and value in discerning true desires.

p25 par 3: "The desires we address here are *conscious*."

par 4: "They come from what we *value*. The worldview we share includes many values, and one way we know whether we are following Christ's or the world's is by noting what we really desire."

par 5: "Our desires rise out of our habits."

par 6: "we *develop habits*"

Developing good habits can help us identify our authentic (good) desires.

Prayer and silence can help us identify our desires.

**Case Study:** Walter

Does he have an "unanswered need" that he is attempting to fill through leadership?

Not seeking spiritual direction, but we can see a spiritual issue.

[What is spirituality? Love of God and neighbor.]

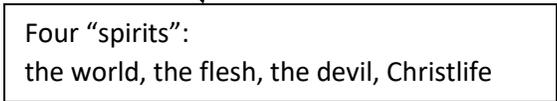
Whose spiritual issue is in question here?

**BREAK**

**Role Play:** Joe the Plumber

Tetlow p28: Theology of Desiring

Intro: "One way to distinguish among desires is by testing the spirit behind them."



Four "spirits":  
the world, the flesh, the devil, Christlife

Tetlow p28: Noble humanism

"a spirit that will drive desire"

p28 par2: "What's going on in human progress, which is furthered by science and democracy, but which is marred by the disorder of human violence, poverty, and injustice. The earth is made for all and adequate to support all in dignity. All of the wrongs are due to ignorance and lack of good governance."

No one is immune to the secular world's influence.

Noble humanism "looks noble" and lures people into the idea that we will live in harmony and peace.

Noble humanism stresses the importance of human beings, not divine life.

What would the spirit of “noble humanism” look like in a person who comes for spiritual direction? How would it influence someone in the parish?

- involved in social justice (Meals on Wheels) but do not connect these ministries to God.

\*\*\*HOMEWORK: Read three handouts given previously.