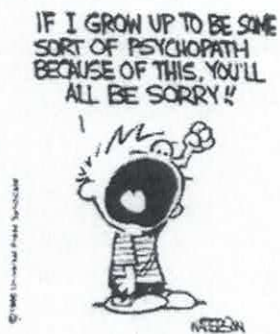


Montserrat Spiritual Companion Program
Diocese of Tyler – January 14th, 2016

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review of Prayer
 - Spiritual 'check-in'
 - The Examen of Conscience
 - The Examination of Consciousness
3. Criteria for Evaluating the Religious Dimension of Experience
4. Cases – Role Play
5. Becoming a Spiritual Director
6. Cases – Role Play
7. The Basis for the Relationship between Director & Directee
8. Cases & Role Play
9. February Assignments;
~~Prepare: Two case studies for the February session~~
Read: *"The Practice of Spiritual Direction"*, Chapters 10, 11, & Conclusion



725

Take, Lord, Receive

Verse 1

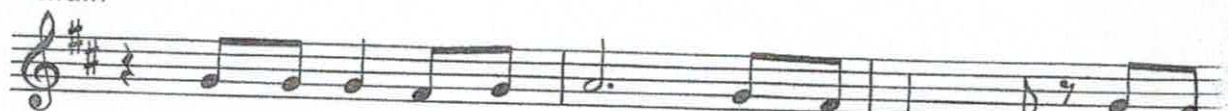


1. Take, Lord, re-ceive all my lib-er-ty, my



mem-o-ry, un-der-stand-ing my en-tire will.

Refrain



Give me on-ly Your love and Your grace: that's e-



nough for me. Your love and Your grace



are e-nough for me.

Verse 2



2. Take, Lord, re-ceive all I have and pos-sess.



You have giv-en all to me; now I re-turn it.

Verse 3



3. Take, Lord, re-ceive, all is Yours now; dis-



pose of it, whol-ly ac-cord-ing to Your will.

CASE STUDY 1: Maria works as the spiritual Director for the parish. A new priest has been assigned pastor of the parish and he and Maria are not getting along very well. Maria senses that she threatens Fr. Joe. He is constantly doing little things to antagonize her. For example he “forgets” to tell her about meetings that she should be attending. He turns off the parking lot lights as soon as one of her hosted events end, even before she is able to close up and get to her car. He is late or does not show up for meetings that she schedules with him.

She has tried to talk with him about it but he is confrontational and accuses her of thinking she is holier and better than everyone else because she goes to regular retreats. He also has stopped saying daily Mass in the parish because it interferes with his golf schedule.

Fr. Joe is an older priest who is close to retirement and he seems disillusioned and bitter. He believes that he has earned the right to do what he pleases and that there are not that many people who come to daily Mass any way so what’s the big deal. Parishioners have started coming to Maria with stories of how unapproachable Fr. Joe is and how he is not meeting some of their spiritual needs. He is not around to schedule weddings and baptisms and quinceañaras. Maria is concerned that Fr. Joe is harming the parish by his attitude. She does not know what to do. She has tried again to speak with Fr. Joe but he is not interested in what she has to say.

Maria has come to you because she thinks that the only way to handle the situation is to write to the Bishop and tell him what is going on in the parish. She is aware that the Bishop will give any letter she writes to him to Fr. Joe so that he can respond to the accusations. This will lead to worsening her relationship with Fr. Joe. But Maria honestly thinks that it is time for Fr. Joe to retire from parish ministry and even perhaps get help rekindling his calling as a priest. Maria wants your guidance in how to handle this situation and to help her discern if in fact Fr. Joe has a problem or if there is only something personal going on between her and Fr. Joe.

CASE STUDY 2: Diane has been coming to you for direction for several years. She is in her mid-sixties. She is a cradle Catholic who has a good prayer life, she attends daily Mass frequently and she goes to confession fairly regularly. She is married, has two grown children, and four grandchildren. When she comes today she tells you that she is tired of trying to be more spiritual. Nothing seems to be improving and as everyone always says, WE cannot do anything to get to heaven. God does the work. She further argues that her husband does not spend much time on his spiritual life, rarely goes to confession, and only occasionally attends daily Mass with her and he seems to be doing just fine. Why should she keep on trying so hard?

She is finding herself distracted at Mass. She is not sure if she goes for the Eucharist or to see some of her friends who get together after Mass and go to breakfast or coffee. She is disillusioned and everything about the spiritual life seems lack luster and dull.

She has been reading the Diary of St. Faustina and she realizes that she does not have that kind of relationship with Christ. She even wonders if it is possible to have such a relationship with Him. What is wrong with her that she cannot develop that personal friendship with Christ? When she began spiritual direction several years ago she was so on fire and things seemed to get better but now she cannot see that she has made any progress at all.

She has come to you to help her decide whether she should just go back to being a simple “practicing Catholic” and forget about all this spiritual growth stuff or stay with it and “hope” that it will get better.

January, 2017

Cecelia, a middle aged woman and cradle Catholic seeks spiritual direction to help her discern leaving her church, St. Gregory. Cecelia is a faithful and prayerful Catholic who varies her prayer between the Divine Office and Lectio Divina. She is a trained musician, however, it is not her vocation, and has been singing in choirs (school, university, and community) since she could stand on two feet. Recently, she had to move to a different part of the country for a job opportunity. In her former parish, she sang almost two masses per weekend for years, one mass with the "professional musicians" where they would sing cantatas and motets for the prelude music and again with a 50-plus full choir at the high mass. The music director of her former parish was a professional composer and would often compose new music for each season of the church which kept everyone challenged and involved in the music ministry. She even enjoyed singing Gregorian chant mass (once/month) for a couple of years to "mix things up". Her current parish choir consists of about 10 mature, dedicated people who try very hard to support the liturgy with beautiful music (predominantly from the 1870's, 1880's, 1970's, 1980's) most of which does not encourage the congregation to join in and sing. To Cecelia, singing in the choir on the weekends is the most depressing activity of her week, when celebrating mass should be the most uplifting event of a Catholic's week (which it was for Cecelia for 15 years). She has tried other mass times at St. Gregory's and believes that St. Gregory himself is probably turning over in his grave, covering his ears, crying and praying. Should she use weekend mass as a penance? Please help her discern or send money to support the StGregsmusicministry.com.