

Spiritual Direction training notes

March 11, 2017

Spiritual Check-In

Article Pt One (Tetlow handout from last month)

What do we do with someone who is not in tune with the Gospel?

- What would Ignatius say?
- decision: Can I work with them?
 - if not Catholic? If not “conformed” to “mainstream Catholicism”?
 - cannot reasonably choose to deal only with people whose worldviews are the same as yours
 - “know your biases”
 - bishop expects Catholic spiritual directors in Tyler to be “orthodox”, holding faithfully to teachings of the Church
- when in disagreement on Church teaching (with a non-Catholic)
 - gently guide them in the Church’s teaching
 - they have the freedom to believe what they choose
 - may not be able to continue spiritual direction with them

Spiritual Conversation allows the director to enter more fully into the dialogue

As Catholics, we have a certain **worldview**. If a directee has a different worldview, we must respect that.

How do we deal with/listen for contrary beliefs and worldviews?

- what is their “image of God”?
- help them know they are loved

We listen for things that indicate “going off the path” (“*how’s that working out for you?*”)

Worldviews change with different stages of life. We plant seeds that may eventually take root and grow.

It is a challenge to see Christ in everyone. They are asking, knocking, seeking - what Christ calls all of us to do. How can we be present for them?

BREAK

Case Study: Zachary (from Tetlow handout p18/19)

- dossier?
- want to know more about previous spiritual direction
- what is he really looking for in spiritual direction?

- image of God
- comment about Real Presence? (avoidance?)
 - how to respond?
 - catechesis?
 - books, resources?
 - the Bible (last supper)

Important not to plant suggestions/ideas in directee's mind
 - ask "What do you feel" not "Do you feel _____?"

LUNCH

Role Play

Susan/Manny

Ralph/Charles - "you've lost that loving feeling" (what's changed?)

BREAK

Tetlow handout Pt Two

p20 par1 "Consequently, the spiritual guide listens for each one's "mind and heartset," since each person uniquely applies to their life and self the worldview we share in common."

p20 par5 "Who are we?"

- need to recognize selves as community
- we tend to be of a different mindset, western not middle-eastern (community)

Words are critical.

p21 par2 "Christian spirituality functions in the whole of a person's life, characterizing not only thoughts and beliefs, but also actions and motivations. Of course, spirituality takes expression in prayer. But it is understood first of all by looking at what we do."

p20 "What's really going on in the world?"

- evolution of the reign of God
- we are co-creating that reign

Case Study: Yolanda (Tetlow p21)