

A wooden cross is positioned on the right side of the image, extending from the bottom towards the top. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# CREATING A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER

ENCOUNTER  
MISSION  
JOURNAL

# Encounter Mission Journal

## Session 1

*Called to a Loving Encounter with Jesus in the Church*

### Reflect

How did Session 1 prepare you to be a missionary disciple?

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What was the most important thing you learned in this session?

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To whom is Jesus leading you to reach out?

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*The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. (EG. 24)*



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# Encounter Mission Journal

## Session 1

### Engage

**Missionary Action:** Reach out to someone in the periphery.

#### The Periphery

What is a periphery? Places where our sisters and brothers are vulnerable, excluded, treated as outsiders, living in fear, ignored, or invisible. Those in the periphery could also include people who are displaced, hurt or jaded, angry and frustrated, lonely, empty, isolated and looking for more.

#### Missionary Action

As a missionary disciple, called to accompany others in a journey of faith, discern where you encounter those on the periphery. How do you recognize Christ within them?

For this missionary action, pray about and reach out somehow to an individual who may be on the periphery. This could be someone in your neighborhood who is lonely and isolated for one reason or another. It could be someone you learn about who is struggling with fear or uncertainty. It could be a worn-down healthcare professional who just needs a friendly person to listen. Maybe the periphery exists within certain demographics of the community like young people who are asking deeper questions about their lives and futures.

When you reach out, introduce yourself and explain that you are involved with an Encounter process with your Church. Explain to them that this process involves you connecting with someone to learn from and gain insight from experiences and wisdom. This is not an interview! Use the prompts below to help facilitate a conversation. You do not have to exhaust all the questions. Focus on a couple that you feel comfortable with. Offer support and prayers for the individual you connect with and ask how they are. Focus on them...actively and attentively listen with empathy. Share in their joy as they open up about blessings in their lives. Listen with compassion as they share their struggles. Don't be quick to offer feedback.

If you reach out to someone and they are hesitant to engage, don't push for a response. Ask if they have anything they would like you to pray for in your personal prayers and wish them blessings.



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# Encounter Mission Journal

## Session 1

### Engage (Cont.)

Prompts to consider:

- Can you tell me about a blessing in your life? How does that shape who you are?
- How has this pandemic been most challenging for you?
- When you feel isolated and even hopeless, where do you turn for strength in perseverance?
- What are your hopes and dreams?
- What are your worries?
- Has faith been a part of your life lately? If yes, what does that look like?
- Where do you find nourishment in the relationships you have with others?

After they answer try to learn why. Do not judge or react to their responses. Just listen. Do not try to convince them of anything. Your presence in the conversation (however that takes place) should simply radiate the welcoming, inviting and captivating joy of Christ. **These conversation need only last 10-15 minutes**, but as you connect and dialogue, allow the God's Spirit to control the flow of the conversation.

When you are done, thank them for their time and ask if you can stay in touch. When you are finished with your conversation, jot down some notes in the DISCERN & WRITE section below.

### Discern and Write

What insights or ideas come up after your first conversation?

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What surprised you? How were you nurtured by the conversation?

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# Encounter Mission Journal

## Encounter Prayer

God of infinite Mercy,  
you sent your Risen Son  
to encounter the disciples on the way to Emmaus.  
Grant us today a missionary spirit  
and send us forth to encounter  
our sisters and brothers:

to walk with them in friendship,  
to listen to their hopes and dreams  
with compassion,  
and to proclaim your Word with courage,  
so that they might come to know you once again  
in the breaking of the Bread.

Make us all missionary disciples, and stay with us always,  
as we seek to share the joy of the Gospel  
with people of all generations,  
from every race, language, culture, and nation.

We ask you this with burning hearts,  
filled with the Holy Spirit,  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and through the loving intercession of  
our Blessed Mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Star of the New Evangelization in the Americas.  
Amen.



Mary, Star of the New Evangelization  
Mount Angel Abbey