



A Flourishing Apostolic Church

Group Reflection Questions

Part I

- Can you identify times in your life when you have placed your trust in Jesus and found comfort and peace? What was that experience like?
- How can we encourage loved ones facing suffering to draw near to Jesus?
- How have you come to understand the Paschal mystery?
In what ways has the Paschal mystery filled your life?

Part II

- Would you describe your relationship with God as a friendship? How so, or why not?
- What do you think of the bishop's idea to add a daily Mass to your schedule once a week?
- Who have been the models of faith in your own life? How have they shared faith with you?

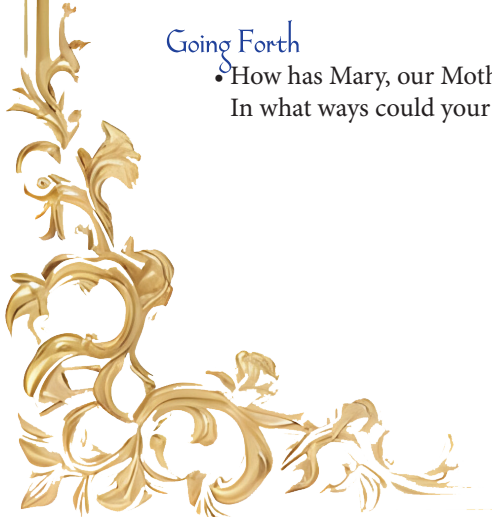
Part III

- Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary disciple?
How could you fill that role?
What could that look like in your life?
- What tangible or emotional space might you create for yourself to make time for daily prayer?
- What are some ways that we can begin to "look like Jesus?"
- Living a sacramental life is also recognizing God's grace through tangible things.
How does your celebration of the Sacraments of the Church help you to recognize God's grace all around you?

Part IV

- How can we get the message of Jesus and his Gospel out into our communities in a way that is authentic, orthodox, and inviting?
- How might we best show love to those presently not drawn to the church?
- What is your experience of worship?
What are some ways that you could enter more fully, with your whole heart, into the worship of your community?
- What are your own first steps to live out the mission described by Bishop Malesic?

Going Forth

- How has Mary, our Mother, been a part of your life?
In what ways could your mission be influenced by her intercession and guidance?
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Individual Reflection Questions

Part I

- When you have experienced suffering, what has been your response to God? Have you cried out to Him? Railed in anger at Him? Asked Him to draw near? Or have you not even thought of Him?
- Have you had an experience of the Lord drawing close to you during a time of suffering? What was that experience like for you?
- Who are people in your life who have been Christ's presence for you when you have been in suffering situations and how did they help you into those moments of resurrection?

Part II

- What is your own relationship with God like?
How did that come to be? How do you share your relationship with others?
- How is your prayer life? What, how, when do you pray? What can you do to commit to more time with God in prayer? (Something concrete, which is attainable in your current life situation.)
- When was the last time you went to the Sacrament of Reconciliation? How was that experience?
- Have you taken time in silence with the Lord? Have you ever just sat with Jesus in the quiet and allowed the Holy Spirit to move? Could you take one minute now?

Part III

- Are you part of a small faith community at your parish? If so, what is that like?
If not, would you like to be? How do you think you could find one with which to participate?
- Have you ever shared your story of faith with someone? What was that experience like?
Do you think you could do so in the future?
- What do you think silence could bring to your life?
How might silence in your prayer change your conversation with God?

Part IV

- How can you glorify the Lord by your life?
- What is your mission?
- How can your own discipleship encourage others to enter or continue the journey of faith?
What are some practical ways you can share your experience?

Going Forth

- How has Mary, our Mother, been a part of your life?
In what ways could your mission be influenced by her intercession and guidance?



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Deeper Reflection Questions

Part I

- What example do you see in those closest to you of them dying to self?
What ways are you called to die to self?
- What obstacles might be in the way of you believing that Jesus will never leave you alone?
- Have you ever experienced a time of conversion (of dying and rising with Christ) that helped you to recognize God's love for you in your heart? What was that experience like for you?

Part II

- What things supplant our friendship with God? What do I put in the way of developing a more intimate relationship with God?
- What deaths, joys, fears, sorrows or worries might you most like to share with God today?
- What did you hear in response from God when you shared those things with God?

Part III

- How might you begin to tell your story?
Can you write a good outline of your current relationship with God?
- Take some time now to think through your own story of God's action in your life, perhaps through the lens of the Stations of the Cross.
- Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary disciple? In what ways do you live out your discipleship? How might that be developed into your personal mission?

Part IV

- Where is the Lord sending you on mission within our diocese?
- How might our deaneries best evangelize others?
How can we "get outside the doors" to be a sign of Christ's love in our community?
- How does your own experience of Jesus lead you to a spirit of generosity and love of others?
What do you need in order to lean into serving others?

Going Forth

- How has Mary, our Mother, been a part of your life?
In what ways could your mission be influenced by her intercession and guidance?
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