

Lent 2014: March 16 - 22

Parish Small Community experience : Week 3

(maximum 2 hours... but it can be less)

1. Welcome.....greet the members of your group. Play a few minutes of quiet music, and be still in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

2. Introductions: Let us briefly share where we might have seen the hand of God this week. Where did I see His Presence? 2 minutes each person

3. We will do things a little different this lenten season. We will read sections of the Exhortation by Pope Francis, entitled: "Evangelii Gaudium". It is long, and we cannot read everything. We will read 2 or 3 excerpts each week. Read one section at a time. Here is what we will do:

a) Read the first excerpt. Do NOT comment on it. Be still and think for a minute or two. (the text is found on internet.... or we can copy it for you)

b) Reread the excerpt. Then, each person takes a moment to mention one word, or brief sentence which touched them. No comments... just mention the word. Do NOT rush. When someone speaks, take the time to absorb what they said. Then the next person can speak.

c) Begin now to share on what this passage meant to you. Give everyone a chance to share their thoughts. NO debates please. Just share your thoughts.

d) When you have finished, go to the next excerpt and do the same thing. Watch the time, so as not to go too long.

EXCERPTS for this week a) E.G #7 and 8 (together) (I realize we did 7 last time, but it is important to repeat to understand #8)

b) E.G # 9 and #10

(Last half hour.....)

4. Now read the gospel for Sunday. Discuss the text briefly. What is the image of "water" all about?

Gospel John 4: 5 - 42

5. Before leaving, think about how to put what was discussed today, into action..... either individually, or as a small community. Perhaps you can do something together.

6. Time of community prayer together... Pray for the needs you are aware of... then 'Our Father'