

## Lent 2014: March 23 - 29

### Parish Small Community experience : Week 4 .....

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

**1. Welcome.....** Let us be in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

**2. Introductions:** What was a special event of this week? What might have been difficult to carry this week? Please be brief

**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 #11** (Christ is forever young!!)

**b) E.G # 12** (God always initiates)

**c) E.G. # 13** (memory is SO important in the spiritual life, in order to deepen gratitude: Who has touched me? Where did God touch me?)

**(Last half hour.....)**

**4. Now** read the gospel for Sunday, and the first reading. Take some brief time to comment on the scriptures together, if you have time.

Gospel John 9: 1 – 41 (the man receives sight. The leaders gradually become blind)

**5. Before leaving,** take a few moments to think how to bring sight to someone... to see the beauty of life! Perhaps you can do something together as a small community.

**6. Time of community prayer together...** spontaneous prayer of thanks for memories.. God's gifts