

## Small Community Advent 2014

### Week 4 – Dec. 7 to 13

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

#### 1. **Greeting**

**Play three minutes of quiet, meditative music. Let's be still.**

#### 2. **Introduction:**

Let us share those moments where we have witnessed signs of God's presence in our lives since our last meeting. If I was attentive to the people around through whom God makes His presence known, and if I took the time to notice the events that were shaping my days, I am certain that I "could see" in them God winking at me. It is this vigilance in my heart, which, through my faith, allows me to realize that God is present and that His presence IS love. In this second week of advent, John the Baptist's voice announces to us the imminent Coming of the Messiah in our lives.

#### 3. **Lectio Divina**

a) Gospel according to Saint Mark 1; 1-8

b) A reading from the second letter of Saint Peter Apostle 3; 8-14

The prophet Isaiah had announced it before. The Lord sends His messenger before him in the person of John the Baptist: *A voice cries in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* We are invited to convert our hearts while waiting for His Coming. Therefore, let's lead a holy live to welcome Him with respect and dignity!

1. *Read the Lectio Divina guide, before reading the bible text.*

(I prefer people use their own bibles, rather than us copying a text)

2. *Do the Lectio Divina*

#### 4. **After the "lectio" is ended and while participants are thinking about their service, play some peaceful, meditative, inspirational CD of music.**

#### 5. **Time of community prayer together**

Start with an "Our Father".

Take a moment of silence to decide in your heart what intention you will be praying for. Finish with one decade of the rosary: one Our Father; ten Hail Mary; one Glory to the Father.

#### 6. **Have someone reads the contemplation for the week (no discussion, just reading)**

## Contemplation on "Watching" – Week 4

The thought of what Christ is, must not obliterate from the mind the thought of what He was; and faith is always sorrowing with Him while it rejoices. And the same union of opposite thoughts is impressed on us in Holy Communion, in which we see Christ's death and resurrection together, at one and the same time; we commemorate the one, we rejoice in the other; we make an offering, and we gain a blessing.

We are not simply to believe, but to watch; not simply to love, but to watch; not simply to obey, but to watch; to watch for what? for that great event, Christ's coming. Whether then we consider what is the obvious meaning of the word, or the Object towards which it directs us, we seem to see a special duty enjoined on us, such as does not naturally come into our minds. Most of us have a general idea what is meant by believing, fearing, loving, and obeying; but perhaps we do not contemplate or apprehend what is meant by watching.

Christ foretold His first coming, yet He took His Church by surprise when He came; much more will He come suddenly the second time, and overtake men, now that He has not measured out the interval before it, as then He did, but left our watchfulness to the keeping of faith and love.

This then is to watch; to be detached from what is present, and to live in what is unseen; to live in the thought of Christ as He came once, and as He will come again; to desire His second coming, from our affectionate and grateful remembrance of His first.

Excerpt of Sermon 22. Watching – Cardinal John Henry Newman