

Session 4: Taking Stock & Moving Forward (Pg127 – 130)

Remember to have one of the leaders to keep track of the time throughout the meeting. (Around 10 minutes until Discernment Sharing)

- One of the leaders will Welcome everyone back to Session 4.
- If there is a new member in the group, have them introduce themselves and ask them to share the charism they are experimenting with.
- Remind everyone of the Ground Rules:
 - Confidentiality: what is shared in the group remains with the entire group.
 - It is not appropriate for any members to discuss what someone shared amongst themselves outside of the group.
 - Participation: Everyone is expected to participate.
- Sharing feedback/insight on another's experiment can help them clarify, see things they may not have noticed or make critical adjustments
- Stay on topic
- Leading is the Holy Spirit's role; group leaders facilitate
- Remind everyone about the Purpose of these meetings: To help each member of the group fruitfully discern whether or not they have a particular charism.

This week's final session will focus on the progress they have made in discerning their charism and how they will use God's gifts to help build the Kingdom of God.

Read the Opening Prayer (led by the one of the co-leaders):

Take a moment to place yourself in God's presence. Ask for the grace to be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your experiment.

God has created me to do him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission – I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

Somehow, I am necessary for His purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his – if, indeed, I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work; I am a link in the chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

Therefore I will trust him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him: in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him: if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness or perplexity or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain...He knows what He is about. Saint John Henry Newman.

Discernment Discussion Sharing from Taking Stock & Moving Forward pg 128
(Time: 45 – 60 minutes)

- Ask everyone to think of the charism they chose when this journey began.
- How has your understanding of this charism changed or evolved over the past four sessions?
- Has your experience confirmed or made you doubt that you have been given this charism?
- Ask whether they have become aware of other charisms that they might not have been unaware of previously? What are they?

- Ask whether or how each member can see how the Charisms they have been given could be used in their vocation?
- See whether there are areas in which these possible charisms could be used in the world outside the Parish?

After everyone has had a chance to speak, prepare to conclude the meeting. Take a moment to express your gratitude for the time, energy and commitment that the group has shown throughout the process. And how important they work that they have done and will continue to do on their life's journey will help build the Kingdom of God.

Group Leaders Note: If you have identified any members of your group who have demonstrated a charism for becoming part of this ministry team, please take the initiative to personally invite them to consider joining.

One of the co-leaders will read the Closing Prayer for Community Discernment:

Lord Jesus, you are the life of our community. You save us and lead us in right paths. You established the church to be Your body in the world, to carry Your work forward and bestow your grace through the sacraments. Holy One, you are Lord of the Gifts.

Today we ask you to revive and unleash the power our parish has received so often in the sacraments. We ask that the charisms you've given to members of our community would emerge and become visible, that you help us support and nurture each other as we discern and exercise our spiritual gifts.

That together with you, we may become a channel of God's mercy and love for the individuals, the neighborhood, the city and the nation in which you have placed us. When you called, even Lazarus awoke. Call our community, Lord, and unite us to your loving purposes. Amen