



## Spring 2021, Gathering #2 March 15

### **Small Group Discussion:**

1. *“The invitation Jesus gave to the two disciples to “come and see” is an eternal call, an occasion for our invitation to come and see the glory of Jesus at the Father’s right hand. God is eternally fresh and alive. It can happen that we grow stale by force of routine, at which point we need to enter again the freshness and vivid life of God’s call.” (page 33)*  
Our marriages can grow stale by force of routine. How do you keep your marriage fresh, growing, and vibrant? How can you as a couple keep your prayer life/faith journey fresh and alive?
2. *“Trust contains an element of both faith and charity, yet it is distinct from both... The foundation of trust is faith in God’s real, present, and active involvement in all things, no matter how small. Trust means believing that ‘in everything God works for good with those who love him’ (Rom 8:28).” (page 42)*  
What can you do to encourage and foster a complete trust from and in your spouse? What can you do as a person and as a couple to increase your authentic trust in Jesus? Consider your communication as a couple and your openness and receptivity to mutual vulnerability.
3. *“The power of his Cross present in the Eucharist gives us the power to carry our crosses. The greatest expression of his love leads us to the greatest expression of our love. The whole of our lives is a living continuation of the Eucharist – not ours, but his.” (page 48)*  
The Eucharist is the ultimate sacrifice of love, and marriage requires a great deal of self-sacrifice. How is your marriage an expression of Eucharistic love - “a living continuation of the Eucharist?” Think about this in terms of you personally, as a married couple, as parents within your family, and to the greater community.
4. *“The gift we have received is not to remain fruitless, bottled up within ourselves; it must overflow to others. ‘Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give’ (Mt 10:8). Just as Jesus is loved by the Father and loves us in turn, so we are to continue the same expanding cycle, allowing the Son in the Spirit to love through us.” (page 75)*  
Just as the Son loves us with total abandonment, how do you show unconditional love toward your spouse? What does unconditional love look like on a day-to-day basis within your marriage? As we are to expand Jesus’ love, how do you and your spouse go forth to bring love beyond your home?

## **Take Home Questions:**

1. *At the crucifixion, all of Jesus' disciples are gone and Mary is initially alone. "Finally, John arrives. He had at first run away like the others but he overcomes his weakness and makes his way back to Our Lady... In Mary, he found a love, a strength, a serenity that surpassed and sustained his own." (page 57)*  
Can you think of a time when your own personal weakness was setting in, but you "arrived" and came back to be a disciple of Jesus, a loving spouse, or devoted parent? How was your spouse a supportive partner and advocate in this situation?
2. *With practice of performing little things with great love, the call to satiate the thirst of Christ is always within reach... Humble works of love become beautiful as the sign and the witness of the love and thirst of Christ. (page 65)*  
We can serve Jesus' thirst by serving others. Tell your spouse of three "little things" they did with great love in the past week that really impacted you. Have you thought of these acts as serving Jesus' thirst? How could you better practice performing little things with great love and satiate the thirst of Christ as a spouse, couple, and family?