

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO
Called to Lead!

Renew My Church Retreat Guide
Wave 3 – June 22, 2019

Welcome and Prayer

Thank You

“If thank you is the only prayer you ever say, it will have been sufficient.” *Meister Eckhart*

Grace

“I don’t much understand the Mystery of Grace – I do know that she meets us where we are, and she doesn’t leave us where she found us.” *Anne Lamott*

- Hail Mary, full of grace ... Hello Renew My Church, full of grace.
- Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your Divine love. Send forth Your Spirit, and we shall contribute to the renewal, healing, and refreshment of the Church and her people.

Gift: The Paschal Mystery

Common understanding of the Paschal Mystery

Quiz: Jesus ____ for our ____, and as a result we were ____.

- Significant rupture between God and humanity.
- Significant rupture demands significant response.
- Paschal Mystery: Four BIG days in Jesus’ life
 - *Holy Thursday*
 - Memorable feast that we are still talking about
 - Poignant, tender, symbolic
 - Stories were told, feet washed, bread blessed broken and shared, a plea to be remembered issued
 - Betrayal
 - *Good Friday*
 - Suffering ... and more suffering, on our behalf
 - *Holy Saturday*
 - Entombed
 - Dead
 - Waiting
 - *Easter Sunday*
 - Jesus rises, assumes his place at the right hand of the Father, and ... ‘puts in a good word for us’

- *Atonement Theology*: ‘Jesus died for our sins and as a result, we were saved.’ Jesus’ suffering and death atoned for the rupture in our relationship with God, and thus we were once again afforded access to God.

The Paschal Mystery from an alternative perspective

- The Paschal Mystery is the way of love ... the rhythm of love.
- What if we are invited by Jesus, and Life, and God in to the Paschal Mystery as FULL PARTICIPANTS
- And, what if our awkward, halting and faithful participation results in our intimately joining Jesus in Christ?
- “In and with Jesus, we believe that each of us is situated in the Love of God, and that the pattern of our life will be the pattern of Jesus – through death to resurrection.” *Jack Shea – Prayer of Belief*

Let’s take a closer look ...

Holy Thursday

- A feast hosted by a God desperate to ‘have you at the table.’
- Energy, meaning, hope, and nourishment.
- Bless us, oh Lord, for these Thy gifts.
- “The fact that you are not yet dead is not sufficient proof that you are alive.”
Bro. David Steindl-Rast
- Identify and declare your hungers.

Soul Chat: Name one significant source of Holy Thursday for you? One thing you particularly hunger for during this era of your life? One dimension of your parish life/faith community that nourishes you?

Good Friday

- Surrender, let go, relinquish.
- This is not the way I expected it to be.
- I just can’t do this anymore.
- There is an important distinction between being killed and dying – Dying demands all of our aliveness. Dying leads to new life!

Soul Chat: Name one dimension of your life that has undergone, or is undergoing Good Friday? One dimension of your parish/faith community that has undergone or is undergoing Good Friday?

Holy Saturday

- 'In-Between day' the day after Good Friday & before dawning of new life.
- The day that demands patience – not passivity, but patience.
- The day we are asked to wait in hope – for hope.
- "If you don't transform your pain, you are sure to transmit it." *Richard Rohr*
- Healing rather than curing – resurrection rather than resuscitation.
- There is no refuge from suffering, and suffering has no refuge from the deathless love that permeates suffering unexplainably, pervasively and in all directions.

Soul Chat: Name one dimension of your life that is, or has been, residing in Holy Saturday. What one dimension of your parish/faith community has 'made a visit' to Holy Saturday?

Easter Sunday

- The day that new life arrives.
- Usually a surprise – coming in a fashion that we could not have ordered, choreographed, expected or anticipated.
- Felt knowledge of Julian of Norwich's prayer: "All shall be well; all shall be well, all manner of things shall be well, because there is a force of love moving through the universe that holds us fast and will never let us go."

Soul Chat: Name one dimension of your life that is celebrating, or has celebrated, Easter? One dimension of your parish/faith community that has known Easter?

A Working Lunch ... *No Rest for the Renew My Churchers!*

You will have lunch with your parish's Renew My Church team. During that time, please:

1. Share with one another which day of the Paschal Mystery is most prevalent/poignant in your life at this juncture
2. For the remaining actions, assign someone to take notes and be prepared to share reflections within your Grouping this afternoon
3. Determine, collectively, a point of particular pride and/or gratitude that you all share with respect to your parish and her people
4. Determine which day of the Paschal Mystery is most 'at play' in the life of the parish.

Please be in your breakout session by 12:40 p.m.

Grouping Conversations ... *How we listen to one another is a sacred act*

You will gather with all the parishes in your grouping for this session. While together, and with the assistance of your facilitator, please do the following:

1. First activity: Introduce yourself to the large group by sharing (try to be economical, but not cheap -- about 1 minute per person) ...
 - Telling how long you have been affiliated with your faith community.
 - Naming a particular ministry that you are affiliated with.
 - Sharing a favorite memory from your time at the parish.
2. Second activity: Listen as each designated parish rep shares their luncheon reflection around these two questions:
 - What grace/gift does their parish offer at this time
 - Which day of the Paschal Mystery is most operative at the parish now
3. Third activity: Mingle, soul mingling that is ...
 - Find two people from other parishes and form a triad (group of three). In the group:
 - Introduce yourselves by sharing the day of the Paschal Mystery that is most prevalent in your life at this juncture.
 - Share a particular gift/charism that you are bringing to this Renew My Church enterprise.

Closing ... *Reconvene as a large group back in the Gym*

Together we will close our time and bless each other. We would appreciate your feedback on this day. Please complete the survey (the last page of this handout) before you leave. You can tear it out and turn it in as you leave and accept a simple thank you gift from us as a way to remember our time together.

We are honored to minister with you. Thank you for your presence & your commitment.

Prayers for the Renew My Church Road ...

- "Go where your best prayers take you." *Fredrick Buechner*
- "The only true gift is a portion of the self." *Ralph Waldo Emerson*
- "Always, we begin again." *St. Benedict*
- "And what is it to work with Love? It is to weave the cloth with threads from your heart ... to charge all things you fashion with a breath of your own spirit. Work is love made visible"
Kahlil Gibran
- "I came so that you might have life and have it abundantly." *Jesus of Nazareth*

For more information about Soul Play, please visit our website: SoulPlayonline.com