

WHO do you
say that I AM?



PARISH LEADERSHIP REFLECTION GUIDE

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM
ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI
TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

TO BE USED WITH PARISH & SCHOOL STAFFS AND PASTORAL COUNCILS



Cover of the Pastoral Letter –
Christ Pantocrator Icon

The cover uses the Christ Pantocrator Icon. The word Pantocrator is Greek, meaning “Ruler of All.” The image expresses the central reality of the Christian faith; the Divine Majesty of the creator and ruler of the entire world, made flesh and therefore visible to us in the person of Christ Jesus our redeemer.

This is the ‘icon of icons’. In this image of Christ Pantocrator, Jesus is presented in a half-length pose, looking directly at the viewer, with his left hand holding the Sacred Word and his right hand raised in blessing. The holding of Scripture represents that Christ the Word holds the Word. His gesture of blessing speaks of His being two natures yet one Person, and that the Trinity, though three, is one.

(Information adapted from The Printery House of Conception Abbey website)

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I. PREPARING FOR REFLECTION SESSIONS

NOTES TO FACILITATOR

Making Arrangements for Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions

(Note: The Catholic school principal is to determine the best time and format to conduct these sessions with teachers and staff.)

- The pastor, parish administrator or parish director is asked to facilitate or designate a person to facilitate two 45-minute or one 90-minute reflection session for parish staff and pastoral council members.
- The pastor, parish administrator, parish director or other parish leadership needs to decide on the actual format they want to use - two 45-minute gatherings, one 90-minute session or another option.
- The pastor, parish administrator, parish director or other parish leadership must also decide if the sessions with parish staff and parish council members will be held together or if the preference is to hold sessions specifically for parish staff members and separate ones for pastoral council members.
- The facilitator should work with the people involved in these meetings to schedule the sessions.
- It is recommended to hold the sessions in spring 2013 (now through June).
- Schools may choose to hold these sessions with teachers and staff in spring 2013 when the parish leadership gatherings will take place or in fall 2013 when parishes will be offering sessions for all parishioners.
- Archbishop ListECKI is asking parishes to hold sessions of reflection on the Pastoral Letter for all parishioners in October and November 2013. The archdiocese will provide parishes with materials and trainings needed for these sessions.
- The next two pages give additional information that will be helpful in making the necessary arrangements for the Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions. Facilitator's notes regarding leading the reflection sessions can be found on page 7.
- If you have any questions, contact **Randy Nohl** – nohlr@archmil.org; 414-758-2216 or **Rosalita Villa** – villar@archmil.org; 414-758-2217 in the John Paul II Center.

The purpose of the Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions is to:

- Give parish and school leaders an opportunity to pray about, reflect upon and discern the Pastoral Letter.
- Prepare leaders for carrying out thoughtful dialogue within their respective parishes.
- Foster thoughtful dialogue related to the Pastoral Letter through specific guiding questions.
- Provide parish and school leaders with the opportunity to understand Archbishop ListECKI's ecclesiological reflection.
- Encourage the faithful about the implications of this Pastoral Letter for Catholics in southeastern Wisconsin.

Who should be part of these gatherings?

- These sessions are intended for members of parish and school staffs, and pastoral councils.
- Parish leaders have a critical role in the upcoming months in creating awareness, excitement and understanding of this letter among their parishioners. That is why an intentional effort is being made to allow ample time for parish leaders to pray, reflect and discern the Pastoral Letter.

- Parishes can hold meetings with parish staff and pastoral council members together or can hold sessions specifically for parish staff members and separate sessions for pastoral council members.
- Parishes serving ethnic groups are recommended to include at least one person representing each of these groups (i.e. Asian Community, Black Community, Hispanic Community, etc.) in their Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions. This will provide a more diverse and wider representation of the parish.
- The Catholic school principal is to determine the best time and format to conduct these sessions with teachers and staff.

Who should lead these sessions?

- The pastor, parish administrator or parish director is responsible for making sure the reflection sessions are offered for the parish staff and pastoral council.
- The pastor, parish administrator or parish director should either lead these sessions or designate someone to facilitate them.
- The Catholic school principal is responsible for making sure sessions are held for teachers and staff and should either lead them or designate someone to facilitate them.

How many sessions need to be held?

- To be realistic and respectful of people's time, the materials have been designed to be used as **two 45-minute sessions or one 90-minute gathering**.
- However, parish leaders are invited to be creative with formatting the materials to what works best for their parish. Some alternative options include: lengthening the time of these sessions; holding additional sessions; using this resource as the basis for a day of reflection; or designing other formats that allow for prayerful consideration of the reflection questions.

When should these gatherings be held?

- The reflection sessions are intended to be held in spring 2013 (now through June).
- If the spring 2013 timeframe doesn't work for a school, they can hold these sessions in fall 2013. Parishes will be offering gatherings for all parishioners at that time.

What happens once these meetings are completed and how do these parish leadership sessions tie into the proposed 2014 synod?

- A timeline including future tasks and responsibilities appears on the next page.
- Some may be wondering "what is a synod?" - A diocesan synod is an assembly, called by the bishop, where he gathers together ordained and lay

leaders from throughout the diocese for deliberating on the pastoral needs of the diocese. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Synod would be a Spirit-led process to provide a framework and direction for the Church of southeastern Wisconsin through 2025.

What is Archbishop ListECKI's hope for this Pastoral Letter?

- A quote from Archbishop ListECKI regarding the Pastoral Letter and the possibility of a synod appears below. See the entire article from the *Catholic Herald* at: <http://chnonline.org/news/local/11970-theological-lens-for-viewing-life-ministries-in-archdiocese>
- "As we contemplate the possibility of an archdiocesan synod, it is our hope that this pastoral letter will serve as a theological lens through which the life and ministries of the archdiocese will be viewed. We will do so understanding that the church is rooted in a mystery that is leading us to lives of personal holiness, mindful that the church could not carry on or fulfill her obligations without acknowledging, and embracing the mystery that is at the heart of her existence."

Who do we contact if we have any questions?

- Contact **Randy Nohl**, nohlr@archmil.org; 414-758-2216 or **Rosalita Villa**, villar@archmil.org; 414-758-2217 in the John Paul II Center if you have any questions or need further information.

AT A GLANCE TIMELINE

Who Do You Say That I Am?

The schedule below provides a timeline including Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions and the overall process.

DATE	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
Spring 2013 (Now–June)	Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions for parish staff and pastoral council members • Sessions for Catholic school teachers and staff 	Pastor, Parish Administrator, Parish Director or designated person to facilitate these sessions Catholic school principals will determine the best time to hold reflection sessions with teachers and staff (spring or fall 2013)
June 2013	Set dates and begin the planning for parish gatherings in October - November 2013 to reflect on the Pastoral Letter	Designate 3-5 people to take care of necessary planning <i>Archdiocese will provide material and training</i>
August 2013	Recruit Small Group Facilitators for the October - November parish gatherings <i>Parish staff and pastoral council members who took part in the spring leadership sessions would be ideal small group leaders</i>	Designated planning team (see June 2013) coordinates recruitment of small group leaders
October-November 2013	Hold Parish/Cluster Reflection Sessions based on Pastoral Letter for all parishioners	Designated planning team (see June 2013) to coordinate these sessions <i>Archdiocese will provide materials and training</i>
February-March 2014	District Gatherings to dialogue on future visions and initiatives for parishes and the archdiocese	Parish to designate representatives to attend districts sessions <i>Archdiocese will provide materials and training</i> <i>More information to follow</i>
June 6-8, 2014 Pentecost Weekend	Possible Archdiocesan Synod <i>Delegates gather to finalize future visions and initiatives and begin to develop a plan for implementation</i>	Archdiocese will provide materials and training <i>More information to follow</i>

II. PARISH LEADERSHIP REFLECTION SESSIONS

To be realistic and respectful of people's time, the materials have been designed to be used as two 45-minute sessions or one 90-minute gathering. However, parish leaders are invited to be creative with formatting the materials to what works best for their parish. Some alternative options include: lengthening the time of these sessions, holding additional sessions, using this resource as the basis for a day of reflection, or designing other formats that allow for prayerful consideration of the reflection questions.

NOTES TO FACILITATOR Leading Reflection Sessions

- The outlines for the two reflections sessions are found on pages 8-18.
- Prior to the sessions, the person facilitating them needs to review:
 - Pastoral Letter, *Who Do You Say That I Am?* – sections noted in session outlines
 - Videos on www.archmil.org – videos noted in the session outlines
 - Material in the session outlines, especially the “Highlights from the Pastoral Letter” and the “Questions for Reflection” – pages 9-18 of this booklet
- The facilitators should ask the participants to review these materials as well.
- An option for session one is that the group could watch some or all of the videos together. Bishop Sklba’s video gives a very good overview of the Pastoral Letter. If you use this video, please allow at least 60 minutes for this gathering rather than 45 minutes.
- It is the facilitator’s responsibility to lead the prayer, direct the discussion using the reflection questions in this guide and keep the discussion on track.
- The facilitator should also keep an eye on the time and make sure the session stays within the agreed upon time. More discussion time or reflection sessions can be added if the group agrees to it.
- You may find too many reflection questions are listed for the amount of time you have for discussion. As facilitator, use your judgment regarding which reflection questions fit best for your situation.
- You are welcome to formulate other questions if you think they would better address the content of the Pastoral Letter and what you want to discuss with your parish leaders.
- Contact **Randy Nohl**, nohlr@archmil.org; 414-758-2216 or **Rosalita Villa**, villar@archmil.org; 414-758-2217 if you have questions.

Session One

(45 minutes)

Prior to the Session

- Review the Introduction and The Church as Mystery sections in the Pastoral Letter, *Who Do You Say That I Am?*.
- Watch videos on www.archmil.org of Archbishop ListECKI's overview of the Pastoral Letter, Bishop Sklba's discussion of the main theological points in the Letter, and Bishop Hying's reflections on how the Pastoral Letter connects with evangelization and the Year of Faith.
- Review the "Highlights from the Pastoral Letter" and "Questions for Prayerful Reflection" for Session One - Introduction and The Church as Mystery.

Prayer for Opening the Reflection Session

- V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
- R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
- V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray together:

O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always to rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

(20 minutes)

The thumbnail shows the title page of the 'Introduction' section of a pastoral letter. The title is 'A PASTORAL LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP JEROME EDWARD LISTCKI TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE'. Below the title, there are several columns of text and two small photographs. One photo shows a group of people in religious vestments, and the other shows a close-up of a golden chalice. The page is numbered '4' in the bottom left and '5' in the bottom right.

Highlights from the Introduction of the Pastoral Letter

Review prior to the session

- “Who do you say that I am?” – Jesus asked this question to his closest followers at Caesarea Philippi, a region with a wide variety of cults, temples, and religious diversity.
- Similarly today, we live in a highly secular culture influenced by individualism, relativism and subjectivism. It is also a culture where people are in search of “something more.” In the midst of this culture, we are asked by Jesus, “Who do you say that I am?”
- Peter’s openness to the gift of the Faith allows him to see Jesus as the Messiah, true God and true man.
- It is the Church who protects the confession made by St. Peter, reveals Jesus to the world and promotes

and protects the deposit of the Faith. There is no authentic freelance Christianity. “Without His Church, there is no Christ.”

- We are in the Year of Faith which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, 20th anniversary of the Catechism and could lead us into an Archdiocesan Synod.
- The true meaning of Vatican II “was and remains faith in Christ, the Apostolic Faith animated by the inner desire to communicate Christ to individuals and all people.” (Pope Benedict XVI)
- Through our belief in the Incarnation and Resurrection, we can uncover the meaningfulness of our existence and understand the world around us.

Questions for Prayerful Reflection on the Introduction

- **Who do you say that I am?**
 - ~ Jesus asks his closest followers, “Who do you say that I am?”
 - » **When in my life have I faced that challenging question?**
 - » **How do I answer the question today?**
- **What is a central thought from the Introduction of the Pastoral Letter you would like to highlight?**

Questions for Prayerful Reflection on The Church as Mystery

- ***What is a significant point for you regarding The Church as Mystery from the Pastoral Letter?***
- **Mystery, Transformation and Growing in Faith**
 - ~ “The Church is mystery” and mystery is something to be contemplated, lived, valued and is a source of endless wonder. It moves us to seek a deeper truth.
 - » ***In my journey of faith, when have I experienced the mystery and beauty of the Church?***
 - » ***How have I seen the power of God’s love at work in the trials and tragedies of my own life? In times of joy, awe and wonder?***
- ***Is there anything else from the Pastoral Letter or the video presentations by Archbishop Listecky, Bishop Sklba or Bishop Hying that has not been brought up that you would like to mention before we close this session?***

Wrap-Up of Session One

(5 minutes)

- Close with spontaneous prayers of intercession based on your discussion and respond “Come Holy Spirit” to each prayer. Conclude the prayers with:
 - V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
 - R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
 - V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
 - R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Session Two

(45 minutes)

Prior to the Session

- Review The Church as Sacrament, The Church as Communion, and Mary, Mother of the Church sections in the Pastoral Letter, *Who Do You Say That I Am?*.
- Review video on www.archmil.org of Bishop Sklba on the main theological points in the Pastoral Letter – especially the sections on The Church as Sacrament, The Church as Communion and Mary, Mother of the Church.
- Review the “Highlights from the Pastoral Letter” and “Questions for Prayerful Reflection” for Session Two - The Church as Sacrament, The Church as Communion and Mary, Mother of the Church.

Prayer for Opening the Reflection Session

(This can be omitted if the reflection and discussion session is one 90-minute gathering as opposed to two 45-minute sessions)

- V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
- R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
- V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray together:

O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit, help us to know what is truly right and always to rejoice in your consolation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

THE CHURCH AS SACRAMENT

(15 minutes)

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Many of us are familiar with the traditional definition of "Sacrament" as a physical act which brings God's grace to the person. In the Catholic Church, the Sacraments are the visible signs of God's grace, which are instituted by Christ and have been entrusted to the Church. The Sacraments are the visible signs of God's grace, which are instituted by Christ and have been entrusted to the Church. The Sacraments are the visible signs of God's grace, which are instituted by Christ and have been entrusted to the Church.

The Second Vatican Council recovered an ancient image of the Catholic Church as "sacramentum;" which translates in English as mystery and sacrament. "The church is a mystery because she is a sacrament."

It is precisely because of this that the Holy Spirit of the Church's annual celebration of the Eucharist, which is the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, is the sacrament of the Church's sacrament. The Sacraments are the visible signs of God's grace, which are instituted by Christ and have been entrusted to the Church.





Highlights from The Church as Sacrament of the Pastoral Letter

Review prior to the session

- The traditional definition of a sacrament is "a sacred sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace." Sacraments point to something beyond themselves, they instruct and "lay bare, the workings of God's grace."
- The Second Vatican Council recovered an ancient image of the Catholic Church as "sacramentum;" which translates in English as mystery and sacrament. "The church is a mystery because she is a sacrament."
- The Chrism Mass represents the "full and visible array of the heavenly liturgy, in which every celebration of the Eucharist takes part."

- The history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has been rich with ethnic diversity and ethnic devotions and this remains an ongoing phenomenon today.
- The purpose of the sacraments is to "sanctify men and women, to build up the Body of Christ and to give worship to God."
- Jesus Christ is present and is actively at work through the Sacraments. "He is the one who baptizes, He is the one who acts in His sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each sacrament signifies."
- Theologian, Henri de Lubac, taught that if "Christ is the Sacrament of God," the Church is the "Sacrament of Christ." The Church makes Christ present in today's world.
- The Church's sacramentality links the visible and human side with the invisible and spiritual side. In the Church's humanity we see corruption, sinfulness, and failure. In the Church's divinity, we experience the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the universal call to holiness.
- Christians help to reveal the Church's identity as they respond to "the universal call to holiness." This can be seen in lives of "charity, justice and peace, finding individual approaches to sanctifying ordinary life."

Questions for Prayerful Reflection on The Church as Sacrament

- ***What main idea from The Church as Sacrament in the Pastoral Letter stands out for you?***

- **Sacraments and Universal Call to Holiness**

~ The Church makes Christ present in today's world and the Church's sacramentality links the human side (visible) and spiritual side (invisible). "The divine and human in the Church can never be disassociated."

- » ***How do you see the Church linking the visible and invisible and making Christ present in today's world?***

~ Jesus is truly present and at work through the sacraments and the purpose of the sacraments is to "sanctify men and women, to build up the Body of Christ and to give worship to God."

- » ***How can we as a Church help others understand the beauty and power of the sacraments and see them as a way of building up the Body of Christ?***

Questions for Prayerful Reflection on The Church as Communion

- ***What is a significant point for you regarding The Church as Communion from the Pastoral Letter?***
- **Communion with God and Others**
 - ~ Blessed John Paul II spoke of communion as being at the “heart of the Church’s self-understanding.” The Church is called to “communion with the Triune God and communion among the faithful.”

- ~ The Eucharist is the most profound expression of communion. Communion with God and communion with our brothers and sisters converge in the Eucharist and lead us to mission.
 - » ***How do I experience communion with God in the Eucharist?***
 - » ***How does the Eucharist challenge me to be in deeper communion with others and lead me to the mission of serving others?***

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

(10 minutes)

MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

In keeping with the Tradition, the Second Vatican Council emphasized the role of Mary, the Mother of the Church, in the life of the Church and the world. (Lumen 68, 82, 88, 93, 100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000)




Highlights from Mary, Mother of the Church of the Pastoral Letter

Review prior to the session

- Mary is intimately united to the Church – “she is a figure, model or archetype of the Church.”
- Mary took an “intrepid leap of faith” as she continually said “yes” and abandoned herself to divine providence.
- Mary signifies core values for us: willingness to hand over everything to follow God.

- St. John the Evangelist, the patron of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is known for having said: “Little children, love one another,” for “it is the Lord’s command, and if this only is done, it is enough.”
- As St. John received Mary into his home, the Church must also open itself to Mary and see her as “Mother of the Church.”
- This phrase alerts us to the Church as mystery and reminds us that Jesus has not left us alone. Rather, He asks us to be open and to abandon our own willfulness and to follow the lead of Mary.
- The single purpose of Salvation History was perfectly fulfilled in Mary: “To conform all men and women to the image of her Son, to make humanity Christ-like.”
- Humility may be the single most significant virtue associated with Mary. Humility involves admitting the truth about ourselves and being fully aware that even with our weakness and sinfulness, God has chosen us.

Questions for Prayerful Reflection on Mary, Mother of the Church

- ***What did you find to be a primary focus regarding Mary, Mother of The Church from the Pastoral Letter?***
- **Mary and the Call to Holiness**
 - ~ Mary perfectly models core values for us: willingness to follow God, obedience, love, humility, and discipleship.
 - ~ She also points us to the single purpose of salvation history: "To conform us to the image of her Son, to make humanity Christ-like."
 - » ***What can I learn from Mary and how can I imitate her in my life and my faith?***
 - » ***What areas of my life require more humility or a fuller openness to understanding God's will?***
- ***Is there anything else from either the Pastoral Letter or the video presentation by Bishop Sklba that has not been brought up that you would like to mention before we close this session?***

Wrap-Up of Session Two

(5 minutes)

- Close with spontaneous prayers of intercession based on your discussion and respond "Come Holy Spirit" to each prayer. Conclude the prayers with:
 - V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
 - R. And kindle in them the fire of your love.
 - V. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
 - R. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

NOTES TO FACILITATOR

What to do at the Completion of Parish Leadership Reflection Sessions

- As leaders of our Church in southeastern Wisconsin you are welcome to send comments or feedback you have following the sessions to Randy Nohl, John Paul II Center at nohlr@archmil.org.
 - It would be helpful to hear what worked well with these sessions and what could be improved, especially as you consider carrying out dialogue in your parish(es) in the fall.
 - It would also be beneficial to know some of the main topics that surfaced in your discussion. If you are willing to share your reactions to the reflection sessions, please email them to Randy.
- Archbishop ListECKI is asking parishes to hold parish sessions based on the Pastoral Letter for all parishioners in October and November, 2013. The archdiocese will provide parishes with the materials and trainings needed for these sessions.
 - Parish staff and pastoral council members who have taken part in these reflection sessions would be ideal small group leaders for the parish gatherings. Parishes will be receiving more information about these sessions and how to plan for them.
 - If you have any questions, contact **Randy Nohl**, nohlr@archmil.org; 414-758-2216 or **Rosalita Villa**, villar@archmil.org; 414-758-2217.



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