

Cursillo School of Leaders: September 2014

Background Reading: Evangelii Gaudium, Chapter 1 (Joy of the Gospel)

The Encounter

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least openness to letting him encounter them... No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.

Holy Father Francis, Evangelii Gaudium (EG), paragraph #3

Scripture: John 4:4-42

The model of the encounter – Jesus speaks to the woman at the well. (Exposition by Deacon Tim Tilghman followed by discussion questions).

- What are the essential elements in this encounter?
- If you are in the Church, it is because you have experienced an encounter as did the Samaritan woman. How have you encountered the living Christ? Through a person who loved you? In some other way?
- What would you say when asked to share the encounter – to tell your story about a person or persons who influenced your life in the Church?
- Do you believe that Christ is the living water that sustains us and brings us to eternal life? What has that living water done lately that transformed your life?

Presentation and discussion questions from the writings of Deacon Timothy Tilghman

Addendum by Deacon Tim Tilghman

From GOING TO THE WELL TO BUILD COMMUNITY (Deacon Tilghman’s book on Evangelization)

We need a Church unafraid of going forth into their night. We need a Church capable of meeting them on their way. We need a Church capable of entering into their conversation. We need a Church able to dialogue with those disciples who, having left Jerusalem behind, are wandering aimlessly along, with their own disappointment, disillusioned by a Christianity now considered barren, fruitless soil, incapable of generating any meaning.

Pope Francis, July 2013 Meeting with Bishops of Brazil

MISSION OF OUR CURSILLO MOVEMENT

The Church will have to initiate everyone – priests, religious, and laity – into the “art of accompaniment,” which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred ground of the other (cf. Ex 3: 5) EG#169

THE WITNESS IN OUR MOVEMENT

This witness comforts and sustains me in my own effort to overcome selfishness and give more fully of myself. EG#76

THE ENCOUNTER

Genuine spiritual accompaniment always begins and flourishes in the context of service to the mission of evangelization. EG #173

The discussion questions

- *What stands out to you in the story about the Samaritan woman, about Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus do? WDJD is the real question if you have a WWJD Bracelet!*