

October 26, 2022

Dear CRE student,

We missed you at CRE on October 17th! So that you keep up with the other people in your group, we ask that you complete the following:

1. Pray the following prayer:

PSALM 16:11

“You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.”

We thank you God for the opportunity to be together and the opportunity to grow in faith, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. We ask for the special intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary this evening as we pray, Hail Mary...

2. We watched a video from YDisciple called “Seeking Forever” and discussed the following questions. Please answer to the best of your ability the following:

- AT THE BEGINNING OF THE VIDEO, TANNER TALKS ABOUT CHASING THE “PEAK” IN BASEBALL, THEN IN ACTING, THEN IN A RELATIONSHIP. WHAT “PEAKS” HAVE YOU CHASED?
 - IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT GOALS HAVE YOU PLACED A LOT OF IMPORTANCE ON? Give them time to think it over and answer. If needed, prompt them with ideas like getting good grades, getting into a good college, starting for a sports team, being considered funny or popular, having a boyfriend/girlfriend, or with examples from your own life.
 - TANNER TALKS ABOUT HOW HAVING THAT TANGIBLE GOAL INFORMS HOW YOU WORK EVERY DAY TO ACHIEVE IT AND CAN HELP MOTIVATE YOU TO KEEP DOING THE WORK. DO YOU SEE THIS IN THE GOALS FROM YOUR OWN LIFE WE JUST TALKED ABOUT? HOW?
 - IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS, THE END GOAL IS HEAVEN. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD “HEAVEN”?
 - DO YOU THINK HEAVEN IS WORTH CHASING? WHY OR WHY NOT?
-
- FR. ANTHONY TELLS TANNER THAT HEAVEN IS HAPPINESS. HOW DOES THAT SIT WITH YOU? HOW DOES THAT LINE UP WITH HOW YOU THOUGHT OF HEAVEN?
 - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF HAPPINESS? WHAT ARE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
 - TIM WAS TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENT “LEVELS” OF HAPPINESS. HOW DOES THE HAPPINESS THAT COMES FROM TACOS FEEL DIFFERENT FROM THE HAPPINESS THAT COMES FROM FRIENDSHIP?

St. Augustine says, “We all want to live happily; in the whole human race there is no one who does not assent to this proposition, even before it is fully articulated,” (CCC 1718). In other words, everything we do is because we think it will make us happy, whether we realize it or not. The goals we aim to achieve are motivated by this desire for happiness.

- HOW DOES IT FEEL WHEN YOU TRY TO ACHIEVE A GOAL YOU THINK WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY AND YOU’RE NOT ABLE TO ACHIEVE IT OR SOMETHING STANDS IN THE WAY?
- WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU THOUGHT WOULD MAKE YOU HAPPY (AND MAYBE DID MAKE YOU HAPPY), BUT AFTER A WHILE THOSE EMOTIONS FELL FLAT?
- FR. ANTHONY TALKS ABOUT HOW WHEN SOMEONE IS HAPPY, YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES. WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO’S LIKE THAT? WHAT IS IT ABOUT THEM THAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

The word “beatitude” comes from the Greek word makarios, meaning happy. The *Catechism* tells us about the Beatitudes, “The Beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness. This desire is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fill it.” (CCC 1718).

- DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY? HOW HAS A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD MADE YOU HAPPY, OR HOW HAS IT NOT IN YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE?
- IF YOU WERE MADE FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND THAT RELATIONSHIP CAN BEST MAKE YOU HAPPY, DOES TANNER’S IDEA THAT HEAVEN IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD CHANGE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT HEAVEN? WHY OR WHY NOT?

FR. ANTHONY TALKS ABOUT IDOLS; THINGS THAT WE PUT BEFORE GOD THAT PREVENT US FROM TRUE HAPPINESS.

- WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE STANDING IN THE WAY OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD RIGHT NOW? IN OTHER WORDS, ARE THERE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE THAT ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU THAN GOD?
- AT THIS POINT, DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO GIVE UP THOSE THINGS TO GAIN HEAVEN?

3. Closing prayer

At the end of the video, Tanner says that if heaven is the goal God created us for, there must be a way to get there. One of the things that God gives us to show us the way is the Ten Commandments. For our closing prayer today, we’re going to take some time to reflect on the First Commandment and on the idols in our lives and give them over to the Lord.

Begin with the Sign of the Cross, then read the First Commandment, Exodus 20: 2-5:

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house

of slavery. You shall not have other gods beside me. You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or serve them.”

Take time to quiet your heart and re-read the First Commandment. Then take some time to reflect silently or journal about the following questions:

- What are the things in my life that I spend the most time on?
- What things in my life do I spend the most time thinking about?
- What things do I spend the most money on?
- Are there things in my life that are more important to me than my relationship with God?
- What are concrete ways I have allowed these things to take precedence over my relationship with God?

If you're ready, take time right now to give these things over to God in your heart and recommit your life to Him. It can be helpful to picture a throne in your heart, and visualize giving Jesus that throne so he can be Lord of your life.

Please complete and submit by our next class. You may email it to rotramel@stjohn23rd.org or turn it in to your catechist/small group leader.

Peace and Blessings,

Maureen Rotramel
Director of Faith Formation