

October 26, 2022

Dear CRE student,

We missed you at CRE on October 3rd! So that you keep up with the other people in your group, we ask that you complete the following:

1. The first thing we talked about were memories. Please share the following:

- What the best Thanksgiving you have had or the Thanksgiving where you ate the most?
 - Is there a food or dessert at Thanksgiving that you will always make room for regardless of how full you are?"
- What has been your favorite vacation?

2. Read the following:

Whenever we get something that is good, we probably want more. If we had a great vacation, we talk about it and look forward to the next one. If there was a concert that we enjoyed, we may look to see if the band is going to be somewhere that's close enough for us to drive to again. We have fond memories of experiences in our past that we want to somehow recapture.

Humans always want more. Maybe this is because we have lived with scarcity for centuries. When Thanksgiving comes around, we probably can always find room for our favorite dessert. When our favorite team wins a championship, we want them to win next year as well. If you have been part of a theatre production or part of a sports team, you know how hard you have to work. If the show was successful or if you meet or exceeded your season's goals, you know the feeling of accomplishment that can fill your emotions. Yet, those feelings don't last forever. You're back on another show or back at work for next season. If the show didn't go as planned or if you didn't meet your season's goals, you know the disappointment or perhaps even the embarrassment that can take over your thoughts and emotions.

The desire for more. The fact that accomplishments fade. The emptiness that can accompany disappointment. Simply put, when we something good, "some" is rarely enough. Let's look at other ways this is at work.

3. Respond to the statements below as follows and answer the follow up questions:

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

1) I have never had one of my favorite sports teams to win a championship.

Do you still follow them? There's a saying, "It's the hope that wrecks you." Do you agree with that.

2) I have studied hard for a test and aced it.

How satisfied or relieved did you feel? How soon was the next test? How long did the relief last?

3) I have worked hard on a theatre production and felt proud after the performance.

How long did that feeling last? Do ever wish you could recapture that bond you had with the cast and crew leading up to the show?

4) I have worked hard as an athlete and met my goals.

Tell the story. What goal did you set? How did it feel? How long did that feeling last?

5) There have been songs that I loved, but I eventually got tired of them.

What was the song? Why did you get tired of it? Do you remember what song replaced it?

6) I could play certain video games all day long.

What is a game you could play forever? How do you feel after a long session?

4. Read the following and answer the question at the end:

During our last time together, we looked at what is important to us. We said that the things that we hold as important are part of our spirituality. Likewise, the things we dream about and hunger for are part of our spirituality. During our time together so far, we talked about food, fun experiences, working hard, and even music are signs that we want something more. Yet, there are also things that are much more important than that. I'm sure each of us are unsatisfied with things in the world or there are things that we would want to make better if not completely fixed. What is it? *If you were royalty for a day and wielded omnipotent power, what would you do to make the world a better place?*

5. Read the following and answer the question at the end

Through this session, we first looked at times that we have had an experience of something good whether it is food, a trip, a concert, or some other experience and saw that humans seem to always want more. Then we saw the way that seems to be a feeling of dissatisfaction inside of us. Even when we get what we want, the feeling of satisfaction doesn't last very long. Maybe this is because we have lived with scarcity for centuries. When Thanksgiving comes around, we probably can always find room for our favorite dessert. When our favorite team wins a championship, we want them to win next year as well. If you have been part of a theatre production or part of a sports team, you know how hard you have to work. If the show was successful or if you meet or exceeded your season's goals, you know the feeling of accomplishment that can fill your emotions. Yet, those feelings don't last forever. You're back on another show or back at work for next season. If the show didn't go as planned or if you didn't meet your season's goals, you know the disappointment or perhaps even the

embarrassment that can take over your thoughts and emotions. Then when we look at our world, we see that things aren't right. We want something better than what we currently have or we want things to be better for other people.

The desire for more. The fact that accomplishments fade. The emptiness that can accompany disappointment. Wanting a better world. These are all signs that this saying from St. Augustine is true:

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

What do you think St. Augustine meant by that statement? Do you agree or disagree?

6. Closing prayer

God who is the Father of us all, we offer thanks for all of the good things in our life: school, family, friends. We are grateful for the things and yet we want the world to be better. We ask for you to change us and change our world. We pray this through Christ the Lord.

All: Amen

2 Corinthians 5: 1-2.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly habitation.

Prayer Leader:

We have been made to have a personal relationship with something that is good and something that will last forever. We have been made for God.

Revelation 21: 1-3.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them [as their God]”

Prayer Leader:

We want the world to be a better place. People of faith believe that this desire is actually a deep desire for the Kingdom of God. God as one family, we bring to you the people, the

concerns, and prayers that we just remembered. Jesus instructed us to call you Father and to pray for the Kingdom of God to come. So we pray. Our Father ...Amen

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

Peace and Blessings,

Maureen Rotramel
Director of Faith Formation