

Praying together using *Lectio Divina*

Diocesan Lay Institute

Oct. 13, 2007

- *Select a facilitator from your table to lead the group through the following process using the scripture passage below.*
- *Ask for a volunteer to begin by offering a prayer on behalf of the group, invoking the Holy Spirit and asking him to open our hearts as God speaks to us through the Scriptures and through each other.*
- *Have a volunteer slowly read the following Scripture passage.*

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves."

- *The facilitator leads the group through the following questions, inviting each person to participate and contribute as God prompts them.*

Q: What from today's presentations comes back to you when you read this passage?

Q: It is sometimes claimed that Jesus never claimed to be divine or that he never understood his two natures. How does this passage reflect upon those claims?

Q: What might this passage say about miracles?

Q: Do you think faith in Jesus easier for those who live now or those who accompanied him in 33 A.D.? Compare Phillip's difficulties with your own struggle to believe and understand.

Q: In light of the opening lines, how might one describe a Catholic view of religious tolerance? How might this connect with the following line from 1 Peter?

“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence...” 1 Pt 3:15

Q: What is God placing on your heart in light of today’s presentation and/or this passage? Try to formulate this as a specific resolution for your own spiritual growth.

Close your small group session by praying for each other’s needs. Before starting, identify someone to open the prayer and someone to close it. After the opener prays, group members simply offer their own prayers as prompted by the Holy Spirit. When the closer deems appropriate, he/she brings the prayer to a close.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.