**November- Session 3, ACTS 2:42 Eucharistic Revival Small Group**

Two-hour Session, 7-9 p.m., adjust to your meeting time as needed.

7:00 Welcome/Gathering Time

* Serve coffee, water, or wine
* Greet members and follow up on past conversations. Try to get people talking about what is keeping them busy and learn about their family, work, and hobbies.
* This is a gathering time, but it is also an important opportunity to foster connections and help people feel safe and welcome.
* You might even say, we will get started in five minutes at 10 after, so some people do not get anxious that you are not starting on time. 😊

7:15 Opening Prayer

* The opening prayer can be found on page 27 in the participant book. Begin with the sign of the cross and read the prayer to the group and allow time for any specific intentions from the group.
* Please make a special effort to pause as you invite them to close their eyes and take a deep breath. Then slowly pray the following sentence “Lord we surrender our anxious hearts and minds to you.” Then say, let’s take 60 seconds of silence to recognize that we are in God’s presence and to name our anxieties and hand them over to God in the quiet of our hearts. (Silence is often difficult and even uncomfortable, but this is a wonderful exercise in our spiritual lives.) Then pray for any intentions that are mentioned.

7:20 God Sightings- Remind the group about the description on page 12. Invite the group to share some of ways they have found God in their daily lives over the past month. Any new breakthroughs, beginnings or struggles in your life where you see God at work?

7:40 Invite a couple members to read a paragraph or two on pages 27-29. Before you get to the questions in the booklet, you may just ask, what sticks out to you in this reading? This often leads to faith sharing and theological reflection, which is reflecting on the wisdom of God from our various life perspectives and experiences.

7:50 Discuss the four questions on page 30.

 Question four may need a little more explanation if no one has a response. Here is some commentary that you could summarize or read to the group, which might lead to further discussion. (See at the end of the Agenda.)

8:10 Play Bishop Medley’s Video- Session 3

8:20 Discussion Questions:

1. What are some examples of our Church being a “House of Mercy?”
2. Why is it so important for us to treat others with mercy?
3. How does the Mass celebrate God’s mercy toward us?

8:30 Closing Song & Prayer

* First, play the song “We Remember.” This song was set to music by Matt Gray, who serves as the Music Ministry leader at Immaculate Parish in Owensboro, and the lyrics are by Robert Hovda. You can get this from our website or on our Diocesan YouTube channel. The lyrics are shown on the screen as well.
* Then turn to page 32 and close with prayer. In the future, feel free to lead a spontaneous prayer or to invite others to close the evening with prayer as they feel led or willing.

8:35 Announcements:

1. Our next meeting is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Would someone like to bring a dessert? (Hopefully, you can find an agreeable date, earlier in December to meet on, so we do not get too close to Christmas. Maybe even consider meeting the last week of November for groups that meet early in the month and avoiding December altogether.)
2. Any parish announcements of events coming up this month? (Perhaps ask the Parish Office for any announcements and/or have one or two things you are aware of.)
3. A limited number of tickets are available for the Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis next summer and each parish has been given two tickets to share. Additional tickets may be available January 1, if not all parishes use their two tickets. Visit Owensborodiocese.org/eucharistic-revival or to take a picture of the QR code on page 72 to learn more about local celebrations and ticket updates.
4. Please continue to pray for the people in our small group and for all those participating across the Diocese in an Acts 2:42 group.

8:40 Social time

Plan to have a dessert to share with the group and encourage people to stick around and enjoy one another’s company.

9:00 End

Please contact Jeff with any questions or input. God bless your gathering.

Announcement for all Parish Small Group Coordinators and Host Team Members-

* On November 30 from 10-2 p.m., the diocese is hosting a special gathering for Pastors and Parish Leaders. It is a Thursday, so we know many Acts 242 Host Team Members cannot attend, but know you are invited. To attend, contact your parish and express your desire to attend. The parish registers their pastor and staff members and must also register you if you plan to attend. ***We will host a short session from 2:15-3 p.m. at the end of the day for Acts 242 Leaders*.** Hope you can join us! We will share the highlights for sure if you cannot attend.

Extra material for question 4 if needed:

ONE SINGLE ACT OF WORSHIP…

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy from the Second Vatican Council affirms the concept of the Mass being “One act of worship” and explains that Christ is manifest in four ways. Christ is present in the assembly, for “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst” (Matthew 18:20). He is present in the priest, who we say is “inpersona Christ” in the person of Christ. He is present in the Word, which is called the Liturgy of the Word and is the first of the two parts of the Mass. Finally, Christ is present in the sacrament, under the Eucharistic species, which makes up the second part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Together, the two parts of the Mass, and everything therein, from the greeting, to Confiteor, the readings, homily, prayers, and the Eucharist, form a single act of worship. We acknowledge our sin, we listen to the teachings of the Lord and the Homily, and we then receive Jesus, even though we are unworthy, and carry him out into the world to live as his disciples serving the world.

The Sacred Liturgy, in all its varied movements, is modeled after the Last Supper and has been consistent for nearly 2000 years. Let’s continue to learn about the parts of the Mass and enter into this greatest prayer of the Church with a “full, active and conscious participation,” allowing ourselves to be transformed more and more into his body, the Church.

Again, from the Constitution on the sacred liturgy we are told, “For in the Mass is spread the table both of God’s Word and of the Body of Christ, and from it the faithful are to be instructed and refreshed.”

Bishop Medley’s comments in the video will add a deeper layer of insight into our need for God’s mercy and the call to be God’s mercy for others. Enjoy!