



Parish Discernment Session #2: Thanksgiving Handout for those who cannot attend the group gathering

I. Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we come together as Your Body to submit to You as the Head of the Body. Send Your Holy Spirit to soften our hearts, to detach us from our own opinions, to help us to encounter You in prayer, to inspire our conversations, to help us to hear Your will for Your Body, and to guide us into deeper communion in You through our time together. Remove any obstacles or barriers that stand in the way of these things, and send Your holy angels to protect us during our time together.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

St. Thérèse, pray for us!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Come, Holy Spirit!

II. Ask the Lord

A. Guided Meditation - Spend a few minutes reflecting on each of the following points:

- God wants me to be in close relationship with Him. Throughout my life, He has given me gifts to help me get closer to Him.
- Sometimes I focus on what I or my parish do not have instead of the gifts we have. We have Jesus. We have the sacraments. We have brothers and sisters in Christ. We have the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- “Peter said, ‘I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.’” (Acts 3:6)
- ***Pray in these or your own words:*** “Jesus, You have given me all I need. You have given me Yourself. Help me to move forward in thanksgiving for the gifts You have given, using them for Your glory and the salvation of souls.”

B. Ask the Lord these questions:

1. What are the gifts my parish has?

2. Which of these gifts have helped me grow most in my relationship with God and others?

3. In keeping with the Little Way (doing little things with great love), what one action are You prompting *me* to do that will help us to move forward as a parish using the gifts God has given in thanksgiving?

III. Praise and Thanksgiving

A. Divine Mercy Chaplet

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as normal but with the following prayers preceding the appropriate decade.

1. First Decade: Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your mercy upon our clergy, *(name your pastor, other priests, and deacons)*.

2. Second Decade: Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your mercy upon all the parishioners of our parish, *(name your parish)*.

3. Third Decade: Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your mercy upon those in our parish who have fallen away from the practice of their Faith.

4. Fourth Decade: Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we ask for Your mercy upon all who live within our parish boundaries.

5. Fifth Decade: Heavenly Father, through Your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, we ask for the mercy of recognizing and using, with thanksgiving, the gifts you have given for Your greater glory and for the salvation of souls.

B. Spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving for one another

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for anyone who has come to mind during this process.

C. A Prayer for Eucharistic Revival

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age. Reawaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread. Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering. Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.