



Why Dominican?

Presentation Handout for Candidacy Module “Liturgical Prayer”

Based on the book *Why Go to Church?* by fr. Timothy Radcliffe OP, Continuum Press, New York: 2008. Quotes used by written permission of the author.

Directions: Write your personal response or notes in the space after each quote as directed.

Section 1: Introduction: Invite individual, private responses then discussion and sharing with the entire group as desired.

1. The liturgy works in the very depths of our minds and hearts a very gradual, barely perceptible transformation of who we are, so quietly that we might easily think that nothing is happening at all. (p. 6)
Q: How is “who you are” different spiritually than you were a few years ago?
2. The Eucharist is a drama in three acts, through which we share God’s life and begin even now to be touched by God’s happiness. (p. 7)
Q: What sharing in God’s life and happiness have you experienced during Mass?
3. Our “yes” to the body of Christ transforms how we belong to each other and therefore who we are. (p. 10)
Q: What is the extent of our relationship to one another?

General question: How has participation in the Eucharist/ Mass gradually reshaped your heart and mind?

Section 2: Invite individual, personal responses to just one of the Acts, then sharing and discussion with a partner or small group. A selected spokesperson for each Act will share the fruits of the smaller group’s contemplation with entire group in order to get a flavor of each and every one of the three Acts.

Section 2: Act 1 (Faith), Act 2 (Hope), and Act 3 (Love):

General question: How does each quote connect to your personal life?

Act 1: Faith
Scene 1: Homecoming: We come to church with our fragile identities. (p. 16)
Sign of the Cross: “We begin by invoking a Triune God, a home in which we may flourish and find happiness, liberated from the need to fight for our identity, to justify our existence, at ease in the uncompetitive and equal love of the Father and the Son, which is the Holy Spirit.”(p.16)
Confess our sins: “Because we believe in God’s unconditional love and forgiveness we may dare to open our eyes to the hurt and harm of our actions and not panic and be sorry.” (p. 18)
Scene 2: Here I am: Silence during readings: “We have to be quiet not just to hear the words of the readings, but to hear the plenary silence of God from which they spring.” (p. 30)
Scene 3: How can this be: Homily: “The beauty of the Bible is that it is not clear simple, and unambiguous. Its words are puzzling, intriguing, and slippery.” (p. 50)
Scene 4: Mary arose and went in haste: Community conversations: “The gestation of the word of God in our lives will challenge all that is narrow and triumphalistic, inviting us to tiptoe into the spaciousness of God.” (p. 58)
Scene 5: We believe : The Creed: “It is the questioners and doubters, the ones who are puzzled and unsure, who keep the faith of the church alive, and open the way for encounters with the risen Lord.” (p. 70)
Scene 6: Ask and you shall receive ... Prayers of Intercession: “Our actions are prayers-they beseech God to do something- and our prayers are actions, which may have real effects.” (p. 95)
Notes:

Act 2: Hope
Scene 1 Preparation of gifts: “We place our own lives there, our anxieties and fears and failures, hoping that somehow God will accept all that we are, bless us, and make us holy.”(103)
<p>Scene 2 : Death outside the camp: “It belongs to our hope that we claim as our brothers and sisters in Christ those whom the world rubbishes... Christ died for them too.” (p. 113, 116)</p> <p>“If we learn purity of heart, then we shall glimpse buried beneath other people’s failures abd sins, the seeds of a desire for God, the botched attempts to love, the hunger for holiness, muddied and misdirected and poisoned, but still there.” (p. 117)</p>
Scene 3: The fruitful stones gather round: “God’s holiness is disclosed not in God’s separation from all that is impure, sinful, or touched by death, but in Jesus who overthrows boundaries, and embraces even death... Jesus’ death was a massive rejection of a whole way of being religious.” (p 117-118)
Scene 4 : betrayal into gift: Jesus offers us His body: ”Jesus’ action at the Last Supper offers us an alternative vision of how power might flow in the human community.”(p. 131)
Notes:
Act 3: Love
Prologue: recognizing Jesus: “Jesus is not the prisoner of a terrible fate, forced to act out his role as victim. He has freely taken up his destiny, to be the one who is the victim of our hatred and so set us free.” (p. 152)
Scene 1: Our Father: “Jesus has taken upon himself everything that separated us from his Father... and because he has shared all that is ours, we can share all that is his, even being a child of his Abba.” (p. 156)

<p>Scene 2: sign of peace: The kiss of peace is a sign of victory in the face of all that assaults the human community.” (p. 166)</p>
<p>Scene 3: cast the nets... “Eucharist is the sacrament of god’s providence... the bread of pilgrimage... the sacrament of the unity of the church. Receiving the body of Christ impels us to become visibly what e are already in Christ, one.” (p. 178 – 184)</p>
<p>Scene 4: Come and have breakfast: Communion: “ The Eucharist is our home no matter what we have done or been.... If there is a place for Peter who denied Jesus, then there are places for us all.” (p. 194)</p>
<p>Scene 5: As the Father has sent me... Dismissal: “We are sent to embody the Father’s recognition of all his children.” (p. 203)</p>
<p>Notes:</p>

Section 3: Wrap-up: Read the following quote then pose the following question for a personal, written response and sharing with the entire group as desired.

“If Christianity is to flourish in our society, and not become the practice of a dwindling minority, then we have to recapture some sense of it as “a huge event” that grants me life, to which I simply must go.” (p. 5)

What new answers might you give to the question “why go to church?”