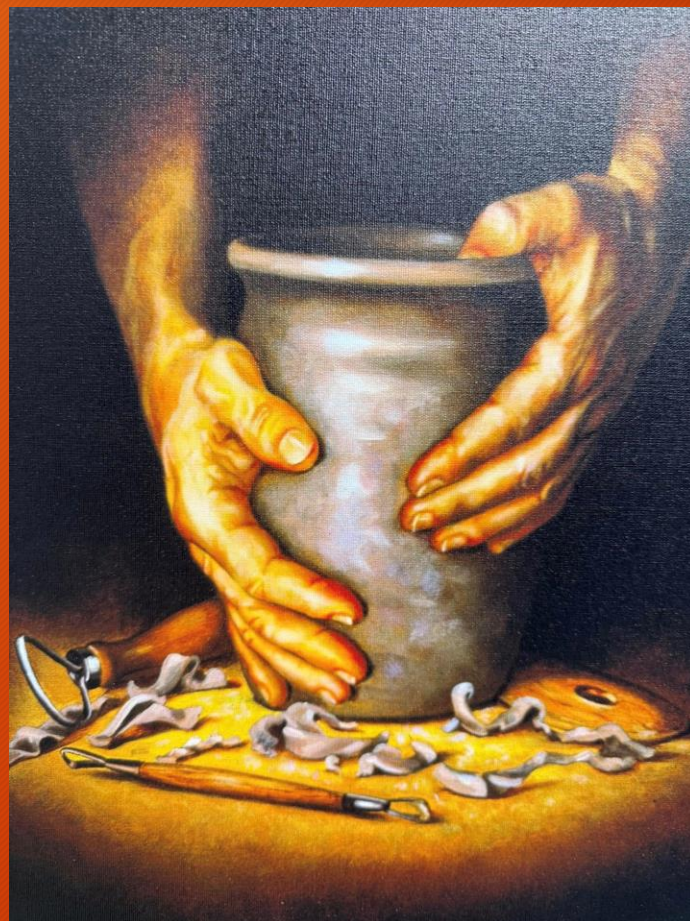


Finding God in All Moments of Ministry

The Lenten journey reminds the Church that hope in Jesus Christ ultimately overcomes fears of fragility, weakness, and the brevity of life.

Pope Francis

Let's invite God to Create in us today:



Opening Prayer...

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
and my entire will,
All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.
To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.
Give me only your love and your grace,
that is enough for me.

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Life of St. Ignatius Loyola

- He was the cool kid with the ladies, money, fame.
- Cannon Ball Hit Him and he had to take time to heal.
- Romantic stories and book got him excited but then He felt empty after.
- After reading all of them.... all he had left was the stories of the saints and Jesus. He read them and got excited and felt full of joy and hunger to do good works after.
- It is here that the Discernment of Spirits was born.....

Discernment of Spirits

- What effects us HS/God, Evil Spirit (Or some form of evil), and Yourself.
- Consolation: Clarity, joy, comfort, support
- Desolation: Confusion, Sadness, uneasiness, emptiness

We have to do the Work....Discern, See, Remember.....

Quote of the Week: "God is in control, but He doesn't expect you to lean on a shovel and pray for a hole."



The Examen of St. Ignatius

- Ask God for Light-Not just depending on my own power and gifts and insights but God's eyes. Want to see the World with God glasses.
- Give Thanks-Be thankful for the day you have been given.
- Review the day-Look back on the day and go moment by moment seeing where God was and where he was not. Where he tried to help and where you accepted his Love. Where is the Golden Thread of God's participation in your life.
- Face Your Short Comings-I face up to how I can do better with the many blessings that I have been given.
- Look forward to the day to come-Look where I need to ask

When Everything is a dream.....

- When everything is going perfect.....we need to reflect on how God is working and how and what his plan is.
- Just because everything seems great does not mean that we are doing God's will. Ask Him what He desires!!!
- Don't get filled with Pride and Arrogance.
- Instead store up the Grace and love and all the goodness of the goodtime. Remember God is the source of all goodness. Even the Goodness of you Child of God!!!

Seeing God at the Party.....

- Many times when we find ourselves in success we forget about God or try to act like we don't need Him.
- Many people stop spiritual direction when their life is good!
- Invite God to the party and thank him for His marvelous plan and providence.
- Continue to realize your need for God even in those good times.

Don't Trust me so Much.....

- “If God causes you to suffer much, it is a sign that He has great designs for you, and that He certainly intends to make you a saint. And if you wish to become a great saint, entreat Him yourself to give you much opportunity for suffering; for there is no wood better to kindle the fire of holy love than the wood of the cross, which Christ used for His own great sacrifice of boundless charity.”
— **St. Ignatius of Loyola**

When picking up the Cross

- Many times in ministry we are called to pickup the Cross.
- Our Boss hung from the Cross. With Him we are able to carry our Cross.
- Don't forget to invite God in to the dark moments, sin, stress, and all things that seem too much for you to carry.
- Rough times in your ministry are not a sign you are not called. Sometimes we are called to bring our communities through the hard times.
- Get help/let your core team know your cross is getting too heavy.

God wants to get in the Mud of Ministry with you:



Seeing God in the Dust.....

- Letting God into your rough days allows you to find a different kind of closeness. He hung on the cross for our salvation. We sacrifice to to bring people to the Cross and the Resurrection.
- Seeing God in the Dust brings real life into your faith. The Ups and Downs of life are "Thin Places" to be with God and for you to know how powerful He really is.
- God handles things.....if we let Him.

Why is working or volunteering for the Church so HARD.

- Why are people not interested in what we are doing?

Discern-is it me, them, both, situation, or just how it is. Ask God.
Or is it what you have to do even though not popular.

(Renovations, CMG, Welcoming all,,,,,)

- Don't blame yourself always for something not working out.
- Learn from your mistakes and realize that things don't always work.
- Jesus was not always taken well/you won't either.

Mary and Martha

- **Martha and Mary.***
- 38^a As they continued their journey he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him.
- 39⁻ She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak.
- 40 Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.”
- 41 The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.
- 42^{*} There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

Gazing in Stillness/Contemplative in Action/Wounded Healer

- We must be both Mary and Martha in the busy Church life of today.
- We must sit at the feet of Jesus (Go to the Mountain Side) and we must carry the cross with Jesus.
- We must fill our vessel (heart, mind, soul) and then go out and pour ourselves out and become part of the Cross/As St. Paul says we must complete the Cross. In this reality we are Wounded Healers (Henri Nouwen) who have walked in desolation and now smile with joy as we walk in consolation again (This repeats). The power here is real and is connected to Jesus.

Jesus is Everything

- Our Stewardship is a gift that has been given by God. So, remember God must be part of our journey as we give Time, Talent, and Treasure.
- Keep the Main Man in the middle of the of your crazy life and ministry. It is in this action that we truly allow the Cross and the Resurrection in our Journey!!!

My Kids:

- Holy Rosary Catholic Church Rosenberg
- St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church Beasley
- Holy Rosary Catholic School Rosenberg
- Ecumenical and Interreligious Office Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



