



Nourishing Spirituality for Ordained Life

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Spring Clergy Retreat (2022) | Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

The Rev'd E. Suzanne Wille, All Saints Chicago

Individual Reflection & Small Group Discussion

Nourishing Spirituality for Ordained Life

Small Group Discussion Questions

You do not have to discuss all of the questions; discuss what interests you.

- How do your spiritual life and ordained life intersect?
- How would you describe the spirituality and faith practices particular to your order?
- What have been the disjunctures or conflicts between your hopes for and the realities of ordained life?
- How might St. Peter or another saint or another holy person help guide you as a deacon or priest?

Authority: Confidence in our Calling

Individual Reflection & Small Group Discussion

For Individual Reflection and Practice

- When do you feel God acting through you as a priest or deacon? How might you cultivate that openness to God more often? How would you describe that feeling of authority and how might you embody it more fully?
- Which part of the presentation seemed “spot on” to you and why? Which part raised your hackles and why? What would you like to focus on during your time of reflection?
- Commit to memory either a prayer or a scripture verse that you might use regularly as a priest or deacon. Practice saying it out loud.

Small Group Discussion: You do not have to discuss all of the questions; discuss what interests you.

- What from the presentation resonated with you? Captured your imagination? Why?
- What hard truth was presented that you need to spend time with, wrestle with, pray about?
- Who has been a model of gracious authority in your life? Tell a story about that person that exemplifies gracious authority.
- Where in your ordained life do you need to grow in your sense of authority? In your use of your authority?

Humility: Following Christ

Individual Reflection & Small Group Discussion

For Individual Reflection and Practice (Choose one of the following prompts for reflection.)

- Savor the poetry of Philippians 2:5-11 in Lectio Divina or other meditation. How have you grown in humility during ordained life? Where does your pride show up in your ministry? Spend some time with God talking and praying about humility.
- Choose one of the images of St. Peter or St. John the Baptist that appeals to you. Why does this capture you? How might you grow into this kind of humility?
- Read John 21:15-19; spend time in Lectio Divina or other meditation. When has ordained life required you to be led “where you [did] not wish to go?” How did it feel? How did you address that spiritually, in prayer, with a spiritual director, etc? If you haven’t, how might you? How might you prepare to be humble enough to be “taken where you do not wish to go” in the future?

Small Group Discussion: You do not have to discuss all of the questions; discuss what interests you.

- What from the presentation resonated with you? Captured your imagination? Why?
- What hard truth was presented that you need to spend time with, wrestle with, pray about?
- Who has been a model of humility in your life? Tell a story about that person that exemplifies humility.
- Where in your ordained life do you need to grow in your sense of humility? How might growing in humility deepen or strengthen your ministry?

Focus: Wonder & Joy

Individual Reflection

For Individual Reflection and Practice

- Dwell in Wonder: Spend time with a piece of art, a poem, a song, or a place in nature you love. Just enjoy it, allow your soul to expand. No need to rush. If you want to, write about this or talk to God about it.