

Sponsor Meeting #1

Due by: 12/20/2020

Candidates are asked to meet with their sponsors regularly throughout the preparation process to discuss the faith and in order that they might be more aware of what God is doing throughout the process.

--- PRIOR TO MEETING ---

Fill out the life graph sheet. Share a copy with your sponsor. You can do this my mail or email. Make sure to send it to them with enough time to look through it before you talk next.

--- BEGIN WITH PRAYER ---

Read this passage twice together and discuss using the questions below. Keeping in mind that the Word of God is "living and effective"- the actual voice of God reaching out to you to speak into your life, think about why that word/phrase is standing out. How is God speaking to you in the circumstances of life?

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep." - John 10:7-15

Questions to discuss together - You'll share some of your discussion on the following page

- What does this passage reveal to you about God?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "Good Shepherd"?

--- LESSON REVIEW: GRACE ---

Discuss the following questions with your sponsor. *With each question talk not only about the answers to the questions taught in the lesson, but also about if you buy into that answer or if you struggle with what was taught. Formulate questions for the priest or Thomas if you come up against a roadblock.*

- Do you believe that God created us? If so, why do you think he did? If not, why not?
- How do we describe God?
- How were we made by God and what went wrong?
- How does God find a way to mend our broken relationship with him?

--- LIFE GRAPH ---

Share your life graph with your sponsor and discuss the following questions

- Ask your sponsor - when in your life have you felt closest to God?
- Discuss together - How do we know that we are close to God and how do we get close to God? Is feeling the best way to gauge our closeness to God?

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Turn-In Sheet

Name

*After each meeting with your sponsor please respond to the questions below and turn this sheet in to the parish.
Please respond in at least 2-3 full sentences for each question.*

In a few sentences, what are a few things that you and your sponsor shared or talked about as you went through the scripture passage and questions following?

What is something you learned about your sponsor or something that your sponsor said that helped you see your faith a little differently?

In regard to the life graph how would you respond to someone who says that they do not believe that you can be close to God? How would you share with them God's grace and presence in your own life?

St. Teresa of Calcutta, the famous Mother Teresa herself, didn't feel the closeness of God for the majority of her life. Yet, when we look at her life we see that she loved God profoundly and lived a deep life of prayer. How can we remain close to God even if we don't feel close to him?

Do you have any other questions or final thoughts that you would like to share with us?

Life Graph

Instructions:

- Using the graph below go back as far as you can remember and chart out different important moments in your life.
- You can place a dot that represents how close or far away from God you felt at these moments in your life and a couple of notes about what happened.
- Connect all the dots with lines so you can chart out the highs and lows of your spiritual life.
- Go through the chart with your sponsor (and visa versa), looking for how God's grace was working in your lives.

