Reconciliation Applied

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Introductions

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The Ministry of Reconciliation: Spirituality & Strategies
Robert J. Schreiter, C.P.P.S.
Come Holy Spirit ...
What we are here for?

• Through encounter and accompaniment we create relationships with others.

• Through reconciliation we begin to see the other, and ourselves, differently.

• We are transformed and opened more to see God in each other.

• We are restored and commissioned to build a community of reconciliation – of safety, memory, and hope.
Breakfast on the Shoreline

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John 21:1 – 19 Imagine....
Unpacking the Story

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What just happened?

• Disciples hope for the ushering in a reign of God
  • Going back to their old way of life
  • It’s not quite the same

• Their disappointment
  • Jesus is gone
  • They are looking over their shoulders
  • The past can not be turned off

• The disciples can’t go back
  • Just as victims of violence or hurt can’t go back

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What just happened?

• Jesus in his wisdom suggest they fish over there
  • Jesus breaks the cycle of doing the same thing
  • The disciples now recognize Jesus

• Peter jumps out of the boat and heads for shore
  • Hmmm, where else have we seen Peter jump out of a boat?
  • What is running through Peter’s head?
  • Is Peter thinking about the good times with Jesus?

• Jesus is preparing Peter to face his past
What just happened?

• Peter and the disciples arrive on shore
  • Imagine what’s going through the disciples’ minds
  • A breakfast of fish and bread

• Jesus serves them breakfast
  • Re-enforces the servant calling
  • Yet they are walking away

• Jesus is creating a safe environment to reveal for the disciples to come to terms with their fears and accept forgiveness
What just happened?

• Jesus has taken the first two steps of reconciliation
  • Accompaniment
    • Patience and care
      • Need to move from old routines to create trust for reconciliation
  • Hospitality
    • Jesus creates a safe environment with the breakfast
    • The familiar allows trust to begin

• For victims trust, kindness, and safety are missing
  • Allows for communication
  • Begin to see what has wronged

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What just happened?

• Breakfast is over and Jesus moves to the third and fourth steps of reconciliation
  • Reconnecting
    • Bringing the victim back to the community
    • Jesus brings Peter back
    • Peter’s denial of Jesus has isolated him, Jesus reaffirms him
  • Commissioning
    • Moves Peter back to fishing for disciples “Feed my sheep”
    • He doesn’t move back to his old way, his wound is healed, yet Peter is transformed
I confess to almighty God
I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,

- Reconciliation is a spirituality and a strategy.
- Reconciliation is the work of God.
- A spirituality of reconciliation involves finding our wounds and seeing if they can be a source of healing rather than ever greater misery.
that I have greatly sinned,

- Communities of reconciliation are communities of safety, memory, and hope.
in my thoughts and in my words,

• Two questions.
• Who or what needs reconciliation?
• What will happen if some form of reconciliation does not take place?
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

Name the actors.
- Victims and Survivors
- Wrongdoers
- Bystanders
- Victims & Wrongdoers
- The Dead
- Future Generations
- Neighbors
- God
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Individual reconciliation occurs when the victim’s damaged humanity is restored. It is not a return; it is a new way of being human.
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin,

- Social reconciliation. “Forgiveness and reconciliation should be considered a process of reconstructing the moral order that is more healthy than punishment.” Jose Zalaquett, Chair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Chile.

- Reconciliation is a process of reconstructing the moral order.
all the Angels and Saints,

• Truth. Correspondence between what happened and what is said about the event.
• Coherence among a set of beliefs or practices.
• Existential truth; illuminating the human experience.
and you, my brothers and sisters,

Church

1) The message about reconciliation and the spirituality that flows from it.
2) The power of rituals.
3) The capacity to create communities of reconciliation.
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

- Wounded bystanders limping in our complicity.
- Both victim and wrongdoer.
Conversation

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Invest in reconciliation

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