

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

Gathering of March 15 – March 21

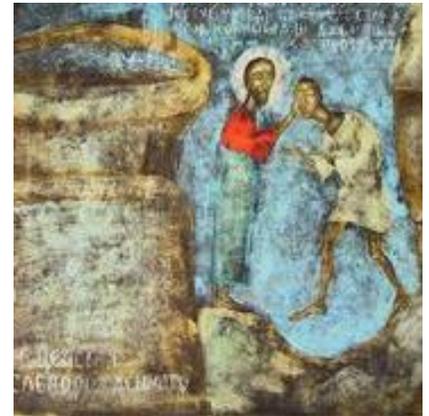


## PRAYER SHEET

### I. Gathering and Introductions

### II. Opening Prayer

O God, the author and source of all light, you gaze into the depths of our inmost hearts. Never permit the powers of darkness to hold your people captive, but open our eyes by the grace of your Spirit, that we may be able to look on your Son and see the One you sent to illumine the world, so that, seeing, we may believe and worship Jesus as the Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.



### III. Gospel Reading

### IV. Video Reflection: Parish Priests

### V. Discussion Questions: Many questions are offered as suggestions for discussion. Please pick and choose the questions that best suit your group.

- a. Where is your “quiet place” – your spiritual hideout?
- b. Fr. Joshua referred to our practice of putting blinders on and not seeing the truth. Think about the blinders you tend to put on your own eyes. On what occasions do you tend to wear these blinders?
- c. Fr. Ed mentioned that he knows of a religious sister who practices an examination of conscience by asking herself how God sees her in a situation in which she feels sinful or broken. Why would that be a helpful examination to practice? What do you think it would help us to see?
- d. On pages 33 – 34 of “A Quiet Place”, the author describes spiritual truths that never change and that resonate in our hearts, bringing us deep joy that can outlast life’s changing circumstances and painful troubles. What aspect of your Catholic faith do you keep in focus that brings you that kind of joy?
- e. As a follow-up to the question above, can you think of a time that you were challenged in that steadfast joy, perhaps blinded to spiritual truths, and how you broke free of that challenge so that joy could be rekindled?

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- f. How would you describe the difference between joy and happiness?
- g. We've been talking about relationship with God. We have been given a gift to heal the wound of separation between ourselves and God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What helps you be encouraged to use the gift of confession, or what stands in the way of using this sacramental gift?
- h. On page 41 of "A Quiet Place", the author states that the Christian vision of spiritual maturity is not individualistic, but rather is communal. What does the author mean by that?
- i. Have you ever had a joyful or insightful experience of prayer that you can share with the group?
- j. Which of the forms of prayer mentioned in "A Quiet Place" – vocal, mental, and liturgical – do you find fulfilling?
- k. The essence of prayer is relationship, but the practice of prayer is an activity. What does your prayer look like in practice? After reading "A Quiet Place", what changes do you anticipate making in your practice of prayer?

## VI. Closing Prayer

O Communion of Love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, embrace us as your children in this family of faith. Welcome us to a place at your table in the wedding feast of heaven.

O Father of Mercy, forgive us as we forgive. Reconcile us as one Body in Christ and make us instruments of your Peace.

O Spirit of Fire and Light, send us as your witnesses in daily life. Through our prayer, faith, and good works may we become welcoming doorways, inviting others to enter and encounter your Holy Communion of Love.

We make this prayer, Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and through Christ our Lord. Amen.

