

Laity Engaging Laity (LEL) Reflection

<http://www.diocs.org/OurFaith/LaityEngagingLaity.aspx>

LEL Mission

"To help laity impact the culture by developing their faith more deeply and living it as strong witnesses in every area of their lives"

Jan 18, 2014

Arise My Beloved: A Call To Relationship With Jesus

"With Jesus: Arise in Friendship"

- Desire
 - The Parable of the Sower (Mt 13:4-9)
 - The seed is Jesus' desire for relationship and contains relationship potential waiting to be released
 - Our being is the fulfillment of Jesus' desire to love us
 - The soil content of our hearts is made from our own personal desires in which the seed must grow
 - Our personal desires not in union with Jesus' desire makes the soil rocky, shallow, or weedy.
 - Our personal desires in union with Jesus' desire makes the soil fertile
 - "A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire." Thomas Merton
 - "A soul that longs for something is a soul that is growing - one way or another, smaller or larger." Our longings, desires, will broaden our life and horizons or cripple them - the desire to find God is what really matters.
- Awareness
 - We must be aware of our desires and longings, versus Jesus' desire
 - The everyday busyness of our lives can make us insensitive to Jesus and his desire for us - we must be silent to know our desires, our longings, and Jesus' call to us
 - The awareness examination of desire is a tool to become aware of the subtleties in identifying whether my desires are in union with Jesus' desires
- Pause - pausing in silence to listen and see is necessary for the germination of the seed
- A recent Stanford study showed that close, "soul", relationship is necessary for good health; it is as important as exercise to good health and not having it is as detrimental as smoking
 - Women tend to look for this "soul relationship" with other women, men with spouses
- Close relationship, life-giving friendships, have some common traits that we can reflect on and pray about to assess the health of our relationships - see handout for 17 of those traits (not all inclusive)
- Trait #7 was a focus of the retreat: we must be free to ask for what we want and need - our needs cannot be fulfilled if we can't ask - ask and you shall receive

Additional Reading/Handouts:

- LEL Reflection - Arise in Friendship, Jan 18, 2014
- LEL Agenda - Jan 18, 2014
- Final Quotes
- Spiritual Reflection and Small Group Questions - Jan 18, 2014
- Friendship Traits
- Feedback Sheet - Jan 18, 2014