



Sign Meditation

Time: 4th meditation on Rise Day

Length: 25-30 minutes

Speaker: adult

Purpose: This meditation is to lift the youths' awareness from the kingdom-of-thingdom into the wonderful world of God. It is to show us that the Paschal Mystery of Jesus does not only involve giving up something for God, but it also involves joyful and satisfying rewards, as we share the way in which we are graced in each of the sacraments, most especially the Eucharist.

This meditation is the final unfolding of the mystery of God's presence in our lives through the gift of God's Son, Jesus. It is the center piece, the heart, of the faith vision that has been building during Day Two of the TEC spiritual process. This meditation invites the candidates to step across the threshold of a mundane life experience into the living mystery of God's self communication of His life and love, which we call the Sacramental Life, the life of Grace.

Setting: As each meditation within the TEC process builds on what has gone before, so the Sign meditation, which sketches the places that Jesus has agreed to meet us in our lives to confer a special gift of His love on us, flows from the previous meditations. God's self-gift not only communicates life and love, it invites us to reciprocate with our own personal self-gift. The morning prayer of Day Two deepens our consciousness of how deeply Jesus remains rooted in our world and that all paths to God continue to go through Him to the Father. Out of His resurrection presence the Holy Spirit graces our lives. It is Jesus who baptizes, it is Jesus who forgives, it is Jesus who brings comfort to the dying. He fills his gifts with his presence and touches us.

Then we were confronted with the full mystery of God in the first meditation on God, the Community of love, wherein we found that God touches every area of our lives with a total gift of Self. Out of this awareness, we found that Jesus built up a people in whom He would live. This is the Church, the People of God meditation. Immediately following the sharing of this meditation, the candidates were invited to say their YES to what God offers them through life in that Christ community.

The meditation on The Christian Life holds up to them a model of how enriched the life of a Christian becomes once he/she sincerely enters into this love relationship with Christ and His people. Now, we are ready to explore the areas in which we can encounter Christ over and over again. We no longer walk alone; Jesus walks with us on the Road to Emmaus.

Outline:

Scripture: (Genesis 9:12-17; Exodus 3:1-6; 1 Col 1:12-20; 1 John 1:1-3; John 6:30-35; Acts 2:42-47)

1. The nature of communication.
 - a. Between human person and human person
 - b. Between God and human person
 - c. Between human person and God
2. All communication is through signs.

- a. Every person is unique
 - i. Fingerprints; handwriting
- b. We are constantly involved in communication
 - i. Spoken and written words, songs, art
 - ii. Facial expression, gestures
 - iii. Cultural background
3. Atmosphere for communication.
 - a. Getting out of self
 - i. Open from inside, “eyes” to see signs, “ears” to hear (Matt 13:16-17)
 - b. Getting inside another
 - i. Faith and trust, proper attitude
4. The whole world is a sign of God’s love for us.
 - a. (St Augustine’s understanding of a sacrament)
 - b. God seeks to reveal God’s self to us through the things God has made for us, including our own person.
 - c. Scan the whole world for signs of God’s fingerprints.
5. Some signs can only be understood within a relationship.
 - a. Family keepsakes
 - b. Personal relationships: Wedding ring, cross of religious
 - c. Sign of the cross
 - d. Some things are too big to communicate with words
6. Christ is our great sign from God.
 - a. He is God’s Word (1 John 1:1-3)
 - b. His entire life among us was a continuous sign
 - c. Jesus performed signs to establish his identity
 - d. Jesus designated signs by which he would be present among us and communicate his living love
7. Sacraments are the way Christ anchors our life in His and His life in us.
 - a. From first meditation (God, the Community of Love) we came to realize the gift of Divine life.
 - b. Last evening we shared in “Metanoia”: accepting God’s healing love
 - c. This morning in renewing our Covenant with God; we gave our hearts to Him through the Church
 - d. We now stand very near to the Heart of Christ in the most precious gift of Jesus, the Eucharist
8. The Last Supper and His total Self gift in His Passion are one.
 - a. The fullness of his life of friendship with his Apostles came together in that Upper Room
 - b. Jesus knew that they would be lonely and without a clear sense of direction without Him
 - c. He then did something that only God can do: He transformed bread into His flesh and wine into His blood
 - d. Thus, the fullness of His person continues to be present each time we fulfill his command to do what he did “as a remembrance of Him”

9. The early Christians drew their strength and constant replenishing of their love from their weekly coming together in the Eucharist.
 - a. This was the one and only demand placed on them
 - b. To be absent from this weekly contact with Christ is to miss out on something very precious as a member of God's Family
10. You and I, co-offer the Mass. As we gather around the altar, we are reminded that we are the Body of Christ. The Priest celebrating the Mass speaks in our name and in the name of the whole Church. We all share in the encounter with Christ that the Eucharistic celebration invites us to.
11. This afternoon we are going to share in this precious gift like we have never shared in it before. Now we have a better understanding of what a wonderful gift Jesus' presence is here. We will bring our best self, all the finest love we can muster, to meet His love which is complete self gift.
12. Questions for discussion:
 - a. What signs has God given me that He loves me?
 - b. How do I now perceived the Mass?

Make sure you spend adequate time talking about the coming celebration of the Eucharist. They need to understand how wonderful a gift we are about to partake in.

During the TEC, think about who you are going to ask to help participate in the Mass. After your meditation, ask for readers, song leaders and those who will bring the gifts.