



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jeremiah 20:7-9

When Jeremiah says God "duped" him, he is expressing a feeling of being overwhelmed or drawn into a mission he didn't fully realize would be so painful. Have you ever felt that saying "yes" to God or following a particular path in your life led you to unexpected suffering?

As Catholics, we receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments. Can you identify a time when you felt that same internal, burning compulsion to act on God's behalf, share your faith, or defend someone in need?

Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

In Catholic spirituality, Saint Augustine famously noted that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. What are some "waterless" or worldly things we sometimes run to to quench our spiritual thirst, only to end up disappointed?

It is beautiful that the Psalmist chooses to cling to God, but acknowledges that God's own right hand holds him fast. How do both human effort (clinging) and divine grace (being held) work together in your spiritual journey?

Romans 12:1-2

Saint Paul uses the words "living sacrifice" and "spiritual worship." How can we live as living sacrifices in our everyday life, and in our worship at Mass?

Paul says transformation helps us discern the will of God. How do you distinguish between what is good, what is pleasing, and what is perfect in your choices?

Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus issues a harsh rebuke to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me; you are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Why is prioritizing human comfort and self-preservation over God's will seen as a stumbling block to God's kingdom?

In a Catholic context, "denying oneself" doesn't mean rejecting the goodness of our humanity; rather, it means dethroning our ego and submitting our will to Christ. What does "denying yourself" practically look like in your daily marriage, family, or work life?

Jesus states, "Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." How do you understand this paradoxical truth? What does a person "lose" when they surrender their life completely to God, and what do they gain?