

## Week 11: Lectio Divina (Divine Reading)

The four Lectio Divina “moments” flow in and out of each other according to the inspiration of the Spirit. We will read the passage three times in three different voices. Following each reading will be a minute or so of silence to reflect on the questions below. You may want to jot down a brief note in your journal about what God is saying to you.

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading - What word or phrase stirs my heart?
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - What is the word or phrase saying to me?
- 3<sup>rd</sup> reading - How is God inviting me to pray, to grow and change?

READING – 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 (CEB)

<sup>14</sup>Certainly the body isn't one part but many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>16</sup>If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. <sup>19</sup>If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? <sup>20</sup>But as it is, there are many parts but one body. <sup>21</sup>So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." <sup>22</sup>Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. <sup>23</sup>The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. <sup>24</sup>The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor <sup>25</sup>so that there won't be division in the body and so the parts might have mutual concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it. <sup>27</sup>You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.

REST in God beyond thoughts. Take a moment to be still and breathe deeply in God's presence with you.

RESOLVE: As you emerge from this place of personal encounter with God to life in the company of others, resolve to carry this word with you and to live it out in the context of daily life and activity.

## *Week 11: Corporate Spirituality*

1. What does Mulholland mean by the word “corporate”? Where have you already noticed that the process of Christ being formed in you is for the sake of others?
2. Do you currently experience your spiritual life as more of a privatized thing or as a spiritual pilgrimage you are taking together with others in the body of Christ? Give examples of how you see this in your life.
3. How has your growth in Christ helped to nurture others? How has the growth of others in Christ nurtured you? How has this group helped nurture your spiritual journey?
4. How have you experienced the unique personality of different persons in this group to be a gift to the body of Christ? When have you found it difficult to rejoice in diversity?
5. Why is the corporate dimension of the spiritual life so essential to the practice of our spiritual disciplines and why is it so difficult?
6. Share a time when your spiritual pilgrimage led you to a place where you had to let go of a limited concept of God. What happened at this point in your journey?
7. What does it mean for you to move beyond a privatized, individualized approach to spirituality?
8. What else stood out to you from this week’s reading?

## *Next Steps*

What is one specific way I will respond to God’s invitation for me this week?

## *For Next Week*

1. Read Chapter 13: Social Spirituality
2. Take some time to do a bit of examen regarding the creative tension in your spiritual life. Do you live more in an unworldly spirituality that isolates you from what’s really going on in the world and having a presence there? Or do you experience yourself living a more worldly spirituality that insulates you from the radical demands of a vital, surrendered relationship with God? Or does it feel like you’re doing fairly well at living between these two aspects of the tension? See pp. 194-195.