DERRY DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL CENTRE

Lectio Divina for the Feast of Pentecost

"May the Holy Spirit lead us to appreciate more deeply the light that Sacred Scripture shines upon our daily lives."

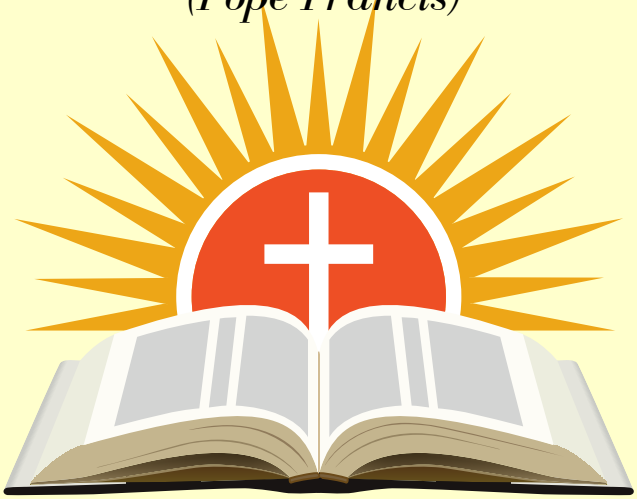
(Pope Francis)

Lectio Divina-'*Divine Reading*'

Listening with the Ear of the Heart

"There is one particular way of listening to what the Lord wishes to tell us in His Word and of letting ourselves be transformed by the Spirit. It is what we call lectio divina. It consists of reading God's Word in a moment of prayer and allowing it to enlighten and renew us..."

(Pope Francis)



- Lectio Divina a way of praying, a way of reading the Bible so as to discover the gift of God's Good News for each one of us.

- Lectio Divina is not about acquiring information, but is a process whereby we enter more deeply into relationship with God. We dialogue with God, we listen and respond to God's Word speaking to us in our hearts.

- We read slowly and we encounter God in a way that will transform us.

- We respond through prayer and through the actions of our daily lives.

Lectio Divina: The Process

Lection Divina, reading the 'Divine Word' of God may be done by yourself or in a group. Before you begin take time to become still and to say a prayer to the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to the Word of God.

Step 1 - Lectio: Choose a piece of scripture, read it very slowly listening for a word or a phrase that may strike you particularly, a word or phrase that God has prepared for you.

Step 2 - Meditatio: Read the passage again. As you read the story think about how you feel, and how you are reacting to what is going on in the story, to the word or phrase that is 'staying' with you. Think about what the word or phrase is saying to you in your daily life.

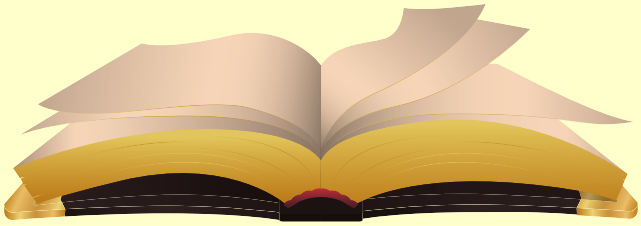
Step 3 - Oratio: This time as you read the passage, a prayer may form in your heart and mind, This is your response to what you have read, what has touched you, what you believe God is saying to you. Tell God how it makes you feel. Ask for his help to live out what you have heard.

Step 4 - Contemplatio: This time, after reading the passage spend some time pondering what God has been saying, and what you think you need to take away from this prayer time. Allow yourself to sit with God in peace and quiet and allow God to act in you. You don't need to talk just be.

Finish with a **Glory Be** and a **Sign of the Cross**.
Think about how God has spoken to you during this time of prayer.

***If you are leading a group in Lectio Divina you need to explain the process carefully and set some ground rules. Lectio Divina is not a discussion group or Bible Study Group. If inviting people to share after the first three stages, confidentiality must be assured and no comments made about what people share.

If you would like further information or training in this form of prayer please contact tferry@derrydiocese.org



Scripture Passage

PENTECOST READINGS
LECTIO DIVINA 1
Acts 2:1-11 (adapted)

When Pentecost Day came around, they (apostles) had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared on them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now, there were at that time devout people living in Jerusalem. They came from every nation under heaven. They were bewildered to hear these people speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished.

'Surely', they said these men are all from Galilee. How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language?

We hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.

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