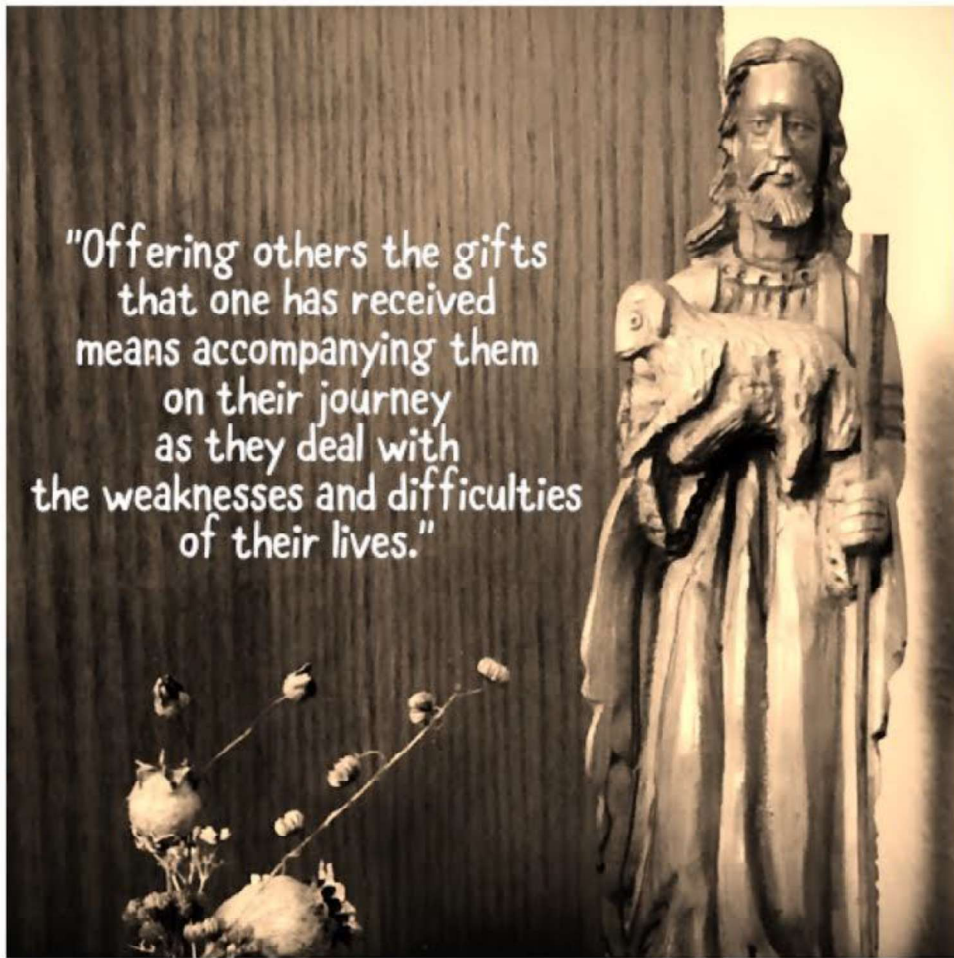


-Week 20-

Accompaniment: Walking in the Joy of a Collaborative Journey



THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS'
"YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH & VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT"
PREPARATORY DOCUMENTS

#SERVEANDDISCERN

-Week 20-

Accompaniment: Walking in the Joy of a Collaborative Journey

Last week, we explored “Choose: Exercising My Authentic Human Freedom & Personal Responsibility,” which invited us to consider the verb “to choose” in *Evangelii Gaudium*, 51 as a third and final step in an intentional discernment process. We were also invited to reflect on how Jesus responded to the happenings of the wedding in Cana by making a concrete choice, guided by the Spirit, to transform water into wine in his first public miracle. Continuing into this twentieth and final week of our Benedictine Volunteers 20-weeks Vocational Discernment Series inspired by the Synod of Bishops’ “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment” Preparatory Document, we conclude with “Accompaniment: Walking in the Joy of a Collaborative Journey.” In these past 19 weeks, we have accompanied each other on a collaborative journey. Our journey began with asking, “What is calling?” and moved through a variety of reflections on Jesus’ and how he listened and responded to calling in his own life. We also explored models and tools for practicing discernment in daily life. In this final week of the series, let us remember the ways we have walked together on this journey and recall the importance of friends, community, and guides along the way.

A journey of discernment is never walked alone. When we look at Jesus’ life, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection, we can see that he was accompanied by so many people along the way. The journey was a difficult one, but it is also enriched with joy and learning because of the faithful encounters Jesus had. Sprouting from the epicenter of Jesus’ journey are many other journeys—Mary’s journey as Jesus’ mother; Joseph’s journey as Jesus’ father; the disciples journey as Jesus’ companions; the sick, the blind, the foreigner, the forgotten, and the marginalized as they experience Jesus’ gentle love and compassion. Each journey is different in its own unique expression. All journeys are one journey, leading towards God, guided by the Spirit, and modeled by Jesus.

As we come to know, understand, and respond to calling in our own lives, the hope is that we too can offer support, encouragement, and love to others along their journeying. For the baptismal call is not just a call to a beginning of new life today, but a life-long, daily call to turn towards Christ in both its joys and struggles. This one precious life is God’s gift to us to discover all the small and large, deep and wide, interior and exterior places His love is waiting for us to encounter and respond to.

Questions for Reflection:

- Looking back on these past 19 weeks, what stands out for you? What were the highlights? The lowlights?
- What have you learned about an intentional process of discernment that is new to you? What implications may this have for your life?
- Having read and personally engaged with “Young People: The Faith & Vocational Discernment,” the Preparatory Document for the 15th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, who could you see yourself sharing this preparatory document with? How might you be able to walk with others in their own journeying?