

Lectio Divina

Presenter

Charlie Smiech, OFM

Lent, 2023





Opening Prayer

- Dear Jesus, may your words and actions, by the power of the Holy Spirit, inspire and enlighten my prayer and my day, according to Our Father's will. I make this prayer in your Holy Name, Amen

Sacred Reading of God's Word



An Ancient Tradition

I would like to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina: the diligent reading of Sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about that intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking, and in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart.

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice of praying with Sacred Scripture. It has been especially preserved and practiced by monks throughout the ages, but in recent years has been promoted for the whole Church by Pope St John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. It is simply a way of allowing God to speak to us personally through His Holy Word, as written in the Bible.

God truly desires to speak to us, each one of us. Furthermore, God wants to reveal His love for us, each one of us, and no one is excluded.



Lectio Divina consists of five steps.

1. Select a Scripture passage upon which to reflect. ...

2. Read the passage — preferably out loud — two or three times. ...

3. Meditate on the word or phrase that stood out to you. ...

4. Respond to God who has been speaking to you. ...

5. Still yourself and rest in the loving embrace of your Maker.

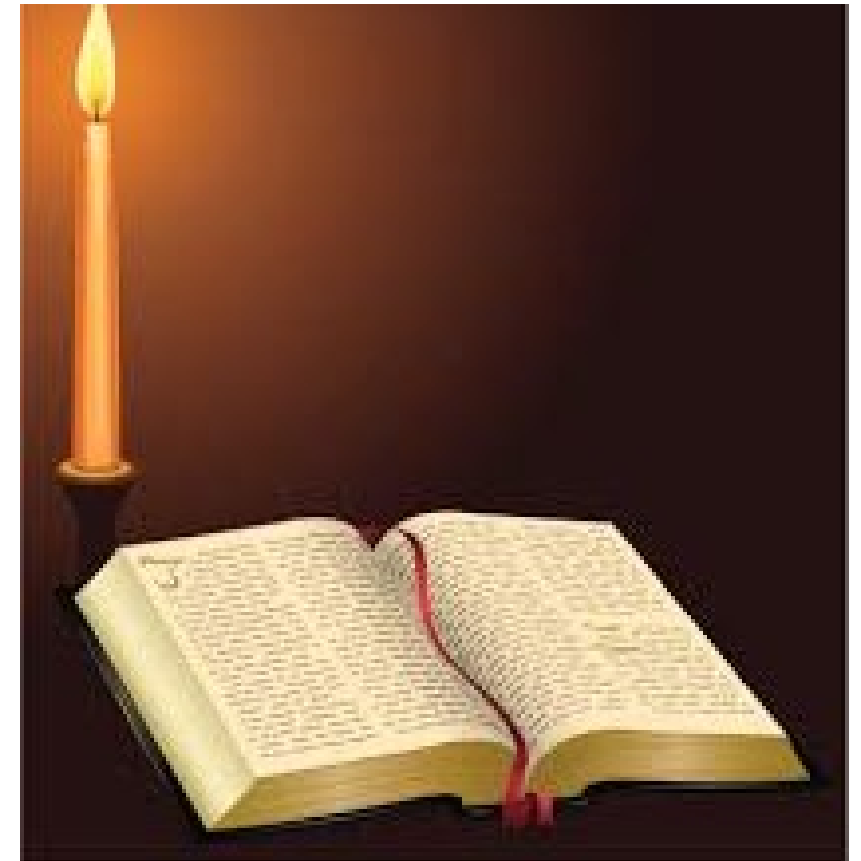
Selecting Passages from the Bible...

- Open the Bible and let your eyes take you to a given passage.
- Daily Readings from the Liturgy.
- Sunday's Readings for the following Sunday.
- Suggestive Reading



Other selections for your consideration are...

- Jesus heals the Crippled Woman LK 13:10-17
- The Parable of the Lost Sheep LK 15 1-7
- The Parable of the Prodigal Son and his brother and their father LK 15: 11-32
- Jesus heals a blind beggar near Jericho LK 18: 35-43
- Jesus calms the Sea MT 8:23-27
- Jesus walks on the Sea MT 14: 22-33
- The Parable of the Wise and the Foolish Maidens MT 25 1-12
- Feeding the Five Thousand MK6:30-44
- The first Commandment MK 12: 28-34
- Jesus Heals on the Sabbath JN 5 1-18
- Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life JN 14 1-14



Our Reading for tonight's' reflection

Jn 13: 12-14 / Lk 22: 19-20 RSV

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord –and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.”**

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”**. And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”**



You are
invited to
the Upper
Room.





Come and
eat, Take and
drink...



Questions to assist you in your meditation...

- **Questions:**
- What word or words struck you during the reading of the text?
- When Jesus said, “Do this in Memory of Me,” how does this command make you feel?
- When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples What insight did you gain?





A Moment to
ponder tonight's
reading...

The second reading...

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord –and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”**

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”**. And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”**



Go deeper into
the silence of
His Word...



What are you hearing...





Review the questions given you...

Questions:

- What word or words struck you during the reading of the text?
- When Jesus said, “Do this in Memory of Me,” how does this command make you feel?
- When Jesus washed the feet of his disciples What insight did you gain?

What Questions do you have ?

Be Still and
Contemplate
God's
Message



Let's go deeper into the third and last reading of this text

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, **“Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord –and you are right, for that is what I am. So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”**

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, **“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me”**. And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, **“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”**

Speak to me,
Lord Jesus...





Hold me close
to yourself,
Lord Jesus...



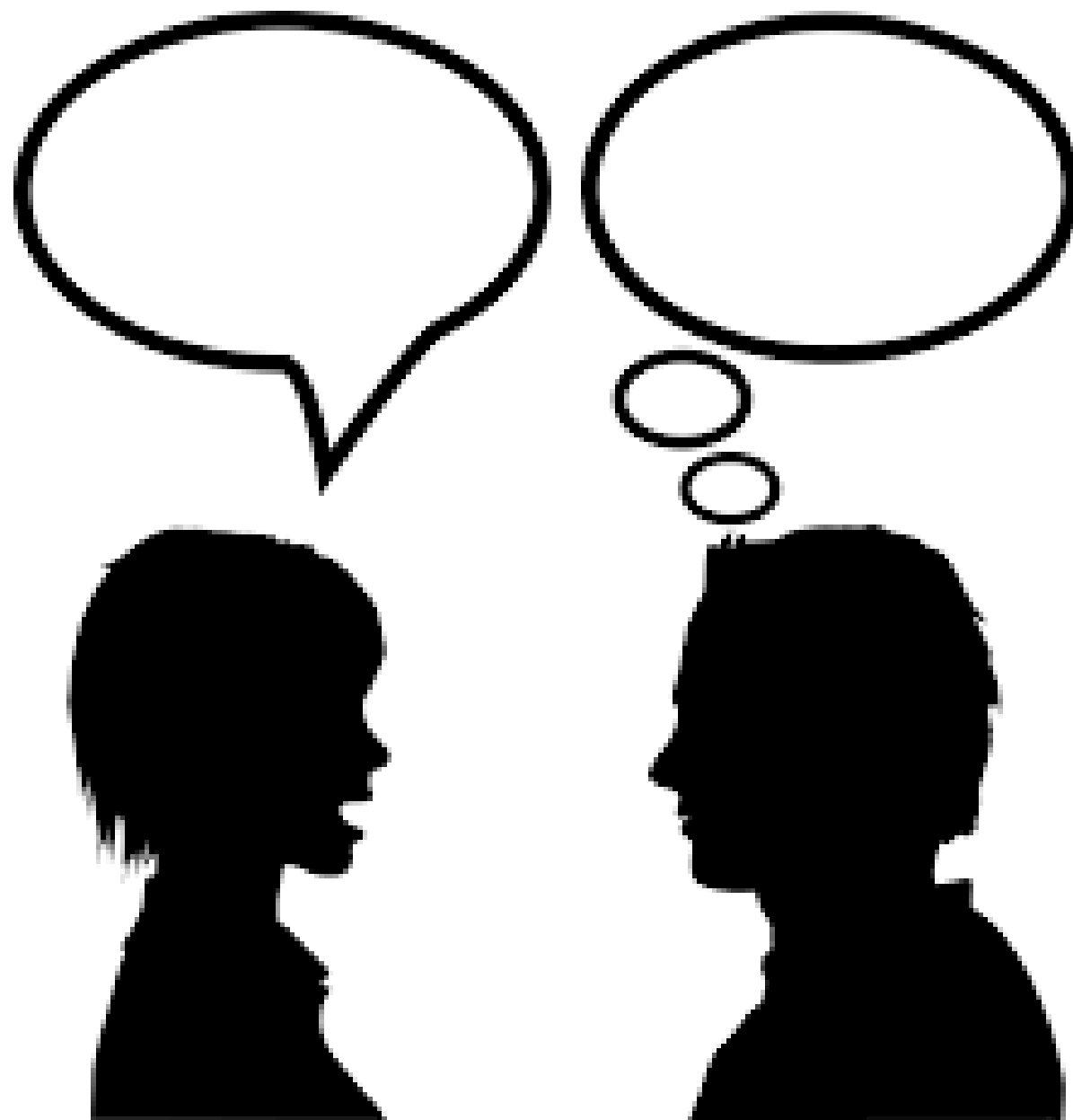


More Questions
and/or Insights...



Contemplate
upon Him...

So tell me
what did you
hear...





Pray over what
you heard in
your heart...

Respond to God
in Prayer
Lord, I have come
to do your will.





Share what
you have
experience
with others...

How does
tonight's
reflection call
you to Action ?



Christian Service...

- Giving Food to the Hungry
- Giving Drink to the Thirsty
- Being of Humble Service
- Work for Unity among Diversity
- Encourage the Feeble of Heart



Love. Grow. Serve.

This Ancient Tradition calls us to Intimacy with God...

- In Obedience to His Word
- In Knowledge and Wisdom
- In Prayer
- In Holy Communion
- In Spiritual Devotions
- In listening to Inner Silence

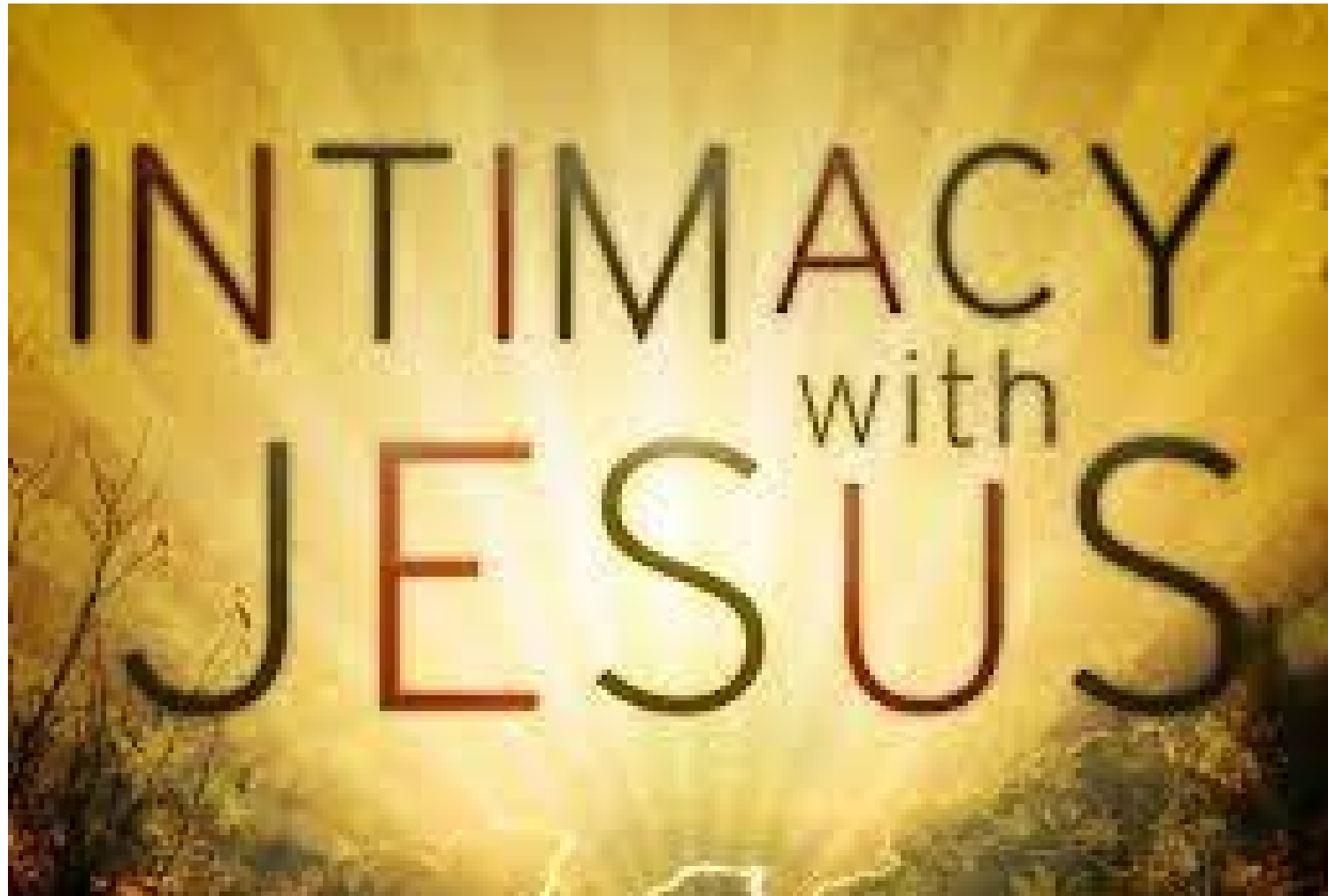




Call to
Intimacy...

John the beloved
disciple of Jesus





Jesus I Trust
in You...

What Scripture says about intimate relationship with God?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself".

A person's love for God must show itself in love for people.



To Love Another
Person is to see
the Face of
God...



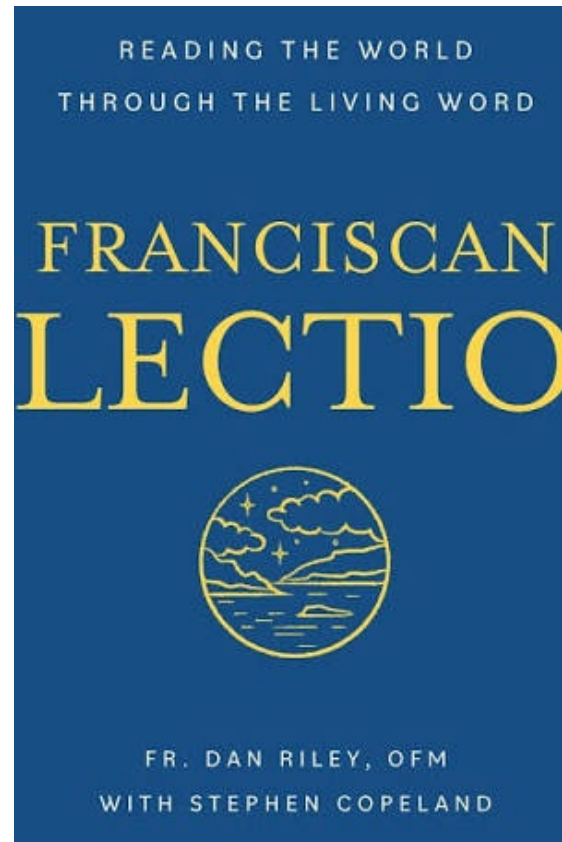
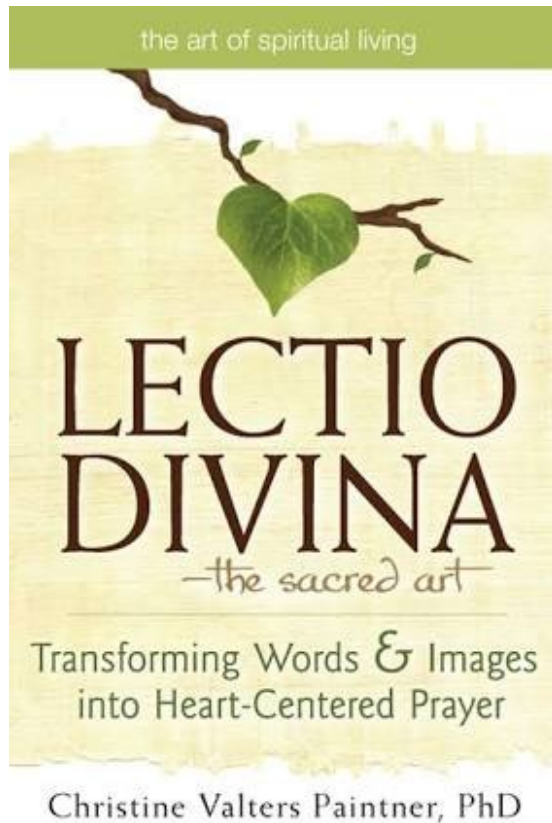


Closing Prayer

- **Lord God, thank you for your abundant love and care for us.** Thank you for forgiving our sins, even for the sins we do not realize we commit. Lord, please fill us with your wisdom and your compassion for others. May you bless us with your never-ending love.

Shared Reflections and/or Questions





PRAYING THE BIBLE



An Introduction to *Lectio Divina*

Mariano Magrassi

Books, Books, and more Books



Good Night

Peace and All Good !

