

# Searching for Meaning

..... Summary

encountering  
*Christ*

Over the past four weeks, our parish family has been journeying together along a series of personal faith reflections called *Encountering Christ*.

*Encountering Christ* is a yearlong series of themed “invitations” being offered during Sunday Mass. It is an open opportunity for deeper faith reflection extended to all parishioners and visitors. The reflections in *Encountering Christ* invite us all to rediscover how our Catholic faith *meets us where we are* and offers us a deeper sense of meaning and purpose in our daily lives.

As Pope Francis reminds us, we must first **personally encounter Christ** to experience the richness of our faith in our lives. Through *Encountering Christ*, our parish is exploring what it means to seek a real friendship with Jesus Christ together.

We began our journey this month with the first invitation, **Searching for Meaning**, which was *an invitation to explore what gives you meaning in life and to reflect on the deepest longings of your heart*.

In our weeks of **Searching for Meaning**, you were invited to contemplate:

*Week One* **What gives you meaning?**

*Week Two* **What are the deepest longings of your heart?**

*Week Three* **When have you felt disappointment?**

*Week Four* **Do you know your most true self?**

To address your “lived faith,” you were invited to reflect on how these questions relate to your search for meaning

- *In Daily Life*
- *In Our Catholic Faith*, and
- *In Friendship with Jesus Christ*

*O kings who search for stars,  
seek them no longer  
for when the sun is shining  
the stars have lost their light.*

*Follow not your own bright  
star nor seek the beauty of  
other lights for when the sun  
is shining, the stars have lost  
their light.*

*Stop your search, for here  
before you is the One who  
lights up all the sky:  
God is the surest haven;  
if you have found shelter here,  
search no more for distant  
stars.*

– Pope Francis,  
“*Faith Beyond Space and Time*”

**“Do not fear: I am with you.  
Do not be anxious: I am your God.”**

– Isaiah 41:10

## For Prayer and Reflection

In our *Search for Meaning*, we followed Pope Francis' call to look back over our lives with its pains and joys and begin "searching out the traces of God."

**In this spirit of recollection, what spoke to your heart as you reflected on the questions raised in *Searching for Meaning*? Did any question hold a deeper significance for you at this time in your life?**

*You are invited to spend some quiet time writing about what was revealed to you as you contemplated the **Searching for Meaning** reflections.*

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May the reflections in *Searching for Meaning* continue to speak to your heart as we prepare together for the next invitation in *Encountering Christ*.

I WILL COME TO YOU IN THE SILENCE.  
 I WILL LIFT YOU FROM ALL YOUR FEAR.  
 YOU WILL HEAR MY VOICE,  
 I CLAIM YOU AS MY CHOICE.  
 BE STILL, AND KNOW I AM NEAR.

I AM HOPE FOR ALL WHO ARE HOPELESS.  
 I AM EYES FOR ALL WHO LONG TO SEE.  
 IN THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT,  
 I WILL BE YOUR LIGHT.  
 COME AND REST IN ME.

DO NOT BE AFRAID, I AM WITH YOU.  
 I HAVE CALLED YOU EACH BY NAME.  
 COME AND FOLLOW ME,  
 I WILL BRING YOU HOME.  
 I LOVE YOU AND YOU ARE MINE.

– David Haas, "You are Mine"

SOURCES:  
 Pope Francis (2013). *Open Mind, Faithful Heart*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 130, 166.

## Sharing the Journey

*You are invited to share your journey in faith by sharing **Encountering Christ** reflections with a friend, family member, spouse, spiritual companion or fellow parishioner.*

In late April we will begin the second invitation in our *Encountering Christ* faith journey:

# OPENING YOUR HEART TO GOD'S SAVING GRACE

*An invitation to open your heart to God's healing love and promise of hope for your life*



*Encountering Christ* is a series of personal faith reflections offered during Mass.

Each reflection will build upon the last.

This handout is for you to keep as personal faith resource.



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