

Take THE Way OF THE Gospel

BEGINNING THE JOURNEY

Welcome & Opening Prayer

HYMN

Holy Spirit, come to us
Kindle in us the fire of your love
Holy Spirit, come to us (x2)

SCRIPTURE

I thank my God every time I remember you, and in every prayer of mine for you all. I pray with joy at your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, confident that the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the Day of Christ Jesus.

And this I pray, that your love for one another may overflow more and more with knowledge and complete understanding that will enable you to discern what is best.

—Philippians 1:3–6, 9–10a

Reflect silently for a few minutes about God's presence in your parish and in our Archdiocese.

What do we need at this time?

Leader: Lord, we thank you for your presence as we start the 'Take the Way of the Gospel' journey together in prayer. May we open ourselves to you with a new depth of trust and conviction in your guiding hand, so that we may discern our journey with compassionate and humble hearts and come to know the Spirit moving within and among us, and so be transformed.

All: Amen

Engagement with the 'Take the Way of the Gospel' pastoral letter (Part 1)

For the next hour, we will look at the Take the Way of the Gospel pastoral letter in two parts and prayerfully reflect on each. Each section will begin with a slow reflective paragraph by paragraph reading of the letter. Part 1 concludes 'This will be a journey that will take time and effort, and we will need to take it together'. As you read/listen, note the words and phrases that speak to you or resonate with you. You may want to underline or highlight these to bring them to the group discussion.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Allow each person to speak, in turn, for a minute or two without interruption.

1. Share your own response to:
As you listened deeply to the pastoral letter, what has resonated with you and how has this left you feeling?
2. After all have shared, respond in turn to:
What have you just **heard from others** in the group and how does that leave you feeling?

Engagement with the 'Take the Way of the Gospel' pastoral letter (Part 2)

Repeat process as above, beginning from 'Our local Church, in all its vast spread...' As you read/listen, note the words and phrases that speak to you or resonate with you. You may want to underline or highlight these to bring them to the group discussion.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Repeat the questions above.

Closing Prayer

RESPONSE TO INTERCESSIONS

Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: We conclude our prayer today with this ancient prayer of the Church.

All: **Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.**

Holy Mary, Mother of the Church. **Pray for us.**

St Joseph. **Pray for us.**

St Patrick. **Pray for us.**

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. **Pray for us.**

