

FAITH SHARING GROUP ~~ RETHINKING CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS
WEEK 2 CHAPTERS 3 & 4

Opening prayer:

Loving and gracious God,

We gather in Your presence, grateful for the rich spiritual tradition of our Catholic faith. Through Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and the witness of the saints, You continually invite us into a deeper relationship with You and with one another.

Open our hearts to recognize Your presence in the ordinary moments of our lives. Teach us to listen with compassion, to serve with humility, to seek Your wisdom, and to see Christ in every person we encounter.

May the Holy Spirit guide our conversations and deepen our understanding of the many ways we can grow in holiness. May the example of Jesus inspire us to live our faith with joy, to love generously, and to bring Your hope and peace into our homes, our parish, and our world.

As we begin our time together, help us to remember that spirituality is not simply something we study, but a relationship we nurture and a way of life we practice each day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Check in Question

What is your experience of the Holy Spirit?

Reflection questions for Chapters 3 & 4

1. How does your personal devotion inspire you to serve others and live out your faith through mission?

2. How does your culture, family, or life experience influence the way you pray and express your spirituality?

3. Fr. Clarke introduces us to theologians and spiritual writers such as Karl Rahner, Bernard Lonergan, and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. Based on your own experience, is there a

theologian or spiritual writer whose ideas have deepened your faith or helped you understand God in a new way?

4. Which saint has had a meaningful influence on your life or spirituality? What is it about that saint's life or witness that speaks to you?

5. Think of someone you have known personally, living or deceased, whose life reflects holiness. What qualities or actions make you think of this person as a saint in everyday life?

6. Clarke speaks about transformation. How have prayer and service helped shape you into a person who more closely reflects the life and love of Jesus?

Closing Prayer:

Loving and gracious God,

We thank You for the saints who have walked before us, the spiritual writers who challenge us to grow, and the ordinary people whose lives quietly reflect Your holiness. Through their witness, we are reminded that sainthood is not reserved for a few, but is an invitation You extend to each of us.

Open our hearts to recognize the holy people You place in our lives. Help us learn from their faithfulness, compassion, courage, and love. May their example inspire us to become living witnesses of Your presence in our world.

Continue to transform us through prayer, service, and our encounters with others. As we grow closer to Jesus, may our hearts become more compassionate, our hands more willing to serve, and our lives more reflective of His love.

Holy Spirit, guide us on our journey toward holiness. Help us to see that every act of kindness, every moment of patient listening, and every effort to bring hope to another person can become a prayer in action.

May we leave this gathering renewed in faith and committed to becoming the people You created us to be.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who shows us the way to holiness and leads us ever closer to You.

Amen.