

Session 7 "Why a Church?"

Session 7 Reflection: St. Augustine, in reference to Holy Communion, wrote: "But what you can see, and receive what you are." Jesus did not simply leave us a message or instructions to follow. He left us a living, dynamic Church where we could continue to encounter Him and be transformed into His likeness.

Session 7 Discussion Questions:

1. What does the astronaut's love of the Eucharist tell you?
2. Are we called to have a relationship with the Church or a relationship with Jesus? Why?
3. Why do we need the Church even when there has been scandals throughout our history?
4. Why did General Kevin Chilton say, "I had the great opportunity to take some pretty spectacular journeys in my life... A harder journey to take is a journey of faith. It doesn't sound exciting like a space flight, but it is ultimately the most important journey we can take as human beings."?
5. Do you agree with Chris Stefanick with his statement, "The Church is essentially a way for us to encounter the presence of God that we need to live life to the full. It's the place where we can look for authoritative teaching, interpreting all that He left us and helping us to apply it to our lives." Why do you agree or disagree?
6. What has been your experience of church?
7. What do you think about the statement? "What research shows is that people who went through their life connected to a community... ended up physically and emotionally in much better shape than their peers. As a Catholic, this research is no surprise to me, that we made by relationship (the Trinity) for relationship."
8. Jonathan Pageau said, "We have bodies; we exist in these bodies, and so the spiritual life of the person also has to include the body. The liturgical experience (what we do at Mass and with the Sacraments) is part of that. How? Why?"
9. Why do you think it is true what Chris Stefanik said, "The fact that God saves us as a family means... that we have an organized religion. Religion was never meant to be a private, personal thing."
10. Expand on the thought of Chris Stefanick. "A lot of people say, 'I don't want to follow some man-made religion.' You know what, I do not either. Our religion was founded by Jesus Christ."
11. The next time you hear someone say, "I don't need a church. I see God in nature." what will you say?

12. What is the one thing you have learned from this session?
13. How has this small group experience affected you?
14. How will you continue after these 7 weeks?

Session 7 Prayer: Heavenly Father, You made us to be in communion with You and with one another. Thank you for the blessing of those who know, love, and care for us. Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of the Church and the part it plays in Your plan for humanity. Forgive us for the times we fail to be the people You desire us to be. Holy Spirit, thank You for dwelling within us and for the gifts you give us to build up the Church. Help us to produce the fruits of Your love more abundantly in our lives. All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was, in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

The Search Participant Guides are available upon request.

Coordinator Manuals

Coordinator Manual EN

Manual del Coordinador ES

Discussion Question References

<https://olphcctx.org/thesearch>

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 5830 Williams Drive Corpus Christi, TX 78412

<https://stbonifacechurch.org/>

St. Boniface, 1200 Warrior Ln, Waukee, IA 50263