

Trivia on the Sacraments (Answers to the trivia on the sacraments September Issue)

1. How many sacraments can a Roman Catholic priest administer? Five sacraments except Holy Orders and Marriage. Confirmation under extraordinary circumstances.
2. What are the two sacraments of vocation? Holy Orders and Marriage
3. In the Catholic Church, what are the sacraments that leave an indelible mark on one's soul? Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders
4. Other than the Eastern Orthodox Church, what are the sacraments typically recognized by the Catholic Church as valid if performed by another Christian denomination? Baptism and Marriage

About our diocese (Answers to the questions about our diocese September Issue)

1. How many parishes do we have in the Diocese of Prince Albert? There are 80 parishes with 30, 302 Catholics and 38 active priests
2. What was the name of the original Church that the Sacred Heart Cathedral replaced? St. George Church
3. Who is the most venerated saint in the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Prince Albert? The Blessed Virgin Mary

Pastoral Centre Resources: (1) The Great Adventure: A Journey Through the Bible (2) Scripture from Scratch Set: A Franciscan Communications DVD (3) Come and See: Catholic Bible Study (4) Threshold Bible Study

Suggested Materials: (1) In Conversation with God 7 - Volume Set (2) Littlest Suffering Souls (3) 40 Days for Life: Discover What God has Done (4) How to Read Your Way to Heaven (5) Rome Sweet Home (6) Étrange Visage de Dieu (7) Call of Mission: The Adventure of the Twelve Continues (8) Catholic For a Reason

Classic Readings: (1) Rich in Mercy by John Paul II (2) God is Love by Benedict XVI (3) The Word of the Lord by Benedict XVI (4) The Light of Faith by Pope Francis (5) On Human Life by Pope Paul VI

For more resources: padiocese.sk.ca or bmjsajonas.com

Next issue's contents

Bishop Albert's article on discipleship; Getting to know some patron saints of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation...many more...

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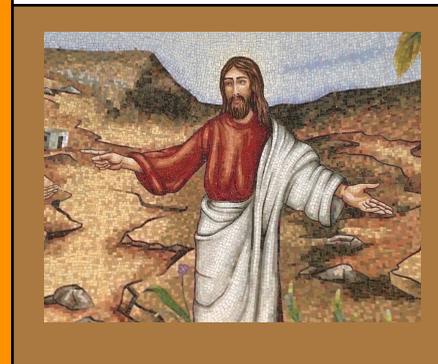
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ADULT FAITH EDUCATION OFFICE

Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS October 2017



Intentional Discipleship: The Divine Encounter
by Fr. Millan Sajonas

God calls each one of us in a unique way. The response is expressed in the chosen vocation in life. A voluntary answer to God's invitation to a lived and conscious relationship with him ascertains intentional discipleship. It is difficult to characterize the rapport with God or its progress within the individual's stages of life. However, it is possible to identify significant aspects of the call.

The moment of the Divine encounter is an important feature of the life of a disciple of Christ. A wide range of factors can influence one's awareness of the Divine. It may happen in the most ordinary routines or day-to-day activities to extraordinary circumstances such as loss of a loved one, sickness or crisis. There is an intense feeling, indescribable sense of emptiness or spiritual exuberance. Discernment is a help to establish an authentic experience of the Divine.

God always initiates the encounter through the simplest clues in everyday living to life-changing events. God gives the vocation and mission to each one. He assures that his inspiration be made known to the person. From the heavens, he summons men and women for a mission. Becoming aware of the message is the focal point when one decides to accept God's invitation or to reject it. God appeals to free will and never coerces a relationship with him. The man or woman has to freely agree, believe and participate in the revelation. One must pause and reflect about the heavenly inspiration. Since God begins the encounter, he will reveal himself and what is needed to be known about him, namely, that he is the Living God. He will inspire what needs to be done. His call should elicit from the person, a resounding "Here, I am."

A recognition of the Divine encounter realizes the sacred ground in which one enters the realm of the holy. Humility and unworthiness of the Divine favour are the proper approaches to God's manifestation. Eyes are cast down to the glory revealed and the mind is devoid of free assumptions of what one understands because God's ways are mysterious. Humility denotes the human limitations and weaknesses for one is exposed before the All-Knowing God. It is God who hears, who sees, and who speaks about the unfolding of one's personal life and conditions.

Therefore, the Divine encounter is a loving initiative of God to call men and women in a relationship with him. It may happen in ordinary or extraordinary situations. A positive reply is the right choice for it is a life-giving encounter with God, granting a meaningful existence; one's vocation, one's mission. In this relationship, God reveals himself and he requests human free will. The Divine encounter begins a journey to holiness of life and doing charitable deeds to others. One's awareness and acceptance of a relationship with God leads to being an **intentional disciple**.

Questions for Reflection on Intentional Discipleship: the Divine Encounter

1. How would you describe your personal relationship with God in present?
2. Did God send you signs that made known His plan for you?
3. How did you respond to the signs that God has sent?
4. To what vocation is God calling you?
5. What mission is God giving to you?

Trivia on Roman Catholicism

1. What is the holiest part of the mass?
2. Where do souls who are still in need of purification from the effects of sin go?
3. Is Jesus fully human or fully Divine?
4. Who was the procurator whose behaviour led to Jesus being crucified?
5. Where is the Blessed Sacrament kept for later distribution to the sick and for adoration? (The answers are on the next issue) (funtrivia.com)

Bible Study

Aide to remember the books of the Bible (Lesson 1 – 1 Old Testament)

Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, GELND;

Historical Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, JOJURUSAKI, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, CHEZNE, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 & 2 Maccabees, TOJUESMA;

Wisdom Books: Job, Psalms, Proverbs JOPSPR, Qoheleth/Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, Ecclesiasticus/Ben Sira, QOSOWIEC;

Prophetic Books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, ISJELABAEZ, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, DAHOJOAMOB, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, JOMINAHAZE, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, HAZEMA

Research Tasks

1. Who are the Moabites?
2. What is the historical significance of Hebron?
3. Which among the two, Caesarea Philipi or Caesarea Maritima, is the place of Peter's confession?
4. Who are the three major prophets according to the Hebrew Bible?
5. What did King Josiah find in the temple in 621 B.C.?
6. What is the meaning of "apocryphal writings" of the New Testament?
7. According to most Bible scholars, which of the four Gospels was written first?
8. Who is Herod the Great?
9. When and where did St. Paul die?
10. What does the word "apocalypse" mean?



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The Experience of Magdala

One of the latest discoveries in biblical archeology is the ancient town of Magdala, which is associated to the home town of Mary Magdalene. Undisturbed for centuries, the town was buried under mud and rocks but perhaps it has already been abandoned when the Roman empire invaded Palestine and destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem 70 A.D.

Walking through the streets of Magdala, seeing the first century synagogue, houses and commerce buildings, one could not help but wonder and imagine Jesus walking in the town. It was a fishing town however the water from the Lake Galilee had receded. One could still see where the lakeshore once was. If Jesus entered the town and preached in the synagogue, he must have used the stone, which might have held the Torah. The ancient houses of the town exhibit several mikveh, Jewish bath, used for ritual purification. Such dwellings say that there had been well to do citizens of Magdala.

There is not so much information about Mary Magdalene but she is mentioned as one of the women following Jesus and his disciples. Her group of women must have served as a support group for Jesus and his followers. Now, there are many ways that we can contribute for the Kingdom of God such as offering our talents, time and resources. As a reflection, we should ask ourselves: how do we help in the works of the Lord?

Archeology

The Magdala Stone

The stone is found in Magdala (near present day Migdal). The site has been identified as the ancient city of Migdal Nunia (fish tower) or Taricheae (the place of salted fish). It is recognized traditionally in Christian sources as the town of Mary Magdalene.

The stone contains clues that help understand first century Judaism, most especially the Second Temple. Several images depict important symbols referring to Judaism such as (1) the Second Temple's seven-branched menorah, (2) pillard archways, with three dimensional design that resembles inside the temple, (3) a pillared structure with two wheels above a geometric shape, illustrating fire. Accordingly, the front and sides of the stone carvings represent the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the back side depicting wheels and fire represents the Holy of Holies. (Source: Magdala.org)

How many times does Magdala appear in the Bible?