

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for July 27, 2024 Saturday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father,
Send your Holy Spirit
to transform the hearts
and minds of all
baptized couples.
With your help,
may their union of life and love
grow ever more profound.
May they embrace God's plan
for marriage and family.
As co-creators with God,
may they be open to children
in trust and love.
Amen.

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus proposed a parable to the crowds. "The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him

and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.



Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. How does my marriage help to build the Kingdom of God? How can I sow good seed to make my marriage more fruitful?

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. When have I focused more on the weeds in my daily life instead of paying attention to the fruit? How can I be more attentive and grateful for God acting in my life and in my marriage?

First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn. How can I embrace the more fully the joys and challenges of parenthood? How can I grow in my trust of God's plan for my marriage?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

My soul yearns and pines
for the courts of the LORD.
My heart and my flesh
cry out for the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest
in which she puts her young—
Your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my king and my God!

Blessed they who dwell in your house!
continually they praise you.
Blessed the men whose strength you are!
They go from strength to strength.

I had rather one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I had rather lie at the threshold of the house
of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

(From Psalm 84)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?
Invest in your marriage by planning a date night for you and your spouse to discuss your marriage and family, to pray together, and to enjoy each other's company.

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