

PARISH BOOK STUDY

The Holy Longing by *Fr. Ron Rolheiser*

Large Group Conversation, January 10, 2012



Summary:

The evening was facilitated by Janet Schaeffler, OP and there were approximately 35 participants. The opening prayer included a reflection on God's presence in our everyday lives.

Chapters four and five of the book focused on four major themes:

- Jesus is the center of our spirituality
- The incarnation – God becoming one of us
- There is a difference between a Christian and a theist
- Being a Christian and understanding the incarnation effects the way we pray, celebrate reconciliation and healing

Table discussion centered on the following:

Participants were invited to choose and create a symbol that represented who Jesus "is" for them. There were many diverse symbols which generated much discussion at the tables.

Another question followed:

What do you think when you hear these words: "We ask this through Christ our Lord..."

Feedback varied:

- It gives us comfort knowing that some members of our families are not present at liturgy, some are not coming, some are deceased, ill, etc.... yet all are included in the "Body"
- Jesus wants disciples not worshipers
- There is a sense of the collective power of the Body of Christ when we come to worship, we are not alone
- Some expressed "ah-ha moments or epiphanies" of times when they experienced the Body of Christ in action
- We need to be reminded to be more aware of the reality of God's presence in the community so that we live out of that reality
- We are made up of God's DNA
- Sometimes we need to experience the absence of God in order to appreciate God's presence

Some unique symbols of God's presence and movement in our lives included:

- a compass
- the sun
- moon
- stars
- beauty of creation
- a mother embracing a child
- heart(s)

The conversation concluded at 9:00 PM

The final gathering for the book study will take place on Tuesday, February 14 at 7:15 PM. The evening will cover the conclusion and summary of the book. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

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