

Embracing and Leading Change within the Church

Spiritual Resources Identified at July/August 2011 Workshops

Scripture Stories

- Journey of Abraham to a new land
- Sarah at 99
- Noah's ark
- The story of Moses leading the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, through the desert, toward the Promised Land: (let my people go!; the 7 plagues)
- Moses dying and not entering the Promised Land – leadership is given without seeing the outcome — also the Archbishop Romero reflection
- 10 commandments
- History of Israel
- Call of the prophets
- Zechariah
- The exile in Babylon
- Expectation of a Messiah
- Daniel in the lion's den
- Mary: the Annunciation leading to the Nativity; the visitation; she ponders all these things in her heart
- Joseph (and Mary) accepting one another
- The call of the disciples
- The temptations of Jesus
- Wedding feast at Cana
- The scrutiny readings in the A cycle
- Two great commandments
- Beatitudes
- Stories of Jesus' healing
- Matthew 18: forgiving seventy-seven times
- Parable of the mustard seed
- Weeds and the wheat
- Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman
- Parable of the man who built his house on the "rock" of Christ's words
- The questions of Jesus
- Scribes and Pharisees as resisters
- The Prodigal Son (or the Prodigal Father) – the example of the father; the happy ending after much hardship
- Peter jumping out of the boat before he realized what he was doing – we need to get out of the boat!
- The storm at sea – "Be not afraid"
- The seed falling to the ground and dying
- The great commissioning (Matthew 28)

- Luke 7: raising of the widow's son
- The Transfiguration
- Raising of Lazarus
- The Last Supper meal
- The crucifixion
- The paschal mystery
- The risen Jesus
- Mary Magdalene at the tomb (not recognizing Jesus)
- The women encountering an empty tomb
- The disciples on the road to Emmaus
- The 50 days of Easter
- Resurrection/Ascension/Pentecost
- Pentecost
- Acts of the Apostles
- Acts: community gatherings and sharing, Peter and the centurion (vision of clean/unclean), Ethiopian eunuch
- Rejection of leaders
- St. Paul's conversion (from persecutor to apostle)
- St. Paul's journeys
- Paul's letters

Scripture passages

- Psalm 23: The Lord is my shepherd
- Psalm 27: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom do I fear?
- Psalm 46: Be still and know that I am God
- Psalm 100: we are God's people
- Psalm 139
- Matthew 5:11-13: Blessed are you when they insult you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
- Matthew 5:14: You are the light of the world – we need to be light in the darkness
- Matthew 5:44: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you
- Matthew 6:33: Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides
- Matthew 7:1: Judge not lest you be judged
- Matthew 28:20: I am with you always
- John 3:16: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.
- Romans 8:38-39: For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Hebrews 12:1: we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses

Models for embracing change

- John the Baptist
- St. Paul
- St. Francis of Assisi and his leadership—rebuild my church
- Dorothy Day
- Pope John XXIII
- Mother Theresa
- The saints
- St. Lawrence and other martyrs for the faith
- Archbishop Romero
- St. Francis Cabrini
- Catherine McAuley
- Gandhi
- Bishop Clark

Times of Significant Change in Church History—church history shows change/development

- After the fall of Rome
- Church Councils
- The Reformation and Counter-Reformation
- Vatican II
- Lay leadership
- Changes in the Mass

Other

- The Eucharist: the presence of Christ; working with people
- Prayer
- The work of the Holy Spirit
- God is provident; God is in control
- Serenity Prayer
- Footprints in the sand
- Sacramentals and devotions: rosary, scapulars, chaplets (tangibles)
- The joyful mysteries of the rosary
- Stations of the Cross
- Ignatian spirituality
- We can't measure success by the world's measurements
- Corporal works of mercy
- Divine Mercy
- A faith-based approach: act on your faith!
- Retreats and other renovating experiences
- Light a candle and things get better!