



You are Loved
You are Called
You are Chosen

RCIA Catechumenate Retreat
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
February 9th 2013

Opening Prayer

The Rosary – Joyful Mysteries

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You are filled with **God's**
Love

*****Meditate on the following
passage from the New Testament*****

Ephesians Chapter 3

¹⁶ In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, ¹⁷ so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, ¹⁸ with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; ¹⁹ so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. ²⁰ Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; ²¹ glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

*****Write your thoughts/reflections on
this meditation*****

Love is Here by Tenth Avenue North, *You
Never Let Go* by Jeremy Camp,
Everything Good by Ashes Remain

***Now, break out with your sponsor
and discuss the following:***

Share feelings and reactions to
meditation

What does it take to accept
unconditional love?

How can you respond to God's
love?

You are **Called**

We are Called by David Haas

Prayer

God of creation, you are calling us into the
desert to meditate, to listen. You are
calling us into the retreat.

Response: We rejoice that we are here!

You have offered us your unconditional
love from the moment of our creation in
your divine image.

Response: We rejoice that we are yours!

You have promised to be with us
everywhere and always. God of promise,
we know that we are called by you to be
who we are

Response: We rejoice that we are yours!

Bless us as we continue in your loving
embrace. Through Jesus in the power of
the Holy Spirit, we pray.

**Response: We rejoice that we are here!
Amen! Amen!**

You are Mine by David Haas

Open the Eyes to My Heart Lord by Caleb McCleary

*****Meditate on the following passage*****

Ezekiel

Chapter 36

For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your father; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

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What One Word Jumps Out at You?

What Does This Passage Say to You?

How Does This Passage Relate to Your Upcoming Sacraments?

Being Open to God

With your sponsor, discuss what is required of you to truly be open to God?

How Great is Our God by Chris Tomlin
How Great Thou Art by Carrie Underwood

*****Open Discussion*****

Sacred Silence

God knows us better than we know ourselves. Let us ask His help to see the areas of ourselves that we have opened to Him and those areas that we need to open more fully to His light. Reflect upon those areas that God is revealing to you that need to open more fully to Him. Ask His help to bring them to His light.

*****Take 30 Minutes to Yourself to Reflect – Before Leaving, Take a Rock from the Bowl*****

In pairs with sponsors, please share insights from the time of silence. Together, identify ONE WORD EACH that reflects the barriers which hold us back from being completely open to God. Each rock will represent your WORD and then these WORDS will be offered at the petitions below when we all come back together.

Prayer

(Together)

God of Love, we are your people.
You have created and formed us from the very beginning.

You gather us together as your beloved
Sons and Daughters.

Open our hearts, minds and souls to hear
Your Word.

Crack open our shells so that we might
receive all that you desire for us.

We are yours, and you are our God, now
and forever.

Amen

(Petitions)

“Loving God, I bring to you my
_____. I ask you to bless us that I
might be more open to you.

(Place Your Stone in the Bowl)

(Response)

Lord, Hear our prayer.

My Savior My God by Aaron Shust

You are Chosen!

Here I am Lord by Chris Bray

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute 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 before you.

You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp-stand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so your light must shine before others that they may see the good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Witness Talk

We are called by name, chosen by Jesus to be His disciples. From the talk, discuss with your sponsor what you found comforting and challenging.

Discuss and Identify the qualities that God wants of us to be his disciples. Be prepared to name them for the group so that we can write them on a flip chart.

Walk By Faith by Jeremy Camp

*****Share Discipleship Qualities*****

Look over the list of qualities and consider...

Which qualities do I see in myself?

What do I need to ask the Lord's help to develop?

*****Write a Letter to Christ*****

Return to a part of the reading from Ephesians this morning:

"So that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God."

What has been revealed or clarified for you this day?

Closing Prayer & Blessing

We will now call you forward individually. We want you to take what you have learned and experienced into your everyday lives. We now place the Crucifix of our Lord around your necks. You are His and He is yours!

You are called by name to be light in the world...go forth to love and serve the Lord...

Lifesong by Casting Crowns