

## Prayer Service Two

### Opening Song

**Let nothing disturb you (CD 2001, *Woman's Song of God*: by Sr Breige O'Hare SSC and Sr Marie Cox RSM).**

*Quiet moment of recollection in God's presence*

### A reading from the gospel of John 21: 9 – 19

Jesus invites his apostles to breakfast

**When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, and fish on it and bread. Jesus said to them, "bring some of the fish that you have just caught". So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty three of them; and though they were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast". Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you"? because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.**

**When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes Lord; you know that I love you". Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs". A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" he said to him, "Yes Lord you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep". He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord you know everything, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep". Very truly I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go". After this he said to him, "Follow me".**

*Quiet moment to welcome the Word*

### Reflection

**Jesus cooks breakfast for his disciples. The simple ordinary action was a prelude to a very extraordinary encounter of Love. May we live the ordinary round in daily life in such a way that God can touch our hearts "when breakfast is finished".**

*In response to the reading we listen to Psalm 131*

**O God my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high;**

**I have not occupied myself with marvels beyond me.**

**I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child at its mother's breast;**

**Like a child in its Father's arms; even so is my soul.**

**O Israel hope in your God both now and forever.**

*Quiet moment to express love and gratitude to God*

**Short reflection from *Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of the Gospel***

**Pope Francis writes:**

***Just as the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today also we have to say “thou shalt not” to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. (E.G. 53)***

Simplicity, the ordinary, can be an antidote to this exclusion, this inequality. Simplicity means that we live close enough to the limits of our resources so that we rely on God’s providential care and so are more open to appreciate the beauty of life and the dignity and value of each person. Faithfulness to the simple, the ordinary will help us to be able to sort out what is necessary and what is luxury. Can we be satisfied with having enough to be generous and caring? How might we find the courage to resist our “must have culture”?

**Reflection Question**

What might be the challenge that I, we, as a family/community must face in order to celebrate Christmas with gospel simplicity this year?

**Quiet moment/Sharing; mutual support to help carry through on our resolution.**

**Let us pray to God simply and trustingly**

**O God of joy and beauty, open our hearts respond to your love in simplicity and trust, so that we may never lose our sense of wonder at your beauty which surrounds us; may we rejoice always in the daily signs of your merciful care that come to us and which call us beyond ourselves to the care of others and the love of you. This prayer we make in Jesus’ name. Amen**

**We bring our time of prayer to a close by praying (singing) *the Suscipe with Catherine McAuley***

MY God I am yours for time and eternity.

Teach me to cast myself entirely into the arms of your loving Providence

With the most lively, unlimited confidence in Your compassionate tender pity.

Grant O Most Merciful Redeemer that whatever You ordain or permit may be acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety. Let nothing sadden me but sin,

Nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of You

My God and my All in Your everlasting kingdom

AMEN

**From: Brenda Dolphin rsm: Is there Anything More Extraordinary than the Ordinary? [www.mercyworld.org](http://www.mercyworld.org)**

