



Retreat Leaders

Fr. Casey Beaumier SJ and Fr. Patrick Nolan SJ

Hosted by [Educate Magis](#)

Session 1: *The Light of Life--Past Faith to Sustain Our Present Moment*

Grace:

To savor the moments in the Christian tradition that reveal life in the midst of difficulty

The difficulties of the past year are very apparent. If we turn to our faith tradition, we can see that in the midst of deep challenge, there are surprising, unexpected, tiny signs of new life, of growth. There is wisdom from our past that reveals light.

Scripture:

Joel 2: 12-14

“Return to me with your whole heart ... return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.”

Isaiah 11: 1-3

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength.

Tradition:

Eternal God,
I pray to you, for all those you have given me
to love with a special love, and with special concern.
Let them be illuminated with your light.
Let all imperfection be taken from them,
so that in truth they may work in your garden,
where you have assigned them to work.
I commend to you those whom you have put on my shoulders.
You commissioned me to keep them awake, me, who am always sleeping.
Wake them up yourself, kind and compassionate Father,
so that the eyes of their understanding
may always be wide awake in you.

--Catherine of Siena

Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves ... do not seek the answers which cannot be given to you because you would not be able to live them and the point is to live everything. Live the questions

now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

--Rainer Maria Rilke

Act of Hope and Confidence in God

My God, I believe most firmly that you watch over all who hope in you, and that we can want for nothing when we rely upon You in all things. Therefore I am resolved for the future...to cast all my cares upon you ...

People may deprive me of worldly goods and status.
Sickness may take from me my strength and the means of serving you.
I may even jeopardize our relationship by sin, but my trust shall never leave me.
I will preserve it to the last moment of my life, and the powers of hell shall seek in vain to grab it from me.

Let others seek happiness in their wealth and in their talents. Let them trust in the purity of their lives, the severity of their mortifications, in the number of their good works, the enthusiasm of their prayers, as for me, my rock and my refuge, my confidence in you fills me with hope. For you, my divine protector, alone have settled me in hope.

"This confidence can never be vain. No one, who has hoped in God, has ever been confounded."

I am assured, therefore, of my eternal happiness, for I firmly hope in it and all my hope is in you. "In You, O loving God, have I hoped: let me never be confounded."

I know too well that I am weak and changeable. I know the power of temptation against the strongest virtue. I have seen stars fall and foundations of my world crack; these things do not alarm me. While I hope in you, I am sheltered from all misfortune, and I am sure that my trust shall endure, for I rely upon you to sustain this unflinching hope.

Finally, I know that my confidence cannot exceed Your generosity, and that I shall never receive less than I have hoped for from you. Therefore I hope that you will sustain me against my evil inclinations, that you will protect me against the deceitful attacks of the evil one, and that you will cause my weakness to triumph over every hostile force. I hope that you will never cease to love me and that I shall love you unceasingly. —Claude la Colombiere, S.J.



Retreat Leaders

Fr. Casey Beaumier SJ and Fr. Patrick Nolan SJ

Hosted by [Educate Magis](#)

Session 2: *God is directly at Work in the Life of the Creature*

Grace:

To pray for an awareness of the moments of grace, the little shoots of hope, as I review my personal history of the last year.

If we use the gift of our memories, we can be drawn into wonder at the possibility of a different interpretation of what has happened over the course of the last year in our personal lives. As we become more aware of the little shoots of hope that have emerged over the course of the past year, we can trace God's abiding presence in the midst of a difficult year.

Scripture:

- **Psalm 139**

LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
LORD, you know it all.
Behind and before you encircle me
and rest your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
far too lofty for me to reach.
Where can I go from your spirit?
From your presence, where can I flee?
If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, there you are.
If I take the wings of dawn
and dwell beyond the sea,
Even there your hand guides me,
your right hand holds me fast.
If I say, "Surely darkness shall hide me,
and night shall be my light"
Darkness is not dark for you,
and night shines as the day.
Darkness and light are but one.
You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!

My very self you know.
My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.
How precious to me are your designs, O God;
how vast the sum of them!
Were I to count them, they would outnumber the sands;
when I complete them, still you are with me.

- **Matthew 13:31**

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

- **Luke 24: 13-34**

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast.

One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?"

And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.

Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to

Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

Tradition:

- When we speak of the "hidden life of Jesus" we are considering the period of time where he grows in wisdom, age, and favor before God and others. What is *hidden*? Hours of conversation, failure, cultivating and renewing friendship, study, prayer, wonder, disillusionment, laughter, tears, hopes, and desires. Many ideals and virtues are planted in the human heart during the time of the hidden life, the time of formation. --*Casey Beaumier, S.J.*
- **Luke 18:1** tells of Christ urging his followers always to "pray and not lose heart." I find this reminder about prayer, persistence, and dedication to be most comforting and inspiring. We live in a world full of opportunity but also one that challenges faith, hope, and commitment. Because demand and needs are often so great, people can easily become frustrated and pessimistic, overwhelmed by the scope and complexity of problems. They can fail to appreciate their contributions or the good that is being done around them; their vision can become dim. Christ calls us to become involved with an imperfect society and to maintain our vision. As his followers, we cannot wish away pain, exploitation, and evil, nor can we permit ourselves to withdraw or live superficially. The claim of Christ is like an unwavering gaze, silent but intense. To be faithful to our vocations and Catholics, we must pray and not lose heart. --*William Leahy, S.J.*
- ... when a person is seeking God's will, it is more appropriate and far better that the Creator and Lord himself should communicate himself to the devout soul, embracing it in love and praise, and disposing it for the way which will enable the soul to serve him better in the future ... to allow the Creator to deal immediately with the creature and the creature with its Creator and Lord. --*Ignatius Loyola, Spiritual Exercises Annotation Fifteen*
- "Thy will be done," in its full extent, must be the guideline for the Christian life. It must regulate the day from morning to evening, the course of the year and the entire life. Only then will it be the sole concern of the Christian. All other concerns the Lord takes over. This one alone, however, remains ours as long as we live ... --*St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*



Retreat Leaders

Fr. Casey Beaumier SJ and Fr. Patrick Nolan SJ

Hosted by [Educate Magis](#)

Session 3.

Grace:

To name new elements that have been introduced into my personal life in the past year that I would like to maintain as I move forward out of the pandemic.

While the past year has brought so much disruption and hardship, there have been adaptations that have been fruitful and important for our lives. These practices, whether at home or work or in the variety of our relationships might be worthy of our holding onto and incorporating into the future.

These rituals, whether at home or work or in the variety of our relationships might be worthy of practicing in the future.

Scripture:

Luke 22:19

Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." [Read more...](#)

Luke 5: 36-39

"No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

Rev 21:5-6

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water" [Read more...](#)

Luke 9:59-62

And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my

family at home.” To him Jesus said, “No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Tradition:

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes,
to discern and test the spirits
that help me read the signs of the times,
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius.
--Pedro Arrupe, S.J.

On the day
you cease
to change
you cease
to live.
--Anthony de Mello, S.J.

My God, I do not know what must come to me today.
But I am certain that nothing can happen to me
that you have not foreseen, decreed,
and ordained from eternity.
That is sufficient for me.
I adore your impenetrable and eternal designs,
to which I submit with all my heart.
I desire, I accept them all, and I unite my sacrifice
to that of Jesus Christ, my divine Savior.
I ask in his name and through his infinite merits,
patience in my trials, and perfect and entire submission
to all that comes to me by your good pleasure.

--Joseph Pignatelli, S.J.



Retreat Leaders

Fr. Casey Beaumier SJ and Fr. Patrick Nolan SJ

Hosted by [Educate Magis](#)

Session 4.

Grace:

To imagine possibilities for a transformed path forward.

- In the Christian tradition, after the disciples encounter the risen Jesus, they change. They witness hope and facilitate new possibilities, for they do not walk with Jesus now in the same way that they did before. How might we learn from those early companions of Jesus so that like them, we become bearers of light in the midst of a new reality because of the glory of the risen Lord?

Scripture:

Matthew 16: 18-19

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

John 21:15-17

“Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a 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.”

John 14:2-6

In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life.

Habakkuk 2:3-4

Then the LORD answered me and said: Write down the vision; Make it plain upon tablets, so that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.

Tradition:

- Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfilment not only of oneself, but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. -- *Pope Francis*
- Faith is not only presented as a journey, but also a process of building, the preparing of a place in which human beings can dwell together with one another ... With faith comes a new reliability, a new firmness, which God alone can give ... Faith reveals just how firm the bonds between people can be when God is present in their midst. Faith does not merely grant interior firmness, a steadfast conviction on the part of the believer; it also sheds light on every human relationship because it is born of love and reflects God's own love ... Faith makes us appreciate the architecture of human relationships because it grasps their ultimate foundation and definitive destiny in God, in his love, and thus sheds light on the art of building; as such it becomes a service to the common good. Its light does not simply brighten the interior of the Church, nor does it serve solely to build an eternal city in the hereafter; it helps us build out societies in such a way that they can journey toward a future of hope. -- *Pope Francis, Lumen Fidei*
- Imagination is the gift that envisions what cannot yet be seen, the gift that constantly proposes to itself that the boundaries of the possible are wider than they seem. -- *William Lynch, S.J.*
- Although I have lived through much darkness ... I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs eternal -- do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! We are not the sum of our weakness and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son. -- *Saint John Paul II*