

# *Living as Missionary Disciples of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lenten Retreat Theme: Trust**

**Our Lenten Retreat presentation with Fr. Phillip Cover is next week, March 10, 11 and 13.** In preparing ourselves for our Lenten Retreat, we encourage you to take time each day throughout this week to read and then reflect on what resonates most with you.

**Thomas Merton O.C.S.O. Trappist Monk and mystic:** My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you will never leave me to face my perils alone. – *Thomas Merton*

**Question for prayerful reflection:** Each of us may have experienced a time in life when we may feel very much alone and abandoned by friends or family or God. At such times, the Spirit is asking us to trust in the Spirit's presence, to trust that we are held in unconditional love, trust that the Spirit is at work in us in ways that need to be hidden. The invitation is to trust that the Spirit will lead us out of the wilderness when the time is right. Prayerfully reflect on Merton's prayer in light of your own experiences of wilderness times, noting the hope and trust within his prayer.

**Meister Eckhart, Theologian and mystic:** There is nothing that testifies more clearly to perfect love than trust. Wholehearted love for another creates trust in them, and we will truly find in God everything that we dare hope for in him. – *Meister Eckhart*

**Question for prayerful reflection:** Love creates trust and through trust we find God. Jesus' 40 days and nights of struggle in the desert were rooted in unconditional trust, the same kind of trust Mary manifested in her "yes, let it be done to me as you say." (Lk 1:38) Am I willing to submit my life to God as Mary did or is there something keeping me from fully trusting Him? Do I believe God is sufficient for me? Have I trusted in His mercy by confessing everything to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or are there areas of sin I try to keep hidden? Consider a time in your life when you were invited to trust unconditionally. What part did love play in your capacity to stay with and live with pure trust?

**Joan Chittister O.S.B., a Benedictine Sister writes:** When we have prayed prayers long enough, all the words drop away and we begin to live in the presence of God. Then prayer is finally real. When we find ourselves sinking into the world around us with a sense of purpose, an inner light and deep and total trust that whatever happens is right for us, then we have become prayer. – *Joan Chittister*

**Question for prayerful reflection:** Where do you find yourself sinking into the world around you with purpose? Do you have a sense of trust deepening in you? Might there be something happening in you or for you that you know is not of your making? If so, what might that be; what might trust be asking of you?

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**Please use the link below to sign up for the Lenten Retreat if you plan on attending. This will give us a better head count for food preparations and seating.**

**<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c48a4a729a5fb6-lenten>**