



Session 3: Theological Reflection and the Catechist

Keynote: Anne Walsh, DMin

1. *Theological reflection through scripture:*

Anne invited us to reflect on the Emmaus Journey (Lk 24:13–35):

- a. Reflect on the encounter of the disciples with Jesus on the Emmaus Journey (Lk 24:13–27). How did Jesus accompany these disciples? Has anyone accompanied me the way that Jesus accompanied these two disciples? How did they accompany me?
- b. Reflect on the conclusion of the Emmaus Journey as Jesus departs from the disciples (Lk 24:28–31). What happened in the house? What changed when Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it? How does this speak to me? When have I, in the company of another person, had light shone onto my path?
- c. Think about how the disciples witnessed to the Apostles their encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:32–35). When or where has my heart burned like this? What happened because my heart burned? What changed because I experienced that lifting/burning of my heart?

2. *Theological reflection through an element of tradition or a doctrinal concept:*

Anne said that theological reflection gets us to reflect on the past so that we might see Jesus walking with us today, in the present. Reflect on the Paschal Mystery (adapted from G. Broccolo and R. Rolheiser):

- a. *Death*: What paschal experiences, experiences of loss or death (not necessarily physical) have I had?
- b. *Entombment*: Once we experience a Paschal death we enter into the tomb with Jesus for some time (e.g., an hour, fifteen minutes, a year or five years). When have I lain in the tomb? When did there appear to be no way out? What is my tomb?
- c. *Resurrection*: Resurrection is a choice: Do I want my old life back or do I want to embrace the new life offered by Jesus? For which



resurrection do I long? For which resurrection do I pray? Which resurrection does Jesus hold out before me?

- d. *Ascension*: After a period of mourning that which holds us to the old life, I must ask myself: What must I let go of? What must I mourn in order to be able to embrace and live fully the new life I am promised?
 - e. *Pentecost*: Once the mourning is concluded, I must make changes to my life. What is the new life that is being offered to me? What gifts do I pray for in order to be able to embrace this new life and live it fully? What does this new life look like? What form does the Holy Spirit (gift and sustenance for this new life) take?
3. *Theological reflection through the events of our own lives (reflection on an experience)*:

What impactful personal experience, life event or story I have had?

- a. Where did it happen? When did it happen? Who was involved?
- b. What questions do I have for clarification or for additional detail?
- c. What images or stories from scripture come to mind?
- d. Does this event take me to any element of our Christian tradition that could shed light on the experience?