

Session One

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Reading: Prologue and Introduction

Opening Prayer:

Loving Father,

Open our hearts and minds

and allow us to see the beauty of our faith.

Show us what is possible and fill us with the grace, strength,
and wisdom to live all the good things

we explore here together.

Send your Spirit upon us so that we can discover your dream

for us to become the-best-version-of-ourselves,

and have the courage to defend and celebrate this true self
in every moment of our days.

We ask you to bless in a special way the hungry, the lonely,

the sick, and the discouraged. Remind us of our duty toward
them and inspire us to be filled with a profound gratitude.

We ask all this through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe the moment in your life when you most enjoyed being Catholic.
2. How did the story about the epidemic and the little boy change the way you think about Mass? What else did the story challenge you to reflect upon?
3. In the Introduction of *Rediscover Catholicism* the author shares many ideas about where we are as a Church and possibilities for the future. Which idea most struck you from that section? Why?
4. This is a very hopeful book, and yet the author is not afraid to confront the very real challenges we face as a Church at this moment in history. As you reflect on the future of Catholicism:
 - a) What are you most concerned about?
 - b) What are you most hopeful about?
5. It seems the first Christians lived differently, loved differently, and worked differently, and in the process captured the imagination of the people of their time. How can you live, love, and work so as to intrigue the people in your own place and time?
6. In what ways is God calling you to a bigger future at this time in your life?
7. What makes you proud to be a Catholic today?

Closing Prayer:

THE DYNAMIC CATHOLIC PRAYER

Loving Father,

I invite you into my life today

and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the-best-version-of-myself

by seeking your will and becoming a living example
of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change

in order for me to carry out the mission

and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are

dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices

and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid,

hope when I am discouraged,

and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church

to become all you imagined it would be

for the people of our times.

Amen.