

Session Two

WE BECOME WHAT WE CELEBRATE

Reading: Part One, Chapters One through Five

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. When you consider where we are today as a society, do you think the world needs Christianity more or less than it did a hundred years ago? What are the signs that support your view?
2. How are you influenced by the philosophies of individualism, hedonism, and minimalism? Give examples.
3. In Chapter Three the author quotes, “The desire for God is written on the human heart . . .” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). In what ways do you yearn for God?
4. How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? Is he friend, mentor, coach, savior, spiritual director, role model, distant God, or historical figure? Where do you see opportunities for this relationship to grow?
5. How does embracing Catholicism as a way of life make you a better-version-of-yourself?
6. In Chapter Five the author discusses the identity crisis that we are struggling with as a Church. If your life were put under a microscope, would there be sufficient evidence to convince a jury of your peers that you were truly Catholic? What would that evidence be?

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.