

*“Encounter”*

**Books Recommended During the Study Sessions**

- **Msgr. Matz has noted several books** that he has found helpful for prayer by Thomas H. Green, S.J.:

*Opening to God -- A guide to Prayer* (to be read first)

*When the Well Runs Dry -- Prayer Beyond the Beginnings* (to be read second)

*Darkness in the Marketplace*

- **Other Study Group recommendations**

*Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young

*Jesus Calling – For Teenagers* by Sarah Young

*When God Winks: How the Power of Coincidence Guides Your Life* (The Godwink Series) by Squire  
Rushnell

*Sauntering Through Scripture: A Book of Reflections* by Genevieve Glen OSB

**Finding Inspiration and Making the Most of Prayer Time:**

- It is not necessary that you ‘finish’ a Scripture reading – a book or chapter of Scripture. The focus should be on what the Scripture is saying to you and how it affects you. Reading isn’t a task to get done.
- We don’t need to be rigid about prayer – *lectio divina* is a means to an end, but not the only means – the goal is a relationship with God, with Jesus.
- It’s OK to make prayer and Scripture personal and intimate.
- It’s OK to stir things up in the back of our mind. When we’re in the struggle, it’s a vote of confidence.
- The repetition of messages in Scripture or the recurrence of Scriptural themes & messages encountered from different sources could be God underscoring a point: pay attention. *For example*, when the readings of the day match our video session on the same day.
- Metaphors are a springboard for prayer – think through the metaphors in Scripture, what imagery are they really calling you to think about?
- Renaming – God renames many times in the Bible – this is an indication of a closer relationship.
- The contemplative life is for certain religious orders, while ‘contemplation in action’ is a good fit for the lives of the lay faithful = faith and good works.
- Decisions that we must make: Do we do what we want to do or what God wants us to do?
- Discussion of Martha & Mary: Martha is doing good things, preparing the meal, etc. and does good things elsewhere in Scripture. In this story, when Jesus supports Mary vs. Martha’s busy preparations, his message is: now... I need you to listen.
- It may be helpful to assume different roles within a Scripture story... partake of the story in different ways, reflect on it from different viewpoints.
- It may be helpful to emphasize different words... how might that affect the meaning of what is being spoken to you?