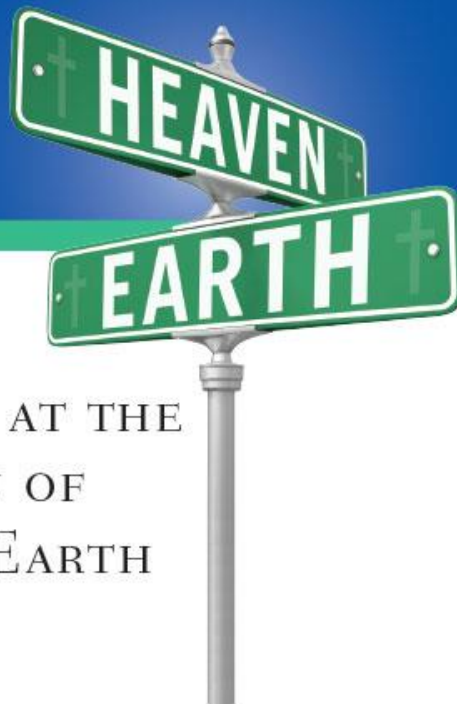


JOE PAPROCKI

LIVING THE SACRAMENTS



FINDING GOD AT THE
INTERSECTION OF
HEAVEN AND EARTH

Discussion Guide

Chapter 1

Learning to Read Signs: Speaking God's Language

1. Share an example of a symbol or ritual from your family life that tells a story, that is, invokes a narrative.
2. When was a time that you especially needed to experience the nearness of God in your life?
3. What does it mean to you to "find God in all things"? What are some examples of places, things, or experiences in which you find God?
4. Describe a moment or experience in your life when words were insufficient to express yourself.

5. What are examples of signs and symbols used in Catholic life? What sign or symbol from Catholic Tradition is especially meaningful to you? Why?

6. Who was/is a great storyteller in your life? What stories do you recall from your childhood? What stories (novels, movies) are your favorites now? What is your favorite Scripture story and why?

Chapter 2

Living the Sacrament of Baptism: A Whole New You

1. What is the difference between powerlessness and weakness? How can powerlessness be a prerequisite for healing?
2. Describe a time that someone or something “colored your world.” How does Baptism color our world?
3. What are some of the ways you have used oil in your life? What “powers” or benefits did these various oils promise to provide in your life?

Chapter 3

Living the Sacrament of Confirmation: What's Come Over You?

1. Recall a time you asked, "What's come over you?" or had someone pose the query to question your behavior. Share with others.
2. What is a spiritual quality that you have that you wish you could "transmit" to someone you love (e.g. spouse, children, parents, siblings, friend)? What is a spiritual quality that you wish someone would "transmit" to you?
3. In what ways has the Holy Spirit nudged you to shift your attention away from yourself and toward the needs of others? What are some concrete examples from your life?

4. In what ways is God's grace "ordinary"? Where are some of the places you find, encounter, or experience God's grace?

5. What is bringing you joy in your life right now?

6. Who is someone who has been or is an advocate for you? When was a time you advocated for someone else? How does the Holy Spirit advocate for us?

Chapter 4

Living the Sacrament of the Eucharist: What Do You Crave?

1. What are some of the foods you crave from time to time? What are examples of things besides food that you often crave?
2. How do you feel when you're craving something? How do you express yourself when you have a craving—for food or otherwise—that you want to satiate?
3. What are some of the things that attempt to "seduce" you on a daily basis by promising to sustain you and provide you with happiness?

Chapter 5

Living the Sacrament of Reconciliation: Rescue Me!

1. When was a time that you became aware of God's presence during an experience of failure, defeat, or loss?
2. How does the notion of sin as "missing the mark" affect your understanding of sin?
3. Who in your life offers you a perspective beyond your own that helps you to recognize how you may have missed the mark when it comes to following God's will?
4. Describe a time in your life when you learned that "it's not about you."

5. Who in your life is the greatest example of selfless love? Why?

6. Who is someone in your life who makes you want to be a better person? What shortcomings of your own do you become more aware of in the presence of this person?

7. How has your understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation deepened as a result of reading this chapter?

Chapter 6

Living the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Healing as God's M.O.

1. On a scale of 1–10, how healthy would you rate yourself at this moment? What do you base that on? What do you do to maintain health—balance—physically, emotionally, psychologically, or spiritually?
2. When was a time you experienced powerlessness because of a sickness, either your own or that of a loved one? Did God feel nearby or distant?
3. When people are experiencing illness, what are some of the ways that we seek to bring them hope?

Chapter 7

Living the Sacrament of Matrimony: Who Loves You Most?

1. Who always seems to have your best interests in mind?
2. What popular songs about love can you think of that include the image of rescue?
3. Who is someone you know who displays a compulsive desire to pursue the best interests of others? What are examples of how this person does this?

4. What is your understanding of detachment and generosity? Why are these so important in marriage and in family life?

5. What is your understanding of mutuality? What is an example in your life of successfully practicing mutuality? What are some examples from your life of mutual accountability?

6. If you heard a homily encouraging married people to have frequent sex, would you be surprised? Scandalized? Delighted? Why or why not?

