**CHRIST THE KING BOARD RETREAT**

**JULY 23-24, 2021**

**Friday**

12:00 noon Lunch

1:15 pm Gathering Prayer around theme of **HOLY GROUND**

Introduction to the retreat theme: **STORYTELLING** in mythology and culture. Carl Jung: *Dixi et animam salvavi: “I spoke and I saved my soul.”*We construct stories to integrate the disparate elements of our lives. Doubt is not the opposite of faith; the opposite of faith is certitude. Map for spiritual growth and holiness (acronym M.A.P.): mystery, ambiguity, paradox.

**Reflection Questions**

***1. Describe a ritual that is important to you or your family (doesn’t have to be religious)… perhaps birthday celebrations, particular meals at Christmas, or it might be vacation time.***

***2. Can you speak about a paradox, perhaps some ambiguity in your
 faith that you allow to be “mystery”?***

***3. Give an example from your experience whereby you can live***

 ***without certitude***

2:00 Break and personal reflection

3:00 Group reflection

3:30 Storytelling as a religious act. **Outline of the retreat**: Our three stories: The Big Story (this session). The Passionist Story (Friday evening), My story (Saturday morning). Saturday afternoon: Charism and the retreat center board, where all the stories come together.

 **The Big Story. “Salvation History**.” The Bible tells a story. Begins in a garden, ends in a city.

**Major Themes:**

 Hebrew Testament—our original story.

* **Journey**. Abraham leaving home and searching for the Promised Land.
* **People of God**. Chosen and loved. A nation. A community.
* **Exodus**. Freed from slavery and covenanted. (Bound together for ever by law.)
* **Kingdom**. Tribes united. Social relationship, not just individual. Building a society of faith.
* **Temple**.
* **Divided Kingdom**. (Second fall.)
* **Conquered and exiled**. Loss of homeland. Wandering again. 50 years captivity.
* **Messianic Prophecy**.
* **Restoration**. New Temple

New Testament. Christ as fullness of revelation. The “Deeper Story.”

* Chosen and loved. Infancy narratives and call stories.
* Rejection and misunderstanding. How could this be the Messiah?
* Mission—promise of “Good News.” “It was said to you of old….”
* From exclusion to inclusion.
* Forgiveness and charity as hallmark of new law.
* **Death and Resurrection as ultimate revelation**.
* Pentecost movement from Jerusalem to the world.

**Paschal Mystery as the heart of the story**.

 The journey from death to life is modeled in Jesus and the ultimate revelation of who God is,

“For God so loved the world…” All the major themes of Salvation History come together in the Paschal Mystery Paradigm.

4:30 Group reflection on The Big Story and its elements. Paschal Mystery as Paradigm.

5:15 Social

6:00 Dinner

7:30 **The Passionist Story**.

**CD Presentation: “As a Seal upon Your Heart.” (Martin Sheen)**

* Paul of the Cross “gathered companions.”
* Passion of Jesus as the surest sign of God’s love.
* Our mission: Keep alive the memory of Christ’s Passion. Started as “devotion.” Now, “memory.”
1. Memory is who we are, not just what we do.
2. Memory is dynamic, not static.
3. Our mission is an invitation to the Church to be contemplative, i.e. “remember the story.”
* Charisms of St. Paul of the Cross:
	+ Founder
	+ Mystic—greatest of the 18th century.
	+ Hermit/preacher
	+ Spiritual director/confessor.
	+ The primacy of the Passion characterized every part of Paul’s life. It was his visible gift to the Church.
* Passionist Charism, as distinct from the charism of St. Paul of the Cross, lives and grows with us. We are all “characters” in the unfolding Passionist story.
* Story as the “language of Charism.” Not theology or spirituality.

Group reflection.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

9:00 Begin with Morning Praise on theme of POTTER

 **My Story.** Connecting our personal story with the bigger story…

**Reflection Questions**

1. ***How do elements in the Big Story resonate with your own story?***
2. ***What is your experience of suffering? …relation to Jesus’ suffering or passion?***
3. ***What is your experience of suffering in relationship to others?***
4. ***Does your story resonate with the Passionist charism?***
5. ***Where did you learn “the wisdom of the cross?”***

Break and personal reflection (one hour).

Group sharing.

12:00 Noon. Lunch

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

1:30

**The Story of Christ the King Retreat Center.**

Development of boards from advisory to governance. Maintenance and Mission.

The board as Community. Shared experience of charism as the deepest bond.

 Board members are “Guardians of the charism.”

Distinguish:

* Religion—belonging to a faith tradition.
* Spirituality—where we find meaning.
* Charism—for the Church.

N.B. Passionist spirituality is not the same as Passionist Charism. All members of the board presumably have religion and some kind of spirituality, maybe even a spirituality of the cross. Not all have to embody the Passionist Charism-- that is “the gift that overflows to the Church.” But the board as a community must share something of the Passionist Charism. They are guardians of the Charism for the retreat center’s fidelity to the mission. This is why we make charism formation a priority.

Group sharing.

***What is the mission of the retreat center?***

***What might it mean to be guardians of the charism?***

***What resources are there for board members?***

***Where do we go from here?***

4:30 Eucharist

5:15 Social

6:00 Dinner