**Healing and Mending Broken Relationships**

 *GOAL: Explore ways to first receive God’s mercy and then be empowered by Jesus to participate in his respect, forgiveness, gratitude, affirmation, forbearance, honesty, and healing presence for others.*

**I.** **Moral & relational conversion as apprentice of Jesus – who makes unconditional love possible**

 A. Beyond: ‘should,’ ‘be good,’ ‘you have to,’ and ‘share’ –we are empowered by God

 B. Drawn into the love of the Trinity –first through life and example of Jesus, then my own conversion and then transformed relationships –especially through prayer [Col 1:15-20] and witness of life

 C. Virtues and gifts of Spirit –put us on the edge of paradox (surrender to gift, work at habit) and challenge us to bring Good News of Jesus into every human relationship and situation (evangelizing)

 *God is in this person’s life. You can, you must try to seek God in every human life. Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God*. (St Basil the Great)

**II. Jesus – as living model enables us to receive mercy and then act through the Holy Spirit**

 A. Scriptures: workshop about human relationships [Col 3:12-13 put on Christ—die/rise/reign]

 B. Unbreakable bond between love of God and neighbor; respect God, self, others—Mercy

 C. Saints whose heroic virtue inspires us to use faith-filled approaches [Joseph accepts Mary]

**III. Choose encounter and healing presence as goal of relationships (art of accompaniment)**

A. Joy of Gospel*:
 The Gospel tells us constantly to run the risk of a face-to-face encounter with others, with their physical presence which challenges us, with their pain and their pleas, with their joy which infects us in our close and continuous interaction... The Son of God, by becoming flesh, summoned us to the revolution of tenderness.* (88)

 B. Gratitude and affirming others [Luke 17:11-19 and greetings in Paul’s epistles]

 C. God’s wisdom through speaking the truth with compassion, without condemnation [John 4:1-42]

**IV. Invitation to participate in God’s love for the other, allowing freedom of response**

 A. Impossible challenge of forgiveness [Luke 23:39-43 and Matt 6:9-15]

 B. Present in difficulties –compassionate, respectful support [Luke 7:11-14]

 C. Family and work relationships build upon honest intercession [Eph 3:14-20]

**Growing in God’s Healing Presence Exercise (Lk. 18:35-43)** See pp. 132-133, ***Mending Broken Relationships, Building Strong Ones.*** Word Among Us Press, 2015.

**Healing and Mending Broken Relationships Resources**



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