

## ***The King Calls us to Himself and to Mission!***

### ***Our Response – Week 2 – Intimacy with Jesus***

**The Objective:** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him, and he with me.” (Rev. 3:20) Jesus desires deep and abiding intimacy with us. This week we seek a deeper intimacy with Jesus; striving to know better His mind and heart. Jesus desires we approach Him throughout our day and allow Him to love us through it.

**Background:** Too many of us (especially cradle Catholics) have grown up with a childish notion of prayer that consists ONLY of the great prayers of the Church (e.g. prayer before meals, Our Father, Hail Mary, etc.). The prayers themselves are magnificent and holy. But if we’ve grown up with our only notion of prayer being to rattle them off in a dry, formulaic way, we’ve likely missed out on the notion that prayer is supposed to draw us into a deep, personal relationship with God. Other possibilities are that we simply were not properly catechized about the need for a personal relationship with God or shown how to pursue that relationship. One other possibility is that we simply weren’t ready to hear this most important aspect of our faith. But that was then, and this is now. We were made to be in relationship with Jesus. He is alive and desires intimacy with us – not only at Mass or other “holy” times – but at every moment of our day. This week, wherever you are with your personal relationship with Jesus, we want that relationship to deepen and broaden as you have this running conversation with Jesus as your day unfolds.

**What to Do:** While we continue to start our day as described in our week 1 activity, this week we want to open our whole day up to Jesus. We invite Him to be a part of our day – sharing our day with him through a running conversation that takes place throughout the day. Nothing is withheld. We share everything: our hopes for the day, our challenges, our expectations, the joys, frustrations, our doubts, our fears, etc. As we face challenges and difficulties, we ask Jesus to give us the grace and courage to step into those situations knowing He is truly with us through it all. As we make decisions, large or small, we ask Jesus for the grace and wisdom to make decisions that will give him glory and honor. We call on the Holy Spirit to give us insights that will lead to decisions in keeping with God’s will for our lives and the lives affected by our decisions. If we fall short, do something we know we shouldn’t have done, we immediately fall on our spiritual knees and tell Jesus we are sorry. If it’s serious (mortal) sin, we make a plan to get to Confession as soon as possible (and we do it)! And in all of this, we give Jesus time to speak to our heart. This must be a two way conversation!

As you begin to put this running conversation with Jesus into practice, your ability to pray from the heart spontaneously will begin to blossom. What might seem awkward at first, will soon become a natural part of the fabric of your day. You will find your relationship with Jesus growing and deepening. This is the beauty and the adventure of the high spiritual journey – growing in friendship and love with the one who has rescued us from slavery to sin and death; the one who desires to reveal the Father’s boundless and unconditional love to us as we live our everyday lives.

#### **Parents:**

Talk to your children about this. They may already be doing this ... or not. Wherever they are, remind them that Jesus created them and loves them. He wants to share life with them! Check in with them during the week and share with them how it’s going for you. This is a time when it’s ok to not have it all together. It’s a process that takes time. Encourage each other along the way!