

"An essential read for any minister who is trying to reclaim truth
as a fundamental human and explicitly Christian value."

Theresa Rickard, O.P.

President of
RENEW International

LET'S TALK ABOUT

TRUTH

*A Guide for Preachers, Teachers,
and Other Catholic Leaders in a
World of Doubt and Discord*

ANN M. GARRIDO

AUTHOR OF *REDEEMING ADMINISTRATION*

LESSONS AND QUESTIONS
FOR DISCUSSION

SESSION 1

THE MANY WAYS WE TALK ABOUT TRUTH

JOHN 3:19-21





**Why should we study what our
tradition has to pass on to us at this
moment in time?**

Three Ways We Honor Jesus' Command to "Do Truth" as Christians:

- Seek truth
- Speak truthfully
- Be true

SESSION 2

SEEK TRUTH WITH BARTIMAEUS

MARK 10:46-52



Investigating the Tough Questions

“What does it even matter if I know what is real?”

“But if it turns out that I could be wrong,
then why even seek truth to begin with?”

“Who is to judge who’s right?”



SESSION 3

SEEK TRUTH WITH THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

HANDOUT:

Exercises in Reason

Investigating the Tough Questions

How was it that you arrived at the same answers to these questions?

What is “reason”?

Without reason, it would be very difficult to move together in any direction. What would we be left to appeal to when making an argument?

SESSION 3

SEEK TRUTH

Handout: Fact or Judgment?



The Ladder of Inference

Based on Argyris and Schon

What news sources do I listen to?

What kinds of information gets onto my radar?

What sources do I rarely ever encounter?

Are there additional voices that would be valuable for me to listen to as I inform my conscience?

Conclusions

Reasoning and Interpretations

Data Selection



GROUP REFLECTION

This exercise raises the question: If everyone has such different backgrounds and different life experiences, how can we ever discern whether one person's opinion/judgment is more worthy than another's?

Wouldn't it be best if we just said, "All opinions are equal; you have your opinion and I'll have mine?" We'll talk more about that in our next session.

HOMework

Read handout "Renewing the Mind"

Listen to two short podcasts from Invisibilia on NPR
(available for free online)

- "Bubble-Hopping" (June 8, 2017)
- "Bonus: Catch-up with Max Hawkins" (December 22, 2017)]

SESSION 3

SEEK TRUTH

Romans 12:1-2



BRAINSTORM

**Five Guidelines for Talking with
People Who Have Judgments
Different than Your Own**

Talking with Others Who Hold Different “Truths”

- Assume charitable and reasonable intentions
- Listen and share from the lower rungs of each other's ladders
- Pray

SESSION 6

SPEAK TRUTHFULLY



HANDOUT

**The Catechism of the Catholic
Church and Lying**



SESSION 7

SPEAK TRUTHFULLY

- **Is there such a thing as “too much honesty”?**
- **Do we need to say everything that it is on our minds?**
- **Should we even say everything on our minds?**

HANDOUT

**Catechism of the Catholic Church
on 'How Much to Tell'**

SESSION 8

BE TRUE



**“I N. take thee N. to
my weddyd wyf, to have and to hold fro thys
day forward, for better for wors,
for richer for porer, in siknesse and in healthe,
tyl deth us departe, yf holy
Chyrche wyl it ordeyne; and therto I plight
thee my trouthe.”**

Videos of Committed Relationships

What kinds of behaviors did you observe that gave clues to what it takes to “be true” to someone?

Are there others that you would want to add?

Conflict is inevitable. There are going to be differences of judgment and times when “speaking truthfully” becomes hurtful. What did you see these couples doing to “be true” in the midst of differences?



SESSION 9

BE TRUE

DISCUSSION OF PATEL INTERVIEW

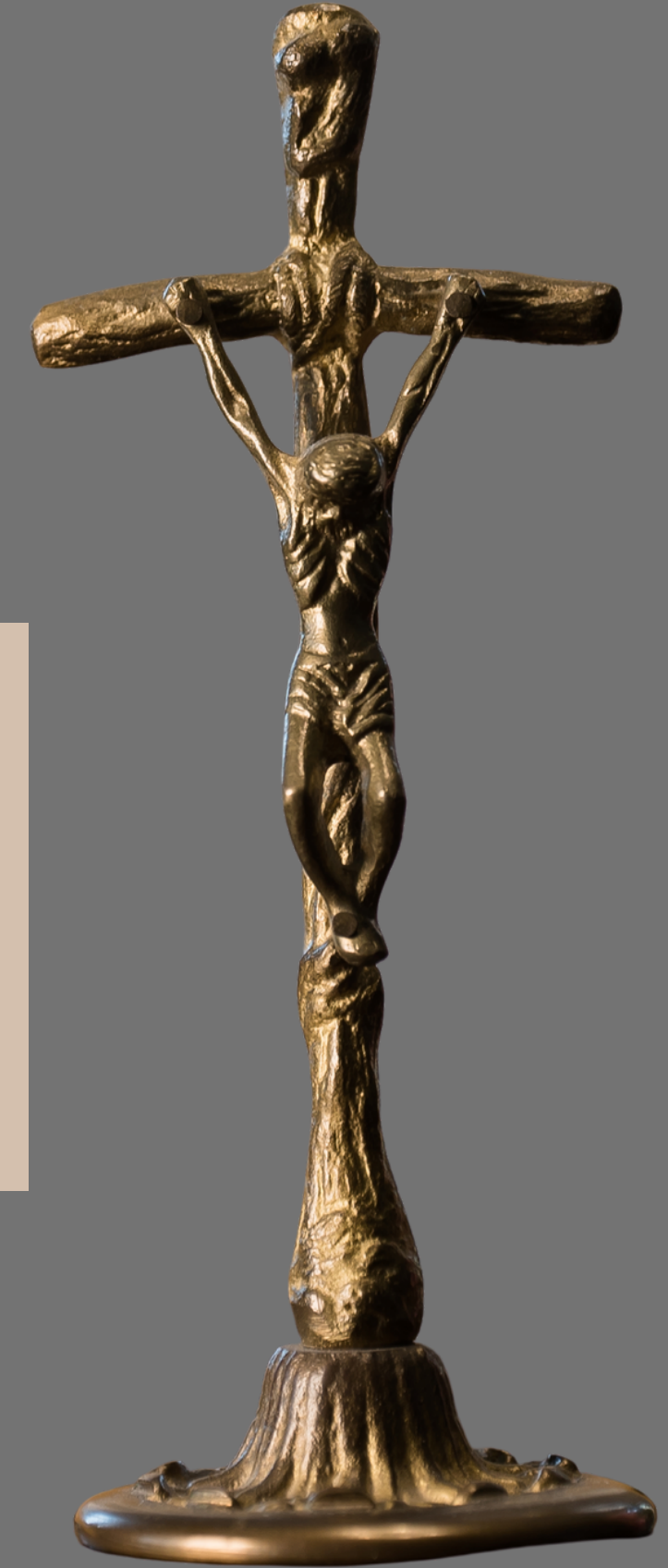
What is the best way of remaining in relationship with one another while we do not hold the same truths?

SMALL GROUP WORK

**Come up with 5 or 6 additional strategies for
“being true” even when you vehemently
disagree and talking about it isn’t working.**

SESSION 10

**LET'S TALK ABOUT
TRUTH**



אמת

Hebrew word "emet"—truth

שֶׁקֶר

Hebrew word "sheker"—lies

מת

met



אמת

emet

CONCLUSION

Sometimes you will hear people speak about what it will be like to live in a “post-truth” world. From a Judeo-Christian perspective, there is no such thing. Either we have truth or we won't have a world. We figure out a way of living truth, or we die. The issue is that important. The future depends on each of us making an unwavering commitment in our life to living truth fully in every sense of the word.