

# Faith-Sharing/Discussion Questions

## Reconciliation

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by Bishop Robert Morneau

These faith-sharing questions accompany *Reconciliation* by Bishop Robert Morneau. In this book a wise teacher sheds new light on a sacrament that can bring us face to face with the merciful Christ. Bishop Morneau is Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin. A popular speaker nationwide, his many books include *Spiritual Direction: Principles and Practices*, *Ashes to Easter*, and *A Retreat with C.S. Lewis*.

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### INTRODUCTION

- What descriptive words would I use to describe the sacrament of Reconciliation?
- In what way do I agree or disagree with the statement “The sacrament of Reconciliation is a sacrament of peace and joy”?
- Upon receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation, how have I experienced union with God and with the church?
- Why is sin broader than a disruption in my relationship with God?

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### CHAPTER ONE—“THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S MERCY”

- What passages from the poem “The Mercy of God” impact my spiritual journey?
- In what ways do I sympathize or not sympathize with the poet of “The Mercy of God” with her fear of nothingness, foolishness in pride, or need to seek beyond herself?
- What have been some of my “loud cries” as I appealed to God’s mercy?
- How has my experience of God’s infinite mercy brought me peace or calmness?
- How might the insights I received from this chapter impact my spiritual journey?

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### CHAPTER TWO—“THE MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

- What is one concept presented in this chapter that helps me identify where I am on the spiritual journey?
- When have I felt like a “beloved creature” of God?
- When I find myself caught within the “battle between sin and grace,” what are some effective ways for me to reject sin and live in grace?
- What are some examples of my own “fiats” and “spiritual amnesia”?
- How can I attain a greater sense of God’s love in my life?

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### CHAPTER THREE—“THE CONTEXT FOR RECONCILIATION”

- What is one concept presented in this chapter that caught my attention?
- What are some ways in which I have responded to God’s call to maturity, to holiness, to community, to service, and to generosity?
- Who are those people who I look to as models of holiness? How do they influence my response to God’s invitation to holiness?
- What role does living a sacramental life play in my continual conversion to Christ?
- In what way might I need to change as a result of my understandings from this chapter?

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### **CHAPTER FOUR—“THE MYSTERY OF SIN”**

- How would I summarize the content in this chapter for others?
- In what way does sin leads to darkness and destruction?
- How can believing in God as the “Divine Physician” bring a sense of healing in my life?
- How has grace in my life led to light and love?
- How is God calling me to greater discipleship so that I might live an abundant life?

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### **CHAPTER FIVE—“PRINCIPLES OF RECONCILIATION”**

- Which of the prayers included in this chapter identifies where I am on my spiritual journey?
- Why do I agree or disagree with the statement “Reconciliation is primarily the work of God and not me?”
- What role does being open to and receiving God’s forgiveness play in my life?
- How does being concerned about death and sin impact my spiritual life? Life and grace?
- What role does the “light of the Cross” play in my life? How can God’s mercy revealed through his redemptive love on the cross transform my life to live in his love?

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### **CHAPTER SIX—“SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION”**

- In what ways is my understanding of reconciliation changing and/or deepening?
- How can the fruits of the Holy Spirit help me examine my conscience?
- What are some of the successes and struggles I have experienced with living out the fruits of the Holy Spirit?
- How might the fruits of the Holy Spirit be witnessed in my life?

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### **CHAPTER SEVEN—“QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS”**

- Which three of the questions and answers from this chapter most interested me?
- How do those particular questions and answers relate to where I am on my spiritual journey at this moment?
- How might the insights I have gained from those particular questions and answers impact me as I continue on my spiritual journey?

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### **CHAPTER EIGHT—“RECONCILIATION: A POETIC PERSPECTIVE”**

- Which three poems from this chapter can I most identify with?
- How does each of these poems express where I am on my spiritual journey?
- How does each of these poems express my hopes as I continue on my spiritual journey?