

Theme: One Body with Many Members

Reader: A reading from first Corinthians.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. **(1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**

Reader: The Word of the Lord:

All: Thanks be to God.

For Reflection/Small Group Dialogue: What is your unique gift as you minister in the Church?

What gifts do you feel are not as strong in your ministry?

How have you partnered with others to work together to serve youth/adults in your parish?

What word or phrase jumped out at you as you were listening to the reading?

For Discussion:

The “15 Diseases” of pastoral ministers– according to Pope Francis.

(Taken from Pope Francis’ address to the Curia, December 22, 2014)

1. The disease of feeling 'immortal' or 'essential'
2. The disease of excessive activity
3. The diseases of mental and spiritual 'petrification'
4. The disease of over-planning
5. The disease of bad coordination
6. The disease of spiritual Alzheimer's
7. The disease of rivalry and vainglory
8. The disease of existential schizophrenia
9. The disease of gossip and chatter.
10. The disease of deifying the leaders
11. The disease of indifference to others
12. The disease of the funeral face
13. The disease of hoarding
14. The disease of closed circles
15. The disease of worldly profit and exhibitionism

Sample Self Reflection Based on the 15 Diseases of the Curia	Yes	No	Sometimes
	1	2	3
Do I feel that without my work, the overall ministry would not be as good, as positive, as impactful? Why/Why not?			
Do I cultivate “business” and busyness in my ministry with excessive activity?			
Am I afraid to try new things, make changes and work differently?			
Do I call upon the Holy Spirit in my work? Does my work bring surprises?			
Do I fail to regularly acknowledge the debt I owe to my mentors and to others?			
Do I take too much satisfaction in my perks and privileges?			
Do I prefer to work alone rather than as a part of a team?			
Do I denigrate the motives and accomplishments of others?			
Do I put my leaders/supervisors on platforms and exalt them to such a degree that I am overly docile?			
Do I put my own success ahead of the success of others?			
Am I stingy with reward and praise for the work of others?			
Do I chatter and gossip about others?			
Do I follow through on every project assigned and complete my work in a timely fashion?			
Encourage parochialism rather than community?			
How do I behave in ways that seem egocentric to those around me?			