

CPLG – Session #4 (Western Region) – August 31, 2017

Begin with the reading of the 3rd Hour or other prayer.

Display slide with group covenant as a reminder of what we agreed to do in group.

Distribute paper and pens for days journaling and reflection.

Check-in reflection questions (slide)

View ***Orthodoxy in America*** (from Family & Faith – 2014 C/L). Minute 32-44.

Distribute sheets with notes and discussion questions beforehand.

Patristic quotes (either before or after lunch)

Lunch Break

View ***Families & Faith: Across the Generations*** (from Family & Faith – 2014 C/L).

Minute 117-128. Distribute sheets with notes and discussion question beforehand.

Determine date and host for next meeting. (topics that they hope to cover in the future?)

Closing prayer

Slide 1 – intro

Slide 2 – group covenant

Slide 3 – Check-in

Slide 4-9 – various quotes

Slide 10 – Sept 1 hymns: personal and vocational goals for new year.

“When husband and wife are united in marriage they no longer seem like something earthly, but rather like the image of God Himself.”

-St John Chrysostom

“You don’t need to say a lot to children. Words hammer at the ears, but prayer goes to the heart. Prayer is required, with faith and without anxiety, along with a good example.”

-St Porphyrios of Kafsokalivia

“God loves to be a comforter. His heart is ever tender and compassionate toward human pain and suffering. When we look into the Bible we find it full of comfort from beginning to end. On every page God is trying to get people to believe that He loves them, that He is their friend, that He wants them to do good. There is not a chapter in the Scriptures which does not in some way reveal or declare divine mercy. That is what makes the Bible such a dear and precious book to the dreary, the struggling, the disappointed, the wronged, the bereaved, the lonely. The Bible is like a mother’s bosom, to lay one’s head upon in a time of pain and distress.”

-New Martyr Tsaritsa Alexandra (+1918)

“The Holy Sacraments are called the divine gifts because they are given to us by the Lord freely, for nothing, undeservedly on our part. Instead of punishing us for the numberless sins we commit every day, and giving us over to spiritual death, the Lord, in the holy mysteries, forgives us, and cleanses us from all our sins, sanctifies us, and grants peace to our spiritual powers, healing and health of soul and body, and every blessing.”

-St John of Kronstadt

“The purer the heart becomes, the larger it becomes; consequently, it is able to find room for more and more loved ones. The more sinful it is, the more it contracts; consequently, it is able to find room for fewer and fewer loved ones – it is limited by a false love: self-love.”

-St John of Kronstadt

“To me, the most important missionary witness that we have is the Divine Liturgy, the Eucharistic worship of the Orthodox Church. This is the life-giving source from which everything else proceeds. And therefore, to those who show an interest in Orthodoxy, I say, “Come and see. Come to the liturgy.” The first thing is that they

should have an experience of Orthodoxy—or for that matter, of Christianity—as a worshiping community. We start from prayer, not from an abstract ideology, not from moral rules, but from a living link with Christ expressed through prayer.”

-Metropolitan Kallistos Ware