

## **Introduction**

Dear people of God,  
Peace!

The Directorate of Religious Education of Osogbo Diocese is delighted to present to you a different theme to replace the previous one slated for the month of June 2020, in our regular Deepening the Faith program as approved by the Bishop, Most Rev John Oyejola. This is due to the current Covid-19 eventuality since the previous theme for the month of June cannot hold and should therefore be disregarded and be replaced with the new passage herein. We hope to return to it soon after the covid-19 social lockdown by the grace of God. Thank you for your usual understanding and cooperation. God bless

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Sr Dr Omojola Immaculata Olu,SSMA  
DRE, Osogbo Diocese

## **JUNE 2020**

**MOST HOLY TRINITY (SOLEMNITY)**

**DATE: 07/06/2020**

**THEME FOR THE MONTH: SOCIAL LOCKDOWN, OPPORTUNITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**Opening Prayer:** Let the facilitator invite a member for the opening prayer.

**INTRODUCTION:** Let the facilitator revise the topic of last week with the audience briefly.

**Step 1:** Facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **APPRECIATING GOD'S PRESENCE DURING THE LOCKDOWN LIKE IT WAS DURING EPIDEMICS IN EGYPT**

**Step 2: Specific Biblical Passages are read:** Psalm 91, Exodus Chapters 7-11

**Step 3: Sharing:** Members are allowed to share their experiences in relation to the readings heard.

### **Question to Ponder:**

1. How often do you make the corona virus pandemic a prayer point in your family faith gathering? Why is the low or high frequency (or total disinterest) in making the pandemic a prayer point at your family altar?

**Step 4: Teaching:** The facilitator will encourage the audience with these words:

It is a fact that corona virus also called COVID-19 is a scourge that has ravaged many countries of the world. It has led to loss of lives across the globe/world. However, in the midst of this pandemic, we must never lose faith in God. We must continue to be aware of God's presence. God is always ready to protect us as His people. He promised the Israelites in Egypt that the ravaging plague will not reach their domain because of his mark on their families (Exodus 12: 21-29). Therefore, we should trust only in God for our protection in all circumstances including during pandemics. He is the only One who can see us through in these difficult times. Trusting in any other power will surely lead to disappointment, shame and spiritual disaster (Isaiah 30:3). Let us be hopeful in the midst our difficulties and be persistent in our prayer life (Romans 12:12, Luke 18:1).

**Step 5: Questions and Answers:** Allow the audience to ask some questions.

**Step 6: TASK:** Let the participants agree on a task that is practicable.

**SUGGESTED TASK:** Let each family exchange a phone call to any family brethren and ask after their well-being, praying that the pandemic will leave everyone stronger

**Step 7: Evaluation:** The facilitator will ask some of the members to summarize the teaching of the day.

**Step 8:** Ask a member to conclude with a prayer.

## **THE MOST HOLY BODY OF CHRIST (SOLEMNITY)**

**DATE: 14/06/2020**

### **THEME FOR THE MONTH: SOCIAL LOCKDOWN, OPPORTUNITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**Opening Prayer:** Let the facilitator invite a member for the opening prayer.

**INTRODUCTION:** Let the facilitator revise the topic of last week with the audience briefly.

**Step 1:** Facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **BE YOUR BROTHER'S AND SISTER'S KEEPER AT THIS TIME**

**Step 2: Specific Biblical Passages are read:** Mark 12: 41-44

**Step 3: Sharing:** Members are allowed to share their experiences in relation to the readings heard.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. How little is too little and how big is a widows' mite to share with others?
2. How has the social lock down changed my attitude towards charity?

**Step 4: Teaching:** The facilitator will encourage the audience with these words:

One of the ways to grow spiritually is by giving to others who need our assistance. Our lives are for others as much as they are for us, particularly in such circumstances like this time. Helping those in need, especially now, does not depend on whether we have things in excess or not. Sharing whatever we have with our neighbours is the Christ's message and it is also a well-known form of witnessing to the Gospel of Christ through sacrificial giving like the poor widow and her two mites (Mark 12:41-44). We should not wait until we have things in excess before we think of giving or sharing with others. Let us think of being a blessing to those around us in the little way we can for, remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 30:35). It is also important to encourage and share the love of God with other people others at this time (I Thess. 5:14). Let us be generous to others like the boy who donated his five loaves and two fish which Jesus blessed and used to feed the five thousand people (John 6:1-13).

**Step 5: Questions and Answers:** Allow the audience to ask some questions.

**Step 6: TASK:** Let the participants agree on a task that is practicable.

**SUGGESTED TASK:** This week, remember to reach out to a neighbor in need and offer some help, financially or materially

**Step 7: Evaluation:** The facilitator will ask some of the members to summarize the teaching of the day.

**Step 8:** Ask a member to conclude with a prayer.

**TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**  
**DATE: 21/06/2020**

**THEME FOR THE MONTH: SOCIAL LOCKDOWN, OPPORTUNITY TO  
GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**Opening Prayer:** Let the facilitator invite a member for the opening prayer.

**INTRODUCTION:** Let the facilitator revise the topic of last week with the audience briefly.

**Step 1:** Facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **EXPLOITING THE LOCKDOWN AS A DOMESTIC CHURCH FOR FAMILY UNITY AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**Step 2: Specific Biblical Passages are read:** Gen. 25: 21 and Luke 1:13

**Step 3: Sharing:** Members are allowed to share their experiences in relation to the readings heard.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. How is your family coping in the absence of the usual communal spiritual activities in your parish?
2. In what ways has the lockdown improved the spirituality and bonding within your family?

**Step 4: Teaching:** The facilitator will encourage the audience with these words:

The Catholic Church teaches that every family is a “Domestic Church”. This lockdown has restricted our movements with members of the same family staying safe together inside their house throughout the day. Prior to the social lockdown, members of the family would normally but be temporarily separated on daily basis, while the children would go to school, parents to places of work or businesses, etc. Also, in the situations of social lockdown, although, no Church gathering is allowed, the family's domestic Church must be super-active. The social lockdown presents to us the opportunity to effectively engage the family in the environment of the domestic Church. Members of the family should exploit the free space of time to study the Bible and pray more together in-door. It should be an opportunity to grow in the faith, since the family is together all-day; no school, no work-place engagements. God hears the prayers of the family (Gen. 25: 21; Luke 1:13), having promised us that He will always be there for us when we call on Him (I Kings 9:3, Jer. 33:3). It is a time to unite in tight closeness as a family and as a

domestic church against this rampaging and evil scourge, called corona virus (Psalm 32:6). With faith, whatever we ask in prayer, we shall receive (Mathew 21: 22 Mark 11: 24). With the social lockdown and the ban on church gatherings, it is important to emphasize that the family as an institution is going through a lot of challenges. These challenges continue to torment the family as the bane or the smallest unit of the society due to of lack of adequate spiritual exposures. The society continues to teach us things that are contrary to the Gospel through several means such as social media. But as Christians, we must resist negative attitude while we hold on firmly to our faith. Parents must teach their children the importance of the presence of God in the family (Deut. 6: 4-7; Eph. 6:4) while parents continue to show good examples at home and be alive to their responsibilities by making their resources available for the upkeep of the entire family (I Tim. 5:8). Children should in turn comply with and respect the instructions of their parents, as well as learn how to embrace, understand and obey the Word of God (Prov. 1: 8-9; 6: 20-23; Eph. 6: 1-3).

**Step 5: Questions and Answers:** Allow the audience to ask some questions.

**Step 6: TASK:** Let the participants agree on a task that is practicable

**SUGGESTED TASK:** Let each family spend some time to assess and review upwards the faith experiences in the family so far.

**Step 7: Evaluation:** The facilitator will ask some of the members to summarize the teaching of the day.

**Step 8:** Ask a member to conclude with a prayer.

## **THE MOST HOLY BODY OF CHRIST (SOLEMNITY)**

**DATE: 28/06/2020**

### **THEME FOR THE MONTH: SOCIAL LOCKDOWN, OPPORTUNITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY**

**Opening Prayer:** Let the facilitator invite a member for the opening prayer.

**INTRODUCTION:** Let the facilitator revise the topic of last week with the audience briefly.

**Step 1:** Facilitator introduces the theme for the week: **FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON SPIRITUAL THINGS RATHER THAN MATERIAL THINGS (VANITY UPON VANITY....ALL IS VANITY)**

**Step 2: Specific Biblical Passages are read:** Col. 3:1-2, Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14; I Tim. 6: 17-19.

**Step 3: Sharing:** Members are allowed to share their experiences in relation to the readings heard.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. What is your understanding of spiritual communion?
2. Do you miss the regular opportunity for receiving the Holy Eucharist? Or the lockdown does not make any difference in this aspect of your life?

**Step 4: Teaching:** The facilitator will encourage the audience with these words:

Materialism has continued to be a big threat to spiritual development in the society. Many have focused their attention on material things and ignored spiritual things. This has reduced the desire for living according to the Word of God and at the same time increased the hunger for worldliness (Rom. 8:6). People are more inclined to pursuing things that do not matter rather than things that give life. This is what the Preacher has expressed as "Vanity upon vanity, All is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14; 2:11). We must remember that material things of the world give no satisfaction to the spirit (Eccl. 5:10). Invariably, during this lockdown, our cars, expensive clothes, shoes, wrist watches, jewelries, etc. have gone on long holidays, having remained idle and "useless", thereby reminding and urging us to focus on living our christian faith rather than being lovers of the world (Isaiah 49: 4, James 4:4). "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" and all these things shall be added as well (Mathew 6:33). It is important to use this lockdown period to re-direct our focus towards the more profitable pursuit of spiritual perfection rather than incessant material greed. Many people can do anything in their desperation to acquire wealth and position. But we must remember that everything we gather here on earth such as money, cars, clothes, houses, etc. cannot not follow us to the grave nor secure our eternity. We must remove our focus from the world and set our minds on being counted worthy of the Kingdom of God.

**Step 5: Questions and Answers:** Allow the audience to ask some questions.

**Step 6: TASK:** Let the participants agree on a task that is practicable.

**SUGGESTED TASK:** Ask your parish priest if you and the family can join him for his private Mass in the chapel and make effort to attend (carrying your face masks and noting spatial distancing).

**Step 7: Evaluation:** The facilitator will ask some of the members to summarize the teaching of the day.

**Step 8:** Ask a member to conclude with prayer.