

Love Is Our Mission

The Family Fully Alive

Chapter 8: A Home for the Wounded Heart Reading Guide

If you have not yet done so, please watch the introductory video for Chapter 8. It will give you a window into the chapter and make your reading and study of the catechesis more fruitful.

It will be beneficial for you to spread your reading of the chapter over a number of sessions. Take time, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, to consider in your mind what these things might mean (Lk 1: 29) and then ponder them in your heart (Lk 2:19 & 2:51).

1. Before reading

Begin your reading time with a prayer, asking for God's help to understand what you are about to read. Here is a traditional Catholic prayer asking the Holy Spirit for assistance:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

2. Reading the catechesis

Rather than reading the chapter straight through, read it one section at a time. In chapter eight there are four sections, each with its own heading. The first is "Hearing the hard sayings of Jesus" and it covers paragraphs 147-150.

Begin by asking yourself what the subheading probably means. Then read and reread the section from start to finish at a rate comfortable for you. While doing so, underline what you consider to be especially important statements and write questions and comments in the margins. These are great active reading techniques.

3. After reading a section

After reading the section, take some time to "digest" what you have just read. One way to do this is by responding to the text.

We recommend you answer in writing, *one* of the following generic questions or *one* of the directed questions. The generic questions can be asked of any section of this book. The directed questions pertain to the section specifically.

Generic questions

- What did you think the heading meant before you read the section? Has your understanding of it changed after reading?
- What most surprised or impacted you in this section?
- What most confused you or what did you disagree with the most in this section?
- If you were to summarize this section, what would you say it was about in one or two sentences?
- What action does this section call you to take? Does this change seem possible to you? What barriers do you think would stand in the way of you taking this action?

The following are directed questions for each section of Chapter 8. Choose one of them to answer in writing if you don't select one of the generic questions. A space is provided for you to write your response.

Hearing the hard sayings of Jesus

Directed question

- What is the Church's justification for telling people difficult things to hear and accept in regard to marriage and the family? Is this rationale adequate?

Your response:

The Church is a field hospital

Directed question:

- According to this catechesis, when it comes to people wounded by sins connected to sexuality, what is the primary healing needed and how can it come about?

Your response:

With patience and forgiveness the Church helps us heal and grow

Directed questions

- What is your own experience of conversions, both a first and a second “uninterrupted” one (§159)?
- How do you see the difference between the concepts of the “law of gradualness” and the “gradualness of the law” (§160-161)?

Your response:

Catholic teaching depends upon the Catholic community

- What is your own experience in being able to live difficult moral teachings through discipleship, prayer, social and economic Christian witness, and connection with a Christian community (§164)?
- What are the ingredients needed for every Christian to live out the summons to chastity (§165)?
- How are persons called to live a difficult celibacy actually gifts or even treasures for the Christian community (§168)?
- When it comes to people with hearts wounded due to sexuality, how is interdependence the key to being healed and finding a home?
- When it comes to healing wounds, how do the Church’s “teaching, sacraments, and community” work together (§173)?

Your response: