

## **Participant's Guide for the 2020 Advent Retreat**

Book: **A Living Gospel: Reading God's Story in Holy Lives**

By Robert Ellsberg

**Conference #1 Title:** What is Really Means to Be a Saint

Questions for Reflection -

1. What does it look like to be a saint?
2. What are the five most significant events from God's point of view in my story?
3. What do I need to change or do to be a person in love with God?

## **Conference #2 Title: We Are All Radically Human**

Questions for Reflection -

1. What room do I habitually live from? What is my biggest motivation?
2. What are the limitations that I am putting on myself? Do I place limits on God's grace?
3. Do I feel called? "Christ did not call saints, he called you and me."
4. Read the Gospel of Matthew being called, Matthew 9:8-13. If I were Matthew, what would I say to Jesus?

## **Conference #3 Title: Only in Love Do We Find True Happiness and Fulfillment**

Questions for Reflection -

1. Take a step back and contemplate, how can I love more?
2. How can I love better?
3. How can I be the best person in the midst of my vocation of healthcare? In my own family?
4. Read any or all of the following:
  - Luke 17:11 What it means to be healed.
  - Luke 15 What it means to be forgiven.
  - Luke 8:2 What was the conversion like for Mary Magdalene after she was cured of the seven demons.
5. Think of one time in your life where God was permeating your heart and said, "I am here, I love you, I am not indifferent."
6. Ask and reflect on: Lord, what do I need to do to remain in your love?

7. Ask: how can I be the type of Christian that lives the gospel and effects those that I love the most?

#### **Conference #4 Title: Seeing the World Through Catholic Eyes**

##### Bible verses for reflection

- 1 Corinthians 3
- Deuteronomy 8: 7-20
- Romans 8:13-16

##### Questions for Reflection -

1. Basic Questions of Life-
  - Why we live?
  - What is my purpose?
  - Am I living every day as a gift to give away to others and experiencing fulfillment?
2. Homework: Imagine you are at the Tomb of Lazarus in the Holy Land, pretend you have died as Lazarus had and you hear your name being call, “\_\_\_\_\_ , Come Out!” It is Jesus calling you out of the tomb. What is the one thing he asks you to leave

behind in the tomb so you can be more capable of love, experience more fulfillment and a sense of renewed purpose in your life?

3. Read John 11. Imagine how Lazarus felt and then hear your own call. Ask yourself: With the gift of life and the perspective of faith, now is the time to continue the work that Christ needs from me. How will I proceed?