Purpose: Conversion is always the work of the Holy Spirit! It is his work that brings about desire the to love and grow closer to God. For quite some time we have grown accustomed to maintaining the programs within our parishes, even though they don't bear the fruit we desire. If we are going to be used by God, to bring about authentic renewal within our parishes, we are going to need to become docile in his hands.

The busyness of our lives makes it easy to make short cuts in our efforts to be used by God. Often time the demands of time leave us lacking in the one area we need most - Prayer! It is the most constant struggle for us because of the various degrees of prayer one can engage in.

Please take some time to invite the Spirit to illuminate for us the truth of our prayer lives and the level of docility we have in the Spirit's hands.

**Virtue of Prayer** - (Virtue=Good Habit) to set aside time every day to pray.
1. What level of the virtue of Prayer have you experience this past week? _____Daily, _____ 4 or more days, _____ 3 or less, _____ Not at all.
2. Are you making a serious attempt to pray the Office every day? ____Y, ____N
3. If yes, is the office the only consistent prayer you do? ____Y, ____N
4. If no, explain why: ____________________________________________________________
5. List any other prayers you do that are a part of your devotion to Christ. ____________________________________________________________
6. If you are struggling with your prayer life, list the obstacles that prevent you from praying more frequently. ____________________________________________________________
7. How often do you frequent Mass? _____Daily, _____2-6 days, _____once a week
8. How often do you frequent Reconciliation? _____Weekly, _____Bi-Monthly, _____As needed

**Reception of Grace in Prayer** - Having gained the discipline of prayer, we should be moving into deeper prayer where we begin to benefit directly from being in his presence.
1. When you pray, what percentage of your time is spent on listening? ______________
2. When you pray, how engaged is your Faith? _____I pray with certainty, _____Hopeful prayer, _____wishful prayer, _____go through the motions.
3. Exercising faith in prayer changes the way we pray. When you ask God for direction, do you expect: _____an answer shortly, _____to discern an answer over time, _____to figure it out on your own. _____no answer at all.
4. God speaks to each of us differently. Can you describe how God speaks directly to you?

__________________________________________

5. If God does not speak to you directly, can you list some reasons why or some fears for why he is not speaking to you.

__________________________________________

Use of Prayer - How do we use prayer within our ministries?

1. We can teach the importance of prayer in ministry but how we use prayer is the greatest teacher.
   Which of these two options best describes your use of prayer? ____ I(we) wait upon Him (in prayer) to get direction for every ministry decision I(we) make, or ____ I(we) make ministry decisions and ask God to bless them.

2. When you work with others, do you: ____ discuss an issue and make a decision, then ask God to bless it, or _____ identify the issue, stop and pray and collectively discern what you heard from The Lord and follow that discernment.

3. When leading a meeting where you have to make a big decision, do you most frequently:
   ____ pray and make the decision based on your personal discernment?
   ____ pray and seek the discernment of a trusted few?
   ____ inform others about this decision and gather them to discuss and make a decision.
   ____ inform others, ask them to daily pray for God's guidance, gather for a meeting to discuss the collective discernment, and make a decision.
   ____ add individual and communal fasting to the previous process for better discernment.

Following the Spirit's Will - The Holy Spirit has been sent by the Father to guide and teach the Church, leading her to the Father. We are either going to yield ourselves to that direction or try to do it ourselves.

1. Spend some time asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth of whether we are earnestly seeking to follow His leadership. "Lord, reveal me how I may better dispose myself to you, to receive your guidance in all I do."

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