



## **MODULE 2 FACILITATOR'S GUIDE: Charism and Worldview**

### CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Module Goals.....                                      | 2 |
| Welcome and Brief check-in (5 minutes) .....           | 2 |
| Centering Prayer (10 minutes).....                     | 2 |
| Sharing the State of the Heart (20-30 minutes).....    | 3 |
| Video for Module 2 (20 minutes).....                   | 3 |
| The Power of Worldviews (60 minutes).....              | 4 |
| Small Group Discussion (45 minutes).....               | 6 |
| Guided discussion from the readings (30 minutes) ..... | 7 |
| Gathering the Graces (5-10 minutes).....               | 8 |
| Closing Prayer .....                                   | 8 |

## MODULE GOALS

- To explore and examine the concept of worldview and its capacity to shape everything we see, hear, and understand about the world in which we are living as well as all that happens to us personally and collectively.
- To develop a framework for realizing that the power of worldview impacts everyone regardless of their culture, ethnicity, political, or religious persuasion, gender, economic status, education, profession, or vocation.
- To create an understanding and respect for the reality that worldviews are learned constructs that shape how we engage our local and global venues of family, neighborhood, community, province, congregation, country, or cosmos.
- To invite a curious stance towards how worldviews come into existence and a willingness to inquire about one's own worldview, the worldviews held by others, as well as the worldview nurtured by the CSSJ charism of active, all-inclusive, reconciling, unioning love.

## WELCOME AND BRIEF CHECK-IN (5 MINUTES)

## CENTERING PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Facilitator signals the beginning of prayer using a song, chime, or quiet invitation. When all are settled, read the following instructions.*

- Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.
- Sit comfortably and with your eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.
- When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.
- When I signal the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with your eyes closed for a couple of minutes as I read from our maxims and from scripture.

*Facilitator signals the end of silence using a song, chime, or a quiet invitation. After a few beats of silence, read the following:*

**Maxim 24:** Be utterly given to God by a holy self-surrender; utterly for God by a love pure and completely unselfish; utterly in God by a continuing effort to be more conscious of his presence; utterly according to God by a will, a life, and everything conformed to him.

**Maxim 73:** Live your life with one desire only: to be always what God wants you to be, in nature, grace, and glory, for time and eternity.

**Scripture:** Romans 12:12-21

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Bless those who persecute [you], bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

## SHARING THE STATE OF THE HEART (20-30 MINUTES)

*Enter into a quiet, contemplative sitting position to reflect on these questions; then briefly share what has been given to you during this time of reflection.*

- How has God been revealed to you since our last gathering?
- How has that changed you?

*Facilitator brings Sharing the State of the Heart to a close, honoring what has been shared. Then facilitator plays video for Module 2.*

## VIDEO FOR MODULE 2 (20 MINUTES)

## THE POWER OF WORLDVIEWS (60 MINUTES)

Create a shared experience of the power of worldviews.

### Items needed:

- A globe, an inflatable globe of Earth, or [a picture of the planet that was taken from space in 1969](#)
- An atlas or [picture of Earth as represented with continents, oceans, countries, etc.](#)
- Markers and paper for participants
- Space for participants to work, preferably at tables

### Purpose of this exercise:

To have participants illustrate the way they see the world—this can either be in words or in images. Participants will recognize that we all have unique worldviews based on personal experience, culture and family histories. To identify the major framework of the two prominent worldviews operable in today's world.

*Facilitator reviews the concept of a “worldview” with the group and explains the two prominent worldviews using the information below.*

A worldview includes three aspects:

1. How one sees the world
2. How one understands relationships
3. How one defines the role of humans in the world

For the purposes of this exercise, we will assume that most of the people in the world have one of two prominent worldviews:

#### **Worldview A**

- Everything is separated from everything else
- Relationships are ladder like (always a #1 on top)
- Humans practice the illusion of control

#### **Worldview B**

- Everything is connected to everything else
- Relationships are circular (what happens to one in the circle, happens to all)
- Humans choose how to participate in all the ongoing transformations happening within around them all the time

*Facilitator invites all group members to individually take five minutes to reflect on the two prominent worldviews that have been shared. She asks participants to draw or journal an image or metaphor that explains her own worldview.*

### **Emmaus Walk:**

After they have identified their worldview, ask all of the participants to find a partner. Pairs should either take a walk together or find a quiet place to sit together for 20 minutes, taking turns sharing and listening to the worldview of one another. After both have shared their understandings of the world, they should ask each other these questions:

- What shaped/informed this worldview I currently hold?
- How has my worldview changed over time?
- Why has it changed?

*\*Important note: After 20 minutes, partners will be asked to share some of the information shared in these dyads with the larger group. Listeners should be sensitive to their partners, clarifying whether or not any part of the story should not be shared. Speakers should be clear on what can or cannot be shared with the larger group.*

*Facilitator brings the group back together using a song, chime or quiet reading. Invites the group to settle into a moment of silence before encouraging sharing.*

### **Large group sharing:**

In the large group, Facilitator asks pair to share each other's worldviews and important aspects or learnings from that worldview. Participants are asked to be brief, to honor any confidences that were given, and to be faithful to their partner's view, avoiding projecting their own.

*After everyone has had a chance to share, Facilitator invites a few moments of centering silence before breaking into small groups and opening the following discussion.*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (45 MINUTES)

In groups of three to five people, consider and discuss the following ideas and questions. Do not feel that all have to be answered. These are guides to deepening our conversation with one another.

- How does the CSSJ charism challenge us to have a worldview that allows us to see everything and everyone as connected to me/us?
- How do we “see” each other with our diverse points of view about religious life, the future of the CSSJ mission and charism, reconciliation, community, justice, US politics, global issues, etc.?
- How do we “see” the ease with which we can place people/places/situations on a ladder like system so that there is always someone(s), some topic/issue/point of view “on top” and all the others get “ranked” to lesser roles? For example: relationships within our local communities, neighborhoods, church, nation, planet that thrive on polarization of issues, persons, topics, etc. rather than working towards common ground, justice, mutual respect and diversity.
- How do we “see” the challenge to resist the temptation to practice the illusion of control, to try and find a way to “fix” something or insisting on “the right way” rather than learning how to engage in dialogue in order to participate in whatever levels of transformation might be possible for all involved?
- Do we/I believe we hold the correct worldview and others are wrong or misinformed?
- How does my worldview impact how I respond in various situations, e.g. personal realities of life, family, friends, community, province, ministry, congregation, church, politics, justice issues, etc.?

*Facilitator calls the group back to a large group discussion of the following questions.*

- What did we learn about ourselves and our worldviews?
- How do we identify our communal worldviews on multiple situations (province, congregation, sponsored ministries, future of the CSSJ mission and charism, church, justice issues, politics, etc.)?
- How do we, in humility, compassion, and integrity respond to the collective ideal worldview of the CSSJs and the lived reality?

*Sensing from the group when the topic can be drawn to a close, the Facilitator invites everyone into silence for guided discussion from the readings.*

## GUIDED DISCUSSION FROM THE READINGS (30 MINUTES)

From the silence, speak only if you feel called to respond to any of the excerpts and queries below. This is not a time for conversation, but for a deeper sharing of understandings revealed. Once someone has shared, allow for space, then others can continue to speak if prompted by the Spirit. After all have shared, if there is time and the group feels compelled, more discussion may be desired.

*Facilitator reads the following:*

- Maxim 24 states that the focus of my life should be to see everything as God sees it. Maxim 73 calls me to live my life for God alone.

During the Year of Consecrated Life, how is/was our worldview of religious life, church, vocation, and/or ministry challenged?

- In *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis clearly challenges the worldview of many countries of the world as he invites all to look at their worldview and consider the choices they are making and how their decisions impact the lives of so many around the world.

How do we balance the understanding of how a person's or group's worldview drives decisions/actions and the possible hurtful consequences created by those worldviews?

- In *The Prophetic Imagination*, Walter Brueggemann lays out the role of the prophet (baptized) as one who critiques the dominant ideology of their times and then offers an alternative way of living.

What impact might Brueggemann's insights have on our contemporary situations? How would you critique the dominant ideology (worldview) of our times? What alternative way of seeing the world would you offer to our contemporary situations? How might you critique your own dominant ideology and what alternative would you offer?

## GATHERING THE GRACES (5-10 MINUTES)

Reflect on the following questions:

- What have I heard?
- What am I learning?
- What difference will it make for me tomorrow and the day after that and beyond?
- What difference does it make for us as the community of St. Joseph?

Each participant may share ONE brief awareness/learning from today's process.

Take a few minutes to record in your journal:

- What awareness has the group gained during this time?
- What wisdom needs to be recorded and carried into the next session?

## CLOSING PRAYER

*Facilitator invites everyone to reflect silently for a moment on what they have experienced during this time together. Choose a group member to read the following.*

Reader:        God of all peoples and nations,  
                      You create all in an outpouring of love that cannot be contained.  
                      As we go about our daily living, may we recognize Your divine presence  
                      in everything and in every person we encounter.  
                      Give us a deeper awareness of the profound connection with all the created  
                      universe and in all our relationships.  
                      We ask this in name of the Trinity, Creator, Son and Spirit.

All:                Amen.