



## YOU, THE CHRIST

### LEADER:

Let us place ourselves in the presence of the Lord. Let us reflect on how we can be Christ in today's world.

Breathe slowly and deeply.....think of family, friends and people who are supportive of you.....those who are important in your life and make you feel whole. (Pause)

Think of other people you meet day to day.....those known to you.....those unknown. Those you greet, those you dismiss, and those you judge. Think of those who make you feel uncomfortable. (Pause)

**SONG:** You, the Christ (YouTube – Ian Callanan and Shirly Erena Murray)

Stranger, standing at my door, you disturb me in the night:  
You have needs I can't ignore, you have eyes that speak your plight.  
Do I know you, nameless face, battered woman, detainee,  
hungry youth of sickness case, jobless parent, refugee?  
Do I know you, nameless face?

You are strange in speech and dress, you have children at your side,  
you are not like one of us, you have begged away your pride.  
If you passed across my screen, I might switch you out of sight,  
worlds away you might have been, yet you stand here in the night.  
Do I know you, nameless face?

I am fearful of your claim, yet I cannot turn away.  
Stranger with the foreign name, are you angel come to stay?  
You are messenger and guest, you the Christ I can't ignore,  
you my own compassion's test, stranger standing at my door.  
You, the Christ, I can't ignore.  
You, the Christ, I can't ignore.

**PAUSE** – Reflect on the words of the song.....Who are the “nameless faces” you meet day to day?

**READER 1:** Luke 24: 16 – 18

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk alone?””

**LEADER:**

If the disciples on the road to Emmaus Road had refused to welcome a stranger into their companionable walk and their conversation, they would have missed the whole mind/spirit-blending encounter with Jesus.  
Could it be that the stranger who intrudes upon our lives has actually been sent by God as a means of grace to us?

**REFLECT:**

**READER 2:**

The Emmaus story raises an interesting question: who is the stranger?

More often than not, the stranger is simply someone who is strange to you for one reason or another – a personality type that is different from yours, different

life experiences that have shaped them, a different ethnicity, a different opinion or perspective on a topic. It could be someone who comes out of nowhere interrupting our daily routine. Someone we feel just does not fit in.

Can we welcome the one who is strange? Can we be as receptive to Christ in them as those two disciples were open and receptive to Jesus on the road to Emmaus? Who are these nameless faces; people we should not ignore?

### **REFLECT:**

**READER 3:** Excerpts taken from North American Conference of Associates and Religious, Nov., 2017, If not us, then who?

As persons called to carry the spirit and mission of our various congregations (the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate), we remember on whose shoulders we stand. Those visionary and prophetic individuals ..... inspire us and guide us.

The God who did great things in the past will do newer and greater things in our day, this time through us. We are called to be people of open minds, open hearts and open wills, living the **Associate Call: Alive Today, Co-Creating God's Dream for Tomorrow**. Our gratitude rests in our call to continue seeding our world with our various charisms, relationship by relationship. We are humbly grateful for the gift of consciously being the hands, feet, face, voice, eyes, ears and heart of Christ made visible.

If we peek at our Founder (Mother Alfred) we will see and sense their gratitude to us for saying "yes" to our call as they did to theirs. In her song "The Circle's Larger." Colleen Fulmer writes:

If not us, then who?  
If not here, then where?  
If not now, then when?  
The circle's larger.

## **REFLECT AND SHARE:**

LISTEN AGAIN to the song: **You, the Christ**.....or read aloud the words of the song.

## **BIBICAL INTERSSIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Open my heart so I can recognize the stranger.

You shall love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land of Egypt.  
(Deuteronomy 10:19) **RESPONSE**

Treat the stranger as you would a fellow Israelite, and love them as you would love yourself. Remember that you were once a stranger. I am the Lord your God.  
(Leviticus 19:34) **RESPONSE**

You have heard that it was said, "Love your friends, hate your enemies." But now I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.  
(Matthew 5: 43-44) **RESPONSE**

Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of these the least of my brethren you did it to me.  
(Matthew 25:40) **RESPONSE**

Be under no obligation to no one – the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever has done this has obeyed the Law.  
(Romans 13:8) **RESPONSE**

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Whoever does what is right is acceptable to him, no matter what race he belongs to.  
(Acts 10: 34-35) **RESPONSE**

**LEADER:** Let us pray

Lord, give us the eyes of Jesus to see our neighbors and the strangers we meet. Teach us what it means to love the stranger as we love ourselves. Forgive us for our selfishness, for our silence, for not caring enough for the strangers who come to our communities. Teach us to love and care for the stranger the way You do. Amen.

**Offer each other the sign of peace!**