

6. Take time to get to know the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has chosen to reveal himself to us as three persons, each of whom has his own 'personality' and his own way of relating to us.

By asking us to call him "Father" demonstrates once and for all that He is a loving, forgiving God. As father, he has shaped us in his image and sustains our lives with every heart beat. He is the all powerful creator of all existence who loved human persons so much he sent his Son to be one of us.

As the Son of God who became a human person and lived and died on earth, Jesus has established an intimacy with us -- a new and never ending covenant, that goes beyond our wildest imaginings. He is our Savior who heals our weaknesses and perfects all that we do. But even more wonderful, he invites us to root ourselves in him and to become one with him.

The Holy Spirit is the person who keeps the love and power of the Father and Son alive and kicking in the world and within each of us. We can't see Jesus the way the Apostles did, but the Spirit helps us see, feel, and experience Him in other ways. The Holy Spirit is always there to inspire us.

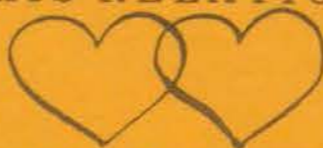
WE have just discussed some things that you can do to deepen your relationship with God. But don't forget that the business of intimacy with God does not rest on your shoulders alone. God is the one who has initiated the relationship and He will continue to pursue you as friend, brother, and lover throughout your lifetime. The night before He died He told us:

"You did not choose me, no, I chose you. And I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last."

(John 15: 16-17)



WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP?



An evening for couples in a serious relationship, who want to explore choices and decisions for the future.

Friday, November 20th
4 - 9pm

Topics to be presented:

- Stages of relationships
- Expectations for the future
- Maintaining long-distance relationships
- Juggling the personal and the professional
- Steps in making healthy decisions

The program will include presentations by engaged and newly married couples.

Pre-registration is required.

Applications can be picked up at either Campus Ministry Office:

Library Concourse or Badin Hall

Applications are due by NOV. 16th



Notre Dame Religious Bulletin

Volume IV
Issue 9
November 15, 1987

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WE ARE
PEOPLE OF
LIGHT, awake
and working
for the Lord's coming



Today's scriptures set a tone of wisdom for the believer. God gives each of us unique gifts or abilities, potential, expecting us to use them wisely. Realizing our potential in today's world according to the wisdom of the Gospel is our challenge and it is what God expects. Today's Catholic needs that special wisdom, christian tone, polish, or presence to stand among fellow people in our society and to give witness. Jesus tells us to use our talents and use them well.

Intimacy With God :

We All Want It,

But How Can We Achieve It?

— Joseph Sandman, Director of
Development, University Relations

"Make your home in me, as I make mine in you."

"Yahweh, you yourself are my prize. You, and only you, hold my lot secure ... I bless Yahweh who is my counselor."

Psalm 16

"It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."

Galatians: 2:20

As long as men and women have believed in a personal, loving God, they have longed for an intimate relationship with Him. The three passages quoted above are among the many in scripture which invite each of us to enter into a deeply personal union with God.

When we read such passages, one part of ourselves says "Yes! I am attracted to a close, warm relationship with God!" but another part of us says: "But how can I achieve it?"

After all, the basis of human relationships is two-way communication and we can't see, hear, or talk with God the same way we can see, hear, or talk with our friends, family members, or acquaintances. How can we enter into a deeply personal relationship with Someone who is -- at least in one sense -- not as real or present to us as the stranger in front of us in the supermarket line.

Here are 6 approaches which many have found helpful over the years in achieving intimacy with God:

1. Be willing to invest some time and energy into the relationship. To have a good relationship with your boyfriend, little sister, or classmate, you've got to spend some time together. A relationship with God requires the same commitment. A few minutes a day will do with larger chunks of time-- a half hour or so -- whenever you can arrange it.



2. Listen to God speaking to you in scriptures. God does speak to us -- loud and clear -- in the Old and the New Testaments, and he addresses just about any situation we might find ourselves in.

If we are under a good deal of stress, he tells us: "Come to me all you who are labored and are heavily burdened, for I will give you rest."

If we are suffering from depression, hardship or loss, Saint Paul tells us: "Nothing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39) The Gospels and the Psalms are particularly good places to find God's powerful, loving voice speaking directly to us. Take a look at Psalms 16, 23, 27, 56, and 63, and see if you hear God speaking to you.

3. Listen to God in Yourself. We know that God dwells within each one of us, and if we put ourselves in a quiet spot for 20 or 30 minutes, we can often hear him speaking to us in our conscience, our feelings, and our desires. If you are a Notre Dame student, you will probably never again live at a place which has so many quiet places to pray and reflect as does this campus. Sacred Heart Church and the Crypt, the dorm chapels, and quiet spots around campus are wonderful places to end the cacophony of noise which is generated by our busy schedules, so we can savor quiet, which is often where God reveals himself in ourselves.*****

4. Look for God in others. God speaks to us through each other too: not just parents, priests, and religious, but also roommates, friends, and even professors. Remember that the most explicit advice Jesus gave about how to find Him is to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, tired, unclothed, or homeless. Therefore, when we reach out in service to those in need, we can count on his promise that we will find Him there.*****

5. Try writing God a letter. Since communication is two-way, we must do our part by expressing ourselves to him. At times, this is not as easy as communicating with a breathing flesh and blood person. Have you ever noticed that when you want to communicate something important -- feelings, regrets, or whatever -- but are not sure of what to say, that writing a letter proves to be a great way to express yourself? Writing a letter can be even more helpful when communicating with God. His silence makes dialog difficult. When you've finished your letter, you will almost certainly be clearer in your own mind about what you want to communicate, and that's a great place to deepen any relationship. When you write Him, don't hesitate to pour out all that you are, feel, and desire, because, that is precisely what he wants to hear from you.*****