

Retreat at Ilkley 2000

Discussion on Saturday morning

A Note for Leaders of Discussion

The theme is really about the appropriate *depth* of our Community's self-understanding. Christian communities can repel by their exclusiveness and the strictness of their demands. If they are authentic, this can be quite all right (like a good monastery, or Mother Teresa's missions). If we decide to be a lot looser in our Community, we run the risk of losing touch with the depths, the life-and-death mystery, which we express (drily) in the words of the Creed on Sunday. This does no service to the world in search of its Saviour, and, although it makes it easy to belong to Cathsoc, it may do no service to Catholicism or to us. So the aim of the discussion is to alert ourselves to the latter danger (since we show few signs of being exclusive or perfectionist) and look for ways to make the religious part of our Community its real heart.

You might use the themes on the meditation sheet that everyone has. If not:

1. How does the Chaplaincy Community make a *characteristic* contribution to the life of the University? Could we make it more noticeable/positive?
2. What do we think of the spiritual content of our lives as Catholics? Do we find ourselves sharing this dimension with each other, or with others?
3. Do we have a sense of Christ being for everyone, or are we more likely to keep our faith under wraps as something only subjectively true – *true for us*? (NB This might need careful exactitude of expression!)
4. What would we choose as the single religious belief, image, or experience that most moves us, most typifies our faith, most makes Christ relevant to our real life? (*A deceptively lightweight demand – but revealing!*)

As usual, be alert for the ubiquitous red herring, and move on if things aren't inspiring; try to involve each person, especially the quiet one in the corner.