

**St. Therese Adult Study Series
Philippians with Father Andrie**

Reflection Questions for Chapter 2

Father Andrie already covered the Introduction (p. 61-72) and Chapter 1 (73-91). For next session, please read Chapter 2 in Philippians and pages 92-119 in the *Philippians, Colossians, Philemon* commentary. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "*Blessed Lord, you speak to us through the Holy Scriptures. Grant that we may hear, read, respect, learn, and make them our own in such a way that the enduring benefit and comfort of the Word will help us grasp and hold the blessed hope of everlasting life, given us through our Savior Jesus Christ.*" Your reflections will be shared **May 2nd** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

The reflection questions are excerpted from the author's small group study and from the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible by Scott Hahn.

1. How does the description of Christian community in verses 1-4 set us up to understand the Christ story that follows in verses 5-11?

2. How do we know that Paul means what he says when he asks his readers to imitate the self-emptying of Christ in the incarnation (vv. 5-7a)?

3. When Paul writes that the further self-humiliation of Jesus' earthy life entailed even death on a cross, the kind of execution Romans reserved for slaves (vv.7b-8), how would this have been heard in the Roman colony of Philippi?

4. What is Paul's point when he deliberately echoes language from Isaiah 45:23 at verse 10 ("every knee should bend...and every tongue confess")?

**St. Therese Adult Study Series
Philippians with Father Andrie**

5. What is Paul's point in saying that the one who took on the form of a slave was given the name of *Lord*?

6. What happens when you hear "work out your [plural] salvation with fear and trembling" (v. 12) with full awareness of the context in this passage? How does a *community* work out its salvation?

7. In what ways do Paul's descriptions of Timothy and Epaphroditus present them as examples of the "mind of Christ"?

For your personal application:

2:6-7 What is the one thing you most want to "hang onto" in life—the one thing of which you would be most afraid to "empty yourself"? Why might God ask this of you? If he has asked it, what has your response been?

2:13 Have you noticed God at work in you, bringing you to the point of willing His good pleasure and working for it? To what incidents, trends, or circumstances can you point out that illustrate his work in you?

2:17-18 Do you know anyone who has "poured himself out" so that you might come to faith or remain in it? What did this person do for you, and what kind of sacrifice do you think it entailed? How could you repay such a sacrifice?