

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Religion of the Day with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for Chapter 6 and Conclusion

For the next session on May 21st, please read Chapter 6 & Conclusion, pages 117-132 in *The Religion of the Day* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: "*Blessed Virgin Mary, be with me in my prayer. When I wonder what God is asking of me, or how it can be so, please ask your Son, our Lord and Savior, to help me respond in faith. Amen.*" <https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers> Your reflections will be shared **May 21st** 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.

1. Chapter 6 begins by telling us the importance of *standing*. An obvious definition is to support oneself on the feet in an erect position. In the Bible, the "word "stand" is translated from the Greek *histemi*, and in this context it means "to continue, endure, or persist." "Our calling, election (Romans 11:5-6), repentance (Romans 2:4), and justification enable us to stand before God in the sense of being given access into His presence." To hold fearlessly to the truth that the Spirit is doing its perfect work and there is no cause for alarm. To stand firm and not be persuaded to do anything contrary to God's will. When we stand in Church, it is a sign of respect. It is also a posture representing the resurrection. What are some of the ways you find yourself *standing* when it comes to your faith? How can you encourage others to do the same?

2. In section 3 on pg. 121, Presenting the Gospel, St. Paul tells us to wield "the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (Eph 6:17) The author tells us that we "need to be steadily presenting the Faith anew, *first* to ourselves to keep our minds and hearts awake in the face of the many false gospels..." How are you accomplishing this for yourself?

3. The mystery and the invisible world are difficult for many to grasp. To be in right relationship with God, we need to be ready to face these mysteries. What counsel would you give to someone who is struggling with the mysteries of our Church?

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4. In the section, Making real what is notional (existing only in theory), we are reminded of the “imaginatively powerful parables” that Jesus told. What parable(s) stand out for you that you’ve made a strong connection with?

5. In the Conclusion chapter, we are filled with hope despite the trials that surround us. Discuss the points that stood out for you in this chapter.

What else stood out for you in this chapter?

Overall, in this study on the Religion of the Day?

Take some time to ask each other what prayer needs they have for this summer. Remember to hold your small group up in prayer and also Fr. Andrie as he plans the next study of the book of Revelation as seen through the eyes of the Mass.

For your personal prayer:

Heavenly Father, We ask You today for Your truth, As a belt tight around our waists. We put on the zeal, to announce Your good news of peace, as shoes for our feet. We put on Your righteousness, O Christ, as our breastplate. And the hope of salvation, as a helmet for our head. Father we take up faith, as a shield which is able to put out, all the fiery darts of the enemy. And the sword of the Spirit, which is Your Word, O Lord. Father may the love, with which You have loved Jesus, be in us and may Jesus be in us. We ask You for the grace, of a servant heart.

Amen.

(<https://www.catholic.org/prayers/prayer.php?p=2787>)

Summer challenge:

In the footnotes on pages 124 and 125, the author lists several resources. Consider choosing one to read over the summer.

***Our prayer for you is that others see the joy of Jesus in you
and want what you have.***