

Value-Based Formation Program

(Forming Men With Character According to the Values of the Gospel)

VALUES ARE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Values bring us closer to Jesus. Values bring Jesus closer to us.

"Above all other things, the greatest scandal for me, is *the frivolous priest*." (Pope Francis) Frivolous means not having any serious purpose or value.

FORMATION is: (1) pursuing the highest Christian *ideals* (2) pursuing the highest *value* of the human spirit (3) pursuing the *ultimate* value. The ultimate value is - **God**.

VALUES. Why values? Values are formative tools to develop **CHARACTER** (*depths of our being; strong interiority; developed soul*). Formation demands from us men imbued with Christian characters, i.e., *forming men with character, with inner strength, and with interior discipline*. We know the truth but we don't live life according to the truth because we *lack character* to do it.

GOSPEL. Why gospel values? That ultimate value is God revealed in Jesus Christ and experience through the gift of the Holy Spirit within the life of the Church. This ultimate value pushes and urges us to seek integration by reaching beyond the confines of the self. **JESUS** is the embodiment of gospel values. He is ultimate value in person. He is the incarnation of the ultimate value. All the values we want to know and want to live with, we can learn them in Jesus. Jesus is the living and walking document of the gospel lived-values. Values of the Gospel are gifts of the **HOLY SPIRIT**. Hence, values are **FORMATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE**, i.e., promoting growth, development, maturity, and holiness. Values of the Gospel grow and comes gradually. It does not hit us all at once. It goes with the process of maturity. It is a continuous refinement.

MARY. God found hospitable space in Mary's heart. Mary kept all the values of the Kingdom in her heart. Mary allows herself to be influenced, nourished and nurtured by what she kept in her heart. Mary kept God in her heart. She serves God from her heart.

FORMATIVE EFFECTS OF LIVED-VALUES. **We keep what we value!** And what we value most is what we keep longer in our lives. What we value highly we treasure them. What we treasure defines us and gives us identity. Clear identity is clear mission.

- Values defines us who we are.
- Values formed us to become men of characters.
- Values allow us to become part of what we value.
- Values allow us to be touch by what we value most.
- Values allow us to be inside of what we value.
- Values allows us to be active participant in the development of what we value most.
- What we value is what we become.
- Values allow us to be influenced by what we value.
- Values inspire us. Values urges us.

Gospel Texts:

- Matthew 6:19-21 (...where your treasure is, there is your heart)
- Matthew 6:25 (seek first the Kingdom of God)
- Matthew 5:18-20 (...they left their father); Matthew 5:21-22 (...they left their nets)
- Matthew 13:44-46 (...sold everything and bought the field)
- Matthew 9:10 ff. Jesus dines with sinners
- John 4:34 (My food is to do the will of the one who sent me)

PETER TOROT. A man of character who lived the values of the Kingdom faithfully. His belief was "*doing what is good even if no one is watching*." Truly, a reflection of a man with highly committed character.