

NW Area TEC Reflection Purpose and Critique

The questions below are not meant to be a checklist, but a tool to understand/review the purpose of each reflection. The full outline should be reviewed when the speaker is preparing his/her reflection.

Day One – Saturday Reflections – Die Day

Growth and Ideals

20-25 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Present yourself as friendly/inviting; sharing common experiences/feelings
- Meet the candidates where they are; without preconceived ideas about where they *should* be
- Help/encourage candidates to sort out what makes life worthwhile/what they hope their lives will become – no mention of God or faith is made during this reflection
- Designed to initiate a reflective dialogue that is honest and sincere
- Set the tone for the depth of sharing in the small groups

Does the speaker share:

- Family/friends who have influenced them?
- How he/she is transitioning to adulthood and taking responsibility for his/her future?
- How ideas, aspirations and pursuits we consider most important form our ideals?
- The 4 human needs – being loved, learning to love, reaching full potential and finding meaning in life?
- Challenge the candidates by asking specific questions?

Faith Journey

20-25 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Invite candidates to more deeply consider their experiences of God
- Welcome the young adults into the mind and heart of an adult
- Share your faith journey - including personal successes and failures of an adult living/trying to live a life of faith
- Help the candidates understand how seeking God helps us figure out who we are/our personal identity

Does the speaker share:

- How faith is relational; not just an emotional feeling – it is a growing, unfolding and dynamic relationship?
- How his/her faith was shaped - including stories of joy, humor, sorrow, regret and hope?
- How faith gives meaning to our lives?
- Challenge the candidates by asking specific questions?

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Paschal Mystery

25-30 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Open the candidate's hearts/minds to encounter Jesus this weekend
- Focus on the die-rise/death-to-life process – the rhythm of the paschal mystery – leading to joy and freedom
- Initiate inner reflection of the candidates to ask themselves what they need to die to in order to respond more fully to Jesus in their lives

Does the speaker share:

- How life, love, and why/how Jesus came into our world is a mystery?
- How Jesus loved life and lived it to the fullest – even through his passion, death, resurrection, ascension and gift of the Holy Spirit?
- What his final commandment was to us?
- How to fully live out this commandment – and life to its fullest – we must undergo constant “deaths”?
- The introduction/concept of wheat / self-sacrificing?

Change of Heart (young adult)

15-20 minutes

Metanoia (clergy)

30 minutes

These reflections' purposes are to:

- From different life experiences/ages, share how obstacles can be overcome through surrender to Jesus
- Demonstrate the unconditional and forgiving love of God – how he is both Lord and friend
- Speak to the joy and peace of surrendering

Do the speakers:

- Build on the transformation taking place in the candidates as God is calling them to intimacy and union?
- Honestly share their story of conversion – including struggles (i.e., trust, unbelief, pride), the effect on relationships and what changes had to be made?
- Instill courage in the candidates to pursue their own change of heart including participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (clergy)?

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Day Two – Sunday Reflections – Rise Day

God, A Community of Love

20-30 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Build on human community experienced on Day 1 and invite the candidates into the community of the Trinity
- Provide examples/an explanation of the fullness of God's love and friendship
- Explain how we initially become part of this community through Baptism – but are now called to participate in this community by choosing daily to accept God's invitation

Does the speaker:

- Provide examples of community – family, friends, the church?
- Introduce the community of love – we call God?
- Share how Jesus loves us unconditionally; self-giving/expect nothing in return?
- Introduce the Trinity through his/her experience and relationship with God; not an academic explanation?
- Explain how Baptism was our entrance into this community?
- Share how our intimate union with the Trinity requires us to respond with commitment – to walk in companionship with God?

Church, The People of God

20-30 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Encourage the candidates to contemplate what a deeper commitment might mean
- Introduce the 3 roles Jesus modeled for us – priest, prophet and king
- Share/demonstrate how the church is not a building but a community – a people of God - united through Sacraments, scripture and the communion of saints
- Invite the candidates to become active members of this community

Does the speaker:

- Define “church” and his/her experiences of “church”?
- Explain what a saint is/does; maybe share a saint(s) that serves as a model for him/her?
- Mention Mary as part of our communion of saints?
- Share examples of people/the speaker living out the roles of priest, prophet and king?

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Christian Life

20-30 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Provide examples of everyday Christians who enter into the paschal mystery as part of the community of love
- Present the process of growing and transforming our minds, hearts and actions
- Remind candidates they are called to holiness – to be kingdom builders
- Clarify that Christian life is not the expectation to conform to a set of rules – but to live a life of love, forgiveness and guidance

Does the speaker(s):

- Develop a vision of the kingdom of God being established through Christians living their everyday lives well?
- Become a witness to the universal call to holiness?
- Describe a life of prayer and action?
- Ask the candidates to consider specific questions as they process to the chapel?

Signs

20 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Convey how much Jesus wants to be with us – to touch us with his love – to provide comfort, forgiveness, mercy and compassion
- Demonstrate how He does this through sacred signs, symbols, ritual actions and joyful sounds
- Explain how central the Eucharist is to our faith life

Does the speaker:

- Provide examples of how God communicates with us?
- Explain the purpose of signs/symbols?
- Briefly explain the 7 Sacraments - spending most of the time on the Eucharist – the “source and summit” of our faith?

Day Three – Monday Reflections – Go Day

Discipleship

20 minutes

This reflection's purpose is to:

- Clarify the call to holiness is an invitation to the process for living; to be the person Jesus has called us to be
- Demonstrate how discipleship is a response to Jesus' call
- Lead them into discipleship – creating a sense of mission
- Explain how discipleship is our paschal mystery - dying and rising/self-sacrifice – daily

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Discipleship (cont.)

Does the speaker:

- Describe – in story and example – the 3 C’s of Discipleship – Call, Conversion, Commitment?
- Define/share examples of the mission of a disciple – including participation in the Sacraments and faith communities?

Young Christian as Disciple

20-25 minutes

This reflection’s purpose is to:

- Encourage and empower the candidates for the days ahead as they Go Forth
- Arm the candidates with courage and confidence in order to return to the “familiar” – with renewed hope, love, forgiveness and peace
- Inspire the candidates to be disciples – to share the Good News

Does the speaker:

- Convey a tone of gentle, joyful and firm encouragement?
- Share his/her TEC experience – how it deepened his/her call to discipleship
- Explain how rich their lives can be in Christ as they help transform the world?
- Share practical ways to disciple/share the Good News?
- Challenge the candidates to be difference makers – to be a vital influence in our world today?
- Describe struggles the candidates may encounter as disciples - and how to overcome/navigate them through prayer, study, friendships and community?
- Invite the participants to have a plan – and then spend some time answering the questions in the Journal?

Beyond TEC

15-20 minutes

This reflection’s purpose is to:

- Share the concept of “Go Forth” day and his/her experiences after a TEC weekend
- Provide a series of tips-and-tools to prepare for living their Fourth Day
- Remind them of the strength, power and confidence they can find in Christ

Does the speaker:

- Share the struggles and triumphs after his/her weekend – next day/week/month/year?
- Explain what can/cannot be shared about the TEC weekend?
- Share information about Fourth Day; encourage participation in own church community and other missions – find their passion?
- Challenge the candidates to take what they’ve learned and put it into action?
- Instill a sense of confidence in their abilities?
- Remind them to be patient and persevere?