

A Blessing for Fathers



June 19, 2022

Reader:

Gracious God, Father and Mother of us all,
We praise you for your gift of fatherly love,
gentle and fierce, strong and humble, kind and true.
We give you thanks for all those in our lives
who possess the soul of a father.

We give thanks and celebrate with those in our community
who have become a father this year,
and we give thanks and anticipate with those
in our community who are expecting to
become a father this year.

All:

Creator God, inhabit their joy.

Reader:

We pray for and mourn with those who have lost children through accidents, sickness, miscarriage, failed adoptions or unjust systems.

We pray for those who are traveling the hard path of infertility.

We pray for and grieve with the fathers of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls across this land.

All:

Suffering God,
bring comfort and justice.

Reader:

We give you thanks for those who are
foster dads,
mentor dads,
spiritual dads,
and stepdads –

for this world so desperately needs them,
perhaps now more than ever.

All:

Advocating God,
increase their influence.

Reader:

We give thanks for and celebrate
with fathers who have
warm and close relationships
with their children.

And we pray for fathers who have
disappointment,
heartache and
distance
with their children.

All:

Reconciling God,
increase their hope.

Reader:

We pray for single fathers today,
fathers who care for
their children alone,
doing their best to fulfill
all the needs that
their children have –
to be father and mother.

All:

Empowering God,
energize and strengthen them.

Reader:

We pray for and grieve
with children who
lost their fathers this year.

We pray for and acknowledge
children who have
experienced abuse
at the hands of
their fathers.

All:

Healing God,
shelter and comfort them.

Reader:

We pray for fathers who were themselves inadequately fathered due to experiences of injustice such as being brought up in residential schools, the devastation of mental illness, blatant unkindness, patterns of generational abuse, and other human failures.

We pray for the children of absent fathers.

We pray for the absent fathers.



All:

Weeping God,
bring justice, comfort and healing.

Reader:

We pray for those who are single,
yet long to be married and
perhaps fathering their own children.

We pray for those
who are happily single and
father in ways
that may not be visible.

All:

Welcoming God,
increase our capacity to
embrace and include.

Reader:

We pray for those
who will have emptier nests
in the upcoming year.

And we pray for and grieve
with all those who envisioned
lavishing love on grandchildren,
yet that dream is not to be.

All:

Forbearing God,
bring patience and
new visions of fathering to them.

Reader:

We pray for those who
have placed children
up for adoption.

We pray for those who
long to be reunited
with children they
barely know.

All:

Sacrificing God,
bless them for their selflessness
and comfort them as they hold
that child in their heart.

Reader:

Finally, we pray today for
fathers around the world;

fathers who cannot feed their children,
fathers who are homeless or without a homeland;
fathers who must leave their families
because of war;

Fathers who must teach their children
about the dangers of bombs and bullets.

All:

Protecting God,
give them peace,
security and a place to belong.

Courageous God,
give us boldness to create a world where
fathers can raise their children
in peace and plenty.

Reader:

God, on this Father's Day,
we pray that you
help us to walk with all fathers.

God, who created fathers,
who came as a child and
had earthly and heavenly fathers,

God, who loves us with a
more complete and deeper love
than we have ever known,

All:

hear our prayer this day,

Amen!

Discernment:

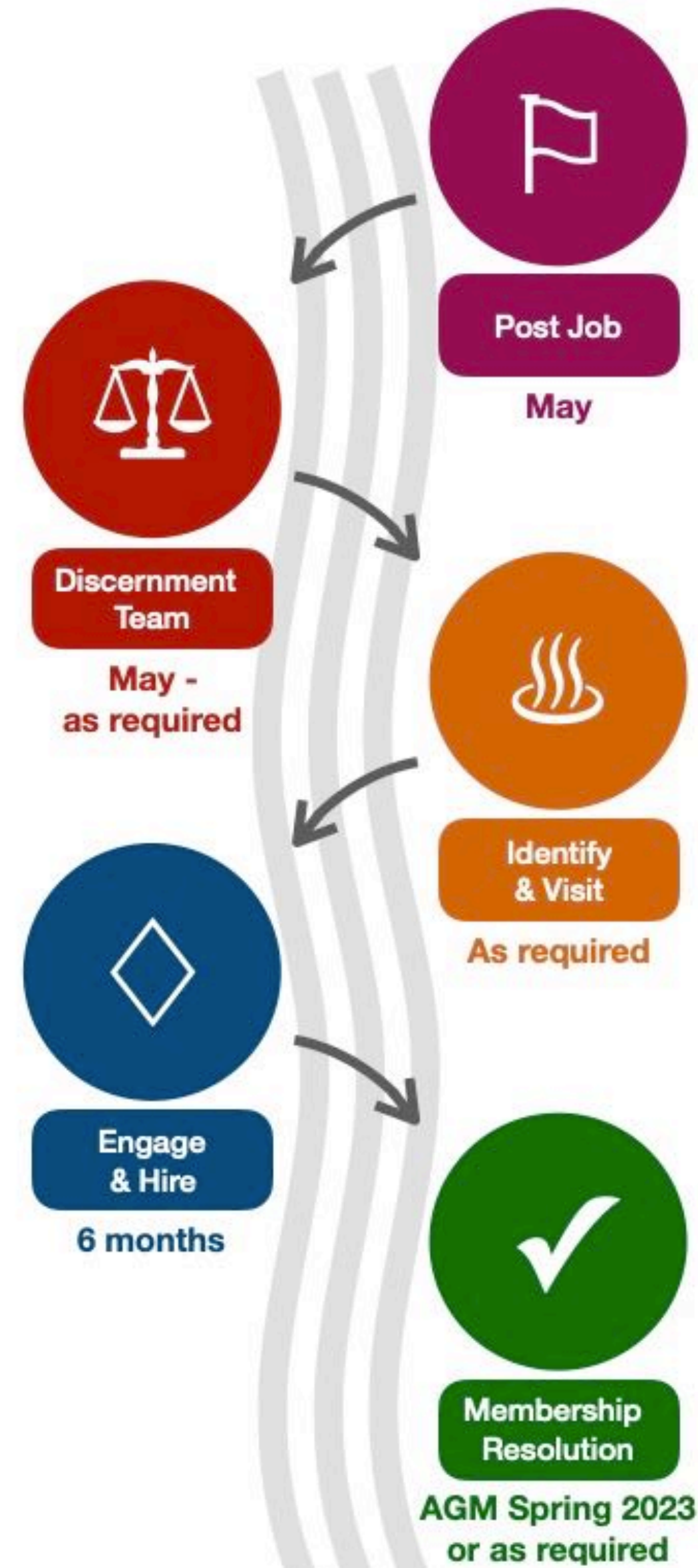


Discernment: Paying Attention



Photo by Marten Newhall on Unsplash

Pastoral Transition Map



PRAYER



Discernment [dih-surn-muhnt]

- ★ The ability to recognize small details, accurately tell the difference between similar things, and make intelligent judgements by using such observations.
(dictionary.com)

Discern [dih-surn]

- ★ To perceive by the sight or some other sense or by the intellect; see, recognize, or apprehend:
- ★ To distinguish mentally; recognize as distinct or different; discriminate. (dictionary.com)

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing **you may discern** what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."



Philippians 1:9-10 (ESV)

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and **all discernment**, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”



1 Corinthians 12:7-22 (NLT)

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other... the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice... a message of special knowledge... great faith... the gift of healing... the power to perform miracles... the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else **the ability to discern** whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit... the ability to speak in unknown languages... the ability to interpret what is being said."



1. Discerning God's Desires



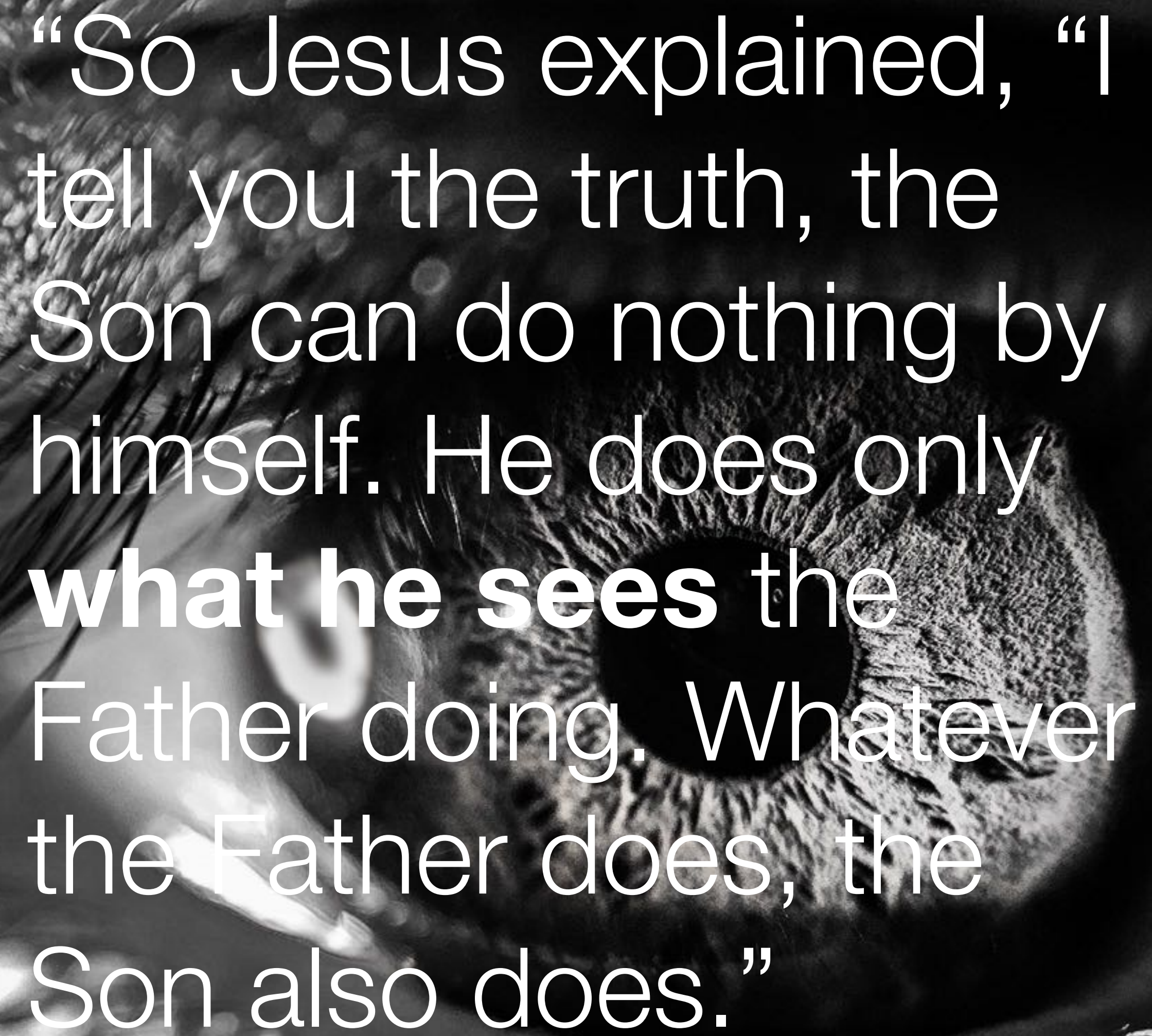
1. Discerning
God's Desires

2. Discerning
to Distinguish





To
Discern
is to
Pay
Attention



“So Jesus explained, “I
tell you the truth, the
Son can do nothing by
himself. He does only
what he sees the
Father doing. Whatever
the Father does, the
Son also does.”

John 5:19

To
Discern
is to
Pay
Attention



October 1886.

(front row):
Ahtakahkoop,
Kahkiwistahaw,
Mistawasis
(back row):
Louis O'soup,
Peter Hourie

*Photo R-B 2837 courtesy
of Saskatchewan Archives
Board*

Consolation

“the soul comes to be
inflamed with love of
its Creator and
Lord...”

St Ignatius of Loyola

Moving toward
greater faith, hope,
love.

Desolation

“...As if separated
from one’s Lord and
Creator.”

St Ignatius of Loyola

Moving toward
greater doubt, fear,
anger.

Prayer of Examen



Resources:

Print:

Daily Examen (from Vineyard USA)

App:

Reimagining the Examen

Web:

**[www.jesuits.org/spirituality/
the-ignatian-examen/](http://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/the-ignatian-examen/)**

