Hearing! Happening! Hoping • To get you started …

HHH is a reading of a biblical text in the hope of meeting God! Meeting God is something that happens in our lives. God is already in our lives, so what we're really doing is *discovering* THE ONE who is already there.
Before anything else we're going to *slow down*! We ask our Father to send us his Spirit to open our hears, and our ears. The Sower has sown (see Matt 13:3; Mark 4:3; Luke 8:5). May the seed find good soil!

The **first movement** is *attention to the text* (the passage). We seek to *hear what's going on in the text*. We attend to the text by **reading** the text. This appears simple—however, it is so simple that frequently we do not *read* the text at all! We merely glance at it and move on! But reading is the foundation! Without foundations we build on sand (see Matt 7:26–27). So we read. We read to listen! We HEAR old and important words, new and challenging or confusing words, surprises. As we HEAR the light of Christ shines from the text.

> As we read we share *what we see happening in the passage*. The questions on the resource page offer *initial* guidance for our reading and HEARING.

The **second movement** is *attention to* life. We attend to *what happens* in our lives and in the world. We permit the light of Christ—which has begun to shine from the text—to illuminate our lives.

> We read the passage anew and we ask *where does this happen in our lives, in our parish, in our country, across the world*? Again, the questions on the resource page offer *initial* guidance towards uncovering what is HAPPENING in our lives and in the world.

In the **third movement**, we pray: we turn and attend to the Lord "in whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). The saints and the mystics show us how the prayer of greatest value is a prayer that *arises from the realities* of our lives. We permit our prayer to flow *spontaneously* from our realization of what is HAPPENING, or has happened, in our lives and in the world. To this end we ask,

> What do I want to say to the Lord about this?

There are many things we might want to say: we might want to offer a word of thanks-giving or seek mercy, we may be moved to pray for something happening in politics or in our community. Our prayer might be a prayer of praise—"the beginning and of all prayer" (Paul Beauchamp SJ). Whatever our particular prayer, when it is genuine, it expresses our HOPE in the God who remains faithful and true to all that HE has made.

Some Touchstones

- Learning to hear the Lord in our lives is like learning to waltz! At the beginning we say "1-2-3, 1-2-3" … after a while, the dance flows as we gaze upon the one we love.
- In the Catholic tradition, whatever we can say about the Eucharist, we can say about God's word. Just as receiving the Eucharist is the doorway to "understanding" it, so welcoming the word is the doorway to hearing it.
- To read means

  reading and re-reading the text. The important points are highlighted, the events, the words, the characters involved, the emotions, the circumstances, the unfolding of the action. This careful exploration results in many surprising discoveries as we get to know the text. (Card. Martini)

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