

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Signs of Life* by Dr. Scott Hahn
- Chapters 34, 35, 36
- Session Twelve: April 19, 2018

1. **DEVOTION TO THE TRINITY:** Dr. Hahn writes: "The Trinity is the reason for every season, the central reality of every feast of the Church, the source of all other mysteries and all the devotions. All the Sacraments and all Catholic liturgy are about the Trinity." (page 222)
 - In your own words, what is your understanding of "the Trinity"?
 - Why does Hahn encourage us to think of the Trinity "in terms of marriage" or "indeed any deep human relationship"?

2. Dr. Hahn points out that the word, "Trinity", does not appear in the Scripture. Yet the concept of the Trinity permeates the Gospels and the entire New Testament. Where do we find evidence of the Mystery of the Trinity in the Christian Scriptures?

3. Several times in the chapter on "Devotion to the Trinity" Dr. Hahn quotes Pope Saint John Paul II: "the primordial model of the family is to be sought in God himself, in the Trinitarian mystery of life". And, again: "God in his deepest mystery is not a solitude but a family..." (page 225) Do these words of St. John Paul II help you to understand "the trinity" better? How or why not?

4. **THE ROSARY:** In his discussion of the Rosary, Dr. Scott Hahn states: "For centuries the popes have recommended it, the saints have prayed it daily. It is beloved by laborers, by children, by busy commuters, and by scientific geniuses." (page 227) In your opinion, why is the Rosary so beloved and popular?

5. Why does Hahn keep emphasizing the importance of the “Family Rosary”?
6. Pope St. John XXIII is quoted as saying: the only “bad Rosary” is the Rosary left unsaid. (page 232). Pope St. John Paul II is quoted as saying: “the Rosary is at heart a Christocentric Prayer”. What are these two Popes teaching us about the Rosary?
7. How important is the Rosary to you on your own spiritual journey? Why?
8. **SCAPULARS AND MEDALS:** Dr. Hahn begins this chapter by saying that “medals have been part of Catholic life since the early centuries of the Church.” Why do Catholics wear scapulars and medals? What is your earliest memory of a scapular or/and a medal?
9. In reflecting on his own life and practice, Hahn says “my scapular reminds me...that I am joined with a spiritual family with members dispersed throughout the earth and throughout the centuries – a family whose members share certain ideals and customs.” (page 235) Why does Hahn say this? How is he joined with others? What customs do those who wear a scapular or medal share with others who do so?
10. Pope St. John Paul II says that the scapular (and medal) are a “habit” in every sense of that word. Why does John Paul II say this?
11. The “benefits” of wearing a scapular or medal are many and varied. Hahn mentions some of them: makes the wearer sensitive to the Virgin Mother’s loving presence in one’s life, reminds us to clothe ourselves in Christ, a sign of the permanent orientation of our Christian conduct. Why do you wear a medal or scapular? How does a medal or scapular help you on your spiritual journey?
12. Any final thoughts, comments, insights, questions you wish to share...