



Senior Cycle

Moment One: Families of Hope

Keywords:

REMEMBRANCE
 VIVID
 EUCHARIST
 MEMORY
 ANAMNESIS
 HOPE

R

Reflective Exercise

This exercise can be carried out in the style of a meditation accompanied by music.

- What is your first memory of yourself?
- Spend a few minutes thinking about your time in primary school. Identify your most vivid memories of that time.
- Reflect on your time in secondary school. Identify the memories that stand out in your mind.

Record your memories in your copies.

B

Brainstorm

What world events do you know of that have sparked a public response?

W

Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8O1CcwYf79I (4 minutes)

The FACTS that we know about the Grenfell Tower disaster:

Approximately seventy-nine people presumed dead	Simon Cowell organised the release of a single to raise money for the victims
Fireproof cladding specified by architects used only on the ground floor	Fifty artists involved
Cause of the fire was a faulty fridge	Over 170,000 copies of the single sold
	Second-fastest selling single of 2017

(Sources: www.journal.ie and www.theguardian.com)

D

Discussion

- What is the purpose of remembering these kind of events?
- Why should we remember these kind of events?





A Activity

Calculate the money raised from the sale of 170,000 copies of the single 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' for the victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Personal Challenge: Consider buying/downloading this single rather than just watching on YouTube.

D Discussion

Let's focus on our own families. For sixty seconds, think about a family member that has moved away or that has passed away and consider these two questions:

- What do you remember about them?
- What do you miss about them?

R Reflective Exercise

Inasmuch as you are comfortable, discuss these two questions in your groups.

For the next two minutes, take some quiet time to answer the following question.

How would I like to be remembered?

D Discussion

Look up the following biblical reference: Luke 23:42–3.

This passage identifies our Christian hope. We have the promise of an eternal home because Jesus died for us. Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we remember what Jesus did for us. In fact, the Greek word for the remembering we do is *anamnesis*. This means that we are not only remembering but we become part of the Last Supper. We partake in the memory.

- What is the purpose of remembering Jesus' death and Resurrection for Christians?
- Why should we, as Christians, remember this event?



D Discussion

The Church is the Family of

God! It shows us hope. We should also experience hope in our own family life. In *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis says that the family is 'where we learn the experience of the common good' (70). The family 'is the image of God' (71). The 'overall education of children is a most serious duty and at the same time, a primary right of parents' (84). 'Through their union in love, the couple experiences the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood, and shared plans, trials, expectations and concerns; they learn care for one another and mutual forgiveness. In this love, they celebrate their happy moments and support each other in difficult passages of their life together ... The beauty of this mutual, gratuitous gift the joy comes from a life that is born and the loving care of all family members' (88).

- Identify the hopeful message about families outlined above.
- Explain the following phrases: 'the common good', 'image of God' and 'mutual forgiveness'.
- Outline the difficulties that face families today.

R Reflective Exercise

What part does 'remembering' play in having a happy and caring family, even when times 'get tough'?

A Activity

On 1 June 2017, at a conference for the national delegates preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2018, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin stated that: '**the ideal family does not exist but great families do exist**'.

- In your own words, explain what Archbishop Martin was saying in this statement.

