

## Oct 22/23 Leader's Guide – "Hospitality to the Stranger"

### Read Ruth 2:1-13

1. Who are the kinds of people within our parish bounds who are trying to survive just like how Ruth and Naomi are trying to survive, people in the margins of our city?

*People who do not have proper housing, who are living in tents around grass areas or underpasses, who are struggling with substance addictions, who exhibit unusual and violent behaviour because of mental illness, who are single parenting without proper support, who are alone and isolated getting by month to month, etc.*

2. How can we as a Christian community not only be a safe and secure haven but be a generous and hospitable space to those who "come into our field to glean" that they may not just "get by" but also flourish?

*Answers will vary, but allow time for creative reflections and suggestions.*

### Read Ephesians 2:11-22

1. St. Paul describes the Church as people who are no longer strangers or aliens to the commonwealth of God's kingdom, but are citizens of the new covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ. How does this Christological reality shape our engagement with immigrants, refugees, and our non-Christian neighbours?

*Our mission and outreach is Christ-shaped, meaning we engage with incarnational solutions rather than just paying lip-service and "just prayer" (i.e. true religion according to St. James). Our mission and outreach is also cross-shaped, meaning that we must bear the cost and the risk to lose something in order for others to gain something. It means giving up power or money on our part, so that others who don't have power or money may be lifted up. Of course, these are all good in theory, but how it is to be executed will take a lot of prayer, discernment, intentional planning, follow-through, accountability, and feedback.*

2. St. Paul finishes his argument with an image of all of God's people being built up together as a "holy temple in the Lord". How does this future image shape our hope and vision for how we conduct ourselves at Little Trinity?

*Our work of justice is an ongoing architectural project, building a "future home" as it were within our own space, contributing on our own corner of this planet at this particular time to when the whole earth shall indeed become the "forever home" of all of God's people for when heaven and earth will be one. This compelling vision keeps our ongoing work striving after a grand horizon, so we are not weighed down and become jaded by present road bumps and failures. This compelling vision also humbles us to not consider our own work as the "be-all-and-end-all", liberating us from the grand expectation to solve everything as this vision is God's alone to perfectly realize, not us.*