

Syllabus for The New Spiritual Exercises as of 5/10/2025:

Note: this syllabus assigns readings, scripture and Questions 1 & 2; these will not change. However, the other Questions 3, 4, 5 for each session MAY be revised to more closely assist with the practice of discernment of this particular group of retreatants.

#1 - October 10: "The Spiritual Exercises are about love and about action." Throughout Spiritual Exercises, I am wise to ask: what morsel of spiritual food is being given to me in this present moment?

Read pages ix-xvii, 1-12.

Pray Isaiah 43: 1-4; Isaiah 49: 14-16; Ephesians 1:4-10; Psalm 139: 1-18

Please post by Wednesday Oct 8 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of these questions.

QUESTION #1: What happened as you prayed Isaiah 43: 1-4; Isaiah 49: 14-16; Ephesians 1:4-10; Psalm 139: 1-18?

QUESTION #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

QUESTION #3: Why have I come into this six/month process of retreat in making the Spiritual Exercises in the Spirit of Teilhard de Chardin where faith and science interact? What do I hope to find?

QUESTION #4: a) name how Ignatius' invitation and Savary's invitation through Teilhard moving in you now. Particularly, note how Ignatius' invitation for a personal encounter with the divine mystery in Annotation #15 invites you to a personal encounter where you "allow the Creator to deal directly and immediately with the creature and the creature directly and immediately with the Creator." Note how Savary's through Teilhard is inviting you to "let the instruments of science and evolution express the melody of God's kingdom" by integrating creation's evolving story into your story, by realizing that loving God means loving the world, by God's building the Body of Christ which Savary calls the Christ Project.

QUESTION #5: What about the approach of the New Spiritual Exercises, the Christ Project, is challenging you from functioning as an independent agent of God to a more inter-dependent co-worker who labors with others? Describe your personal experience as an inter-dependent co-worker?

#2 - October 24: The 17 Principles of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Read pages 13–35 The 17 Teilhardian principles.

Pray Psalm 62, Psalm 63, Hosea 11:1-4. Write your own Psalm 135 updating it with the vision of Teilhard.

Please post by Wednesday Oct 22 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of these questions.

QUESTION #1: What happened as you prayed Psalm 62, Psalm 63, Hosea 11:1-4. Write your own Psalm 135 updating it with the vision of Teilhard.

QUESTION #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

Question #3: Savary states "The law of attraction – connection – complexity – consciousness is the law that is giving evolution its direction.... According to Teilhard, we humans are currently at the tip of the arrow of evolution. That tells us that God wants humans to aim toward ever higher levels of complexity and consciousness.... The task is up to us. It is a challenge to the human spirit working with the grace of God to develop a deeper consciousness of who we are and where we ought to be going. "Pages 18 & 19. How is the grace of God working in and through the culture you live in, breaking down old patterns of thinking and acting, breaking down your old consciousness, and leading you to openness to a greater and deeper consciousness? Describe your experience of this process now.

Question #4: Savary states "everything has a within and a without.... Teilhard wants you to learn to 'see' the within of each thing, especially the inner life of each person." Pick a public person you "see" and ask for the grace to see the "within" of that person. Using your imagination, name that person and write what is given to you to see what you see.

Question #5: Choose one of the 17 Teilhardian principles and write your reflection about your experience of that principle.

#3 November 7: The Way God Loves; My Blessed History; Principle & Foundation, Thanksgiving Examen

Read pages 37-53. The Presence of God: imagine yourself immersed in the divine milieu or picture yourself as a cell in the cosmic Body of Christ, etc.

Pray: Ignatius' text on The Contemplation to Attain Divine Love SpEx #s 230-237; Eph 1:10; Col 2:19; Acts 17: 22-31; Gal 2:20; the Texts of the Principle and Foundation; the Thanksgiving Examen.

Please post by Wednesday Nov 5 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions.

QUESTION #1: What happened as you prayed Ignatius' text on The Contemplation to Attain Divine Love SpEx #s 230-237; Eph 1:10; Col 2:19; Acts 17: 22-31; Gal 2:20; the Texts of the Principle and Foundation; the Thanksgiving Examen.

QUESTION #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

Question #3: Savary emphasizes the "developmental gradation" in the four stages of God's loving: first, we note how God gives tangible gifts to each of us; second, we savor how God remains with us along with the gifts; third, we notice how God works and labors among us lovingly in cooperative interaction and by that "continuous action" creation is becoming more complex and more conscious; fourth, we begin to

appropriate how God is sharing the divine self in mutual indwelling with the beloved in the Universal Christ. How is your awareness of this “developmental gradation” impacting you now?

Question #4: As you pray your life history and affirm the blessedness of your life, what do you notice?

Questions #5: As Savary contemplates the text of Ignatius’ Principle and Foundation, he emphasizes “Ignatian indifference” and states that “ultimately, Ignatian indifference is the freedom to meet God and collaborate with God in all circumstances, even if those circumstances are the opposite of what we instinctively want for others and ourselves. This understanding is an integral part of what Teilhard means by the concept of ‘diminishment.’” (page 48) Where in this present moment are you receiving the grace where you are free to meet God and to collaborate with God in circumstances which are the opposite of what you instinctively want for others and for yourself?

#4 November 21: Sin, Social Sin – the Activities I Have Failed to Do in Laziness, My Sins of Silence, Sins of Willful Omission and Complicity in Creating an Unjust System.

Pray: Lk 12:48; Mk 10:17-22; Lk 10: 30-37 [a central text for Pope Francis]; Mt 25: 14-30 [a central text for Savary]; Amos 8: 4-7.

Please post by Wednesday Nov 19 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions.

Question #1: What happened when you prayed Lk 12:48; Mk 10:17-22; Lk 10: 30-37; Mt 25: 14-30; Amos 8: 4-7?

Question #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

Question #3: While Savary notes that “the traditional notion of sin as an offense against God is still true,” in the evolutionary universe in which we live, “the task is for you to discover the gifts you have and find creative ways to use them in your community and situation.” (pages 58-60) By this, Savary emphasizes building the Body of Christ and repenting when one omits simple and easy things to do or, in the case of more challenging things, that require more effort or courage to accomplish. He encourages making a list of your multiple talents and thanking God for the ability to use each talent for the Body of Christ. (pages 58-62) How is this approach gracing you now?

Question #4: Savary introduces social sin which is larger than any individual or group and which leads or tempts us toward injustice and away from mutual love and respect. (pages 62-64) He names an anti-evolutionary system as the harmful domination system. He references Teilhard’s belief that we humans can grow beyond our destructive tendencies, that the power of love could overcome the love of power. (page 66) Finally, Savary states: “Jesus died on the cross in obedience to his gospel and in his solidarity with a selfish humanity that was bent on diminishing itself. His death is the triumphal act asserting that love, not selfishness, is the true basis for human society.” (page 67) How is that love empowering you now?

#5 December 5: The Call of the Kingdom; the Call of Jesus, Your Call.

Read pages 73-85. Love is Central; Falling in Love with the Cosmos; Imagining Organization; Call of Jesus and Your Call.

Pray: Job 38 – 40:2; Eph 1: 9-12; Phil 1: 6-11; Acts 2:42-47; Lk 2:39-52

Please post by Wednesday Dec 3 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions.

Question #1: What happened when you prayed Job 38 – 40:2; Eph 1: 9-12; Phil 1: 6-11; Acts 2:42-47; Lk 2:39-52?

Question #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

Question #3: Savary states: "What Ignatius is primarily trying to do in his kingdom meditation...is to foster a mental shift...from seeing your spiritual purpose as simply seeking individual salvation to committing your life to help carry out a divine project on Earth...Nothing less than unconditional love for all humans and all creation – learning to love the way God loves – will suffice for workers participating in this divine project...It is a mature love that thrives on shared responsibility...to become God's co-worker." (pages 73-74) How is this shift occurring in you? What are its signs in your life?

Question #4: Savary presents a vision he calls The Christ Project: "While some describe this grace as to fall in love with Jesus, Teilhard would have you also ask for the grace to fall in love with the cosmos...Ordinary and not-so-ordinary individuals who are willing to confront despair, power and incalculable odds in an attempt to restore some semblance of grace, justice and beauty to this world...For those who have eyes to see, collectively...this healing life force striving for social justice and planetary concern...is the Spirit at work in the Christ Project." What is stirring in you as Savary and Teilhard name their vision?

Question #5: Your divine call: Savary asks: "Are there things you feel you must do, no matter how difficult, exhausting, or unrewarding they may be?" (page 83) Savary invites you to ask Jesus: "When were you aware of your first call from God? How did it change your way of thinking about your life? (page 84) Savary invites your reflection: "How can I live my call more deeply? In a way that enriches, expands and intensifies my ability to give and receive love and life? (page 85)

#6 December 19: Incarnation – Love is Central. The Counter-cultural Conception and Birth, Threat to Empire.

Read pages 86-95. The Annunciation, The Visitation, The Genetic Material in the Body of Jesus.

Pray: John 1:1-18; Luke 1:26-39; Luke 2: 1-28, Matthew 2:1-8, 16.

Please post by Wednesday Dec 17 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions.

Question #1: What happened when you prayed John 1:1-18; Luke 1:26-39; Luke 2: 1-28, Matthew 2:1-8, 16.

Question #2: Given the readings, your prayer, etc., what was the noteworthy movement within you in the last two weeks that seems fitting to share now?

Question #3: Savary writes: "For Teilhard, God loved unconditionally both his creation and his Divine Son. For Teilhard, both the Cosmos and the Christ were expressions of God's Word. The fullest development of both was the work of the Holy Spirit... Incarnation means that the divine being enters into some physical expression or form. If that is so, then incarnation happened first in creation at the beginning of time...the phenomenon of evolution describes God's evolving incarnation into the universe...When this evolutionary process on 'earth was ready, or as scripture says, 'in the fullness of time,' it came to a focal point in Jesus, a second and very explicit and personal incarnation. 'The Word became flesh and lived among us.' Through him, a new understanding of the meaning, purpose, and power of creation passed into the human community...A primary reason for the incarnation is that God wanted to reveal to us that everything God created in the universe – literally everything and every process – is sacred and holy and lives in Christ. 'In the beginning was the Word...All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.' He loved us so much he wanted to have the full human experience, from conception to death." (pages 86-88) Describe the movement within your understanding as you ponder this perspective and as you are perhaps invited to an intellectual conversion, a cognitive integrity.

Question #4: When Savary describes the implications of 'the genetic material in the body of Jesus,' that is, "in his DNA, Jesus carries with him the evolving story of how humans became human (homo sapiens)...In having human DNA Jesus incarnates (just as we do) the evolutionary DNA of all the extinct forms of homo sapiens, such as the Neanderthal and homo floresiensis, would leave an imprint and be preserved in Jesus' DNA – as it is in our own DNA...Furthermore, it is all sacred and unconditionally loved by God." (page 94) What is occurring in your mind and heart as you reflect and pray about this?

#7 January 9: The Two Standards: The Strategy of Christ and the Opposition to Christ's Way of Proceeding; the Cost of Commitment.

Read pages 96-104.

Pray: 1 Timothy 6: 3-12, Mark 10: 35-45, Galatians 5:16-25.

Please post by Wednesday Jan 7 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.

#8 January 23: The Three Classes of Person's Openness, The Four Levels of Service (the self-focused servant, the obedient servant, the loyal servant, the proactive servant), The Baptism of Jesus.

Read pages 105-120.

Pray: John 13:1-17, Luke 7:36-50, Matthew 1: 4-13.

Please post by Wednesday Jan 21 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.

#9 February 6: Temptations, Call of the 72, Parables; Woman in Luke 7:36-50.

Read pages 121-140.

Pray: Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:1E2-13, Luke 4:1-13, Luke 10:10-24, Matthew 13: 31-39, 47-48.

Please post by Wednesday Feb 4 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.

#10 February 20: A Different Kind of Fire, Discernment and Decisions; Engagement with the Whole Brain (our whole self).

Read pages 141-154.

Pray: Luke 12-49-50, Luke 5:1-11, Luke 18: 18-30 (a call that is refused), Luke 6: 20-26, Luke 19: 45-48.

Please post by Wednesday Feb 18 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.

#11 March 6: Third Week: Jesus' Attitude Toward Suffering, An Evolutionary Perspective on the Passion and Death.

Read pages 155-166.

Pray: Mark 14-15, Matthew 26-27, Luke 23-23, Eph 1:1-10, Phil 2: 6-11.

Please post by Wednesday Mar 4 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.

#12 March 20: Fourth Week: Looking for the New Christ, No Limitations in the Risen Christ, infused with the Divine Spirit, The Way God Loves.

Read pages 167-183.

Pray: Luke 24: 13-43, John 20 – 21, Acts 2:1-4.

Please post by Wednesday Mar 18 what seems appropriate to share your personal experience with any of the following questions. Questions will be posted in an updated Syllabus.