**Meditation: The Message of Christ to the Participant**

(about 10 minutes)

PURPOSE:

* To prepare participants for return into the world.
* To assist participants to discover their own Christian calling.
* To challenge the participants to do greater things with the assurance that through God all things are possible.

CORE IDEAS:

* This meditation calls us to reflect upon our encounter in and outside the
* Christian community.
* The meditation should be as personal as possible to the participants.

INTRODUCTION:

1. This Weekend is like the time Jesus spent teaching His Apostles to carry out His ministry. (John 14-17)
2. Jesus brought us to this Weekend to prepare us to do a better job of His work in the world. (See John 15:16)

THE MOUNTAIN TOP:

1. Like the Apostles, it is tempting to stay on the mountain top but this mountain top vision is given to prepare us for life in the valley below.
2. Jesus brought us to this Weekend to send us out to do His work in the world. We are to live out His calling in our environments. This is the apostolic action that will bear fruit.

JESUS’ STRATEGY:

1. After three years of ministry, Jesus had only a small band of followers. In the eyes of the world this was not a successful ministry.
2. Jesus’ strategy was that of building community. His time was spent building an intimate community, knowing His work would endure as long as they remained together.

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

1. Jesus’ prayer was that his disciples would remain committed to His strategy of building community. (John 17:21)
2. As a Christian community, we are a sign of His presence in the world.
3. Our effectiveness will be in proportion to our living in union with Him and each other. (John 15:5)

OUR CONVERSION:

1. Our progressive conversion must continue long after this Weekend.
2. With His help we can be Apostles for Him. (John 14:12)
3. Jesus is the transforming power. (Eph. 1:10; John 15:8)

CONCLUSION:

1. The challenge of returning to our world should not frighten us.
2. The victory has already been won for us. We need to proclaim it. (John 16:33)