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EMMAUS Center for Psycho-Spiritual Formation

Day One, May 24,2008

SECOND PRAYER: OUR DESIRES FOR THE FUTURE

Jeremiah 29:11-14:

"For surely I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

First point. As we discern, we acknowledge the power of desires: ours and God's. God desires nothing else but our good: a future of goodness, fortune, reconciliation, healing, liberation, restoration, homecoming, community, and peace. More than this, God promises God's abiding presence and friendship in our lives. We pray for ever-deepening faith and confidence in God's great desires for us, in God's constant accompaniment in our lives. We pray for the grace of knowing what seem to be God's great desires and plans for our Province's mission and community at this time.

Second point. God expects us to come to Him with our own desires, which is part of discernment. God invites us to approach Him with confidence, courage, strength, and fervor. God impels us to bring all our desires in prayer. Do we have this fervor for prayer? Do we know what desires to present to the Lord? What visions and desires do we have for our Province: What more can we do? How more can we be? How can we do things better? How can we be better? Are we strong and confident in lifting up our visions, desires and intentions to God?

Third point. We pray and reflect on the desires of Mary, the first disciples, and Jesus in the following:

- Mary's discernment at the Wedding at Cana: John 2:1-12
- The first disciples' decision to follow Jesus: Luke 5:1-11
- Jesus' agony in the garden: Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:40-46

We imagine how they must have grappled with their desires, knowing and claiming them, and uniting them with the greater desire of God.