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Suggestions for Theological Reflection and Formation Study

The following process is offered as an outline for discussion of the video. It provides suggestions for reflection and discussion on the challenges of international outreach. It is designed to be adapted to the needs of small or large groups such as boards, sponsors, executive leaders and formation groups.

1. Provide the group with the scripture passage (Luke 10:25-37). Ask one to read aloud. Invite responses to the following question.
 - Have you ever had a personal “Good Samaritan” experience, either on the receiving end or as the person who stepped in to help? What happened? What did you learn from that experience?

2. Show the video (28.23 minutes). Read this lead-in to the video:

In this video titled “The Heart Which Sees,” Ron Hamel, Senior Ethicist at the Catholic Health Association, explores the story of the Good Samaritan. He asks the question: “How are we to BE neighbors?” Consider the implications of this question in terms of international outreach as you watch and listen.

3. After the video, ask the group to think about and discuss *one or more* of these questions that are raised at the end. If it is a large group, you may assign the questions to different tables for discussion.
 - Who are the persons in need of urgent care today? What are the ways in which we, individually and collectively, are blind to or avoid the obvious needs of some persons?
 - What are the challenges to compassionate care in our time and in our situation?
 - What price are we willing to pay as individuals and organizations to ensure just and compassionate care?
 - How vigilant are we in assessing the justice implications of health system changes?
 - How do we balance response to the needs of individuals with responsible stewardship of shared resources and promotion of the common good?

4. The following questions are provided as options for further discussion.
- What accounts for the fact that some run away and some run to help when someone is in acute need?
 - What does the speaker mean when he uses the term “the conceit of philanthropy”? How does this attitude affect the way decisions are made in stewardship of limited resources? How do we get beyond the “conceit of philanthropy”?
 - What kinds of persons and what kinds of organizations do we need to be to genuinely be “neighbor” to others?
 - How are we neighbors in the midst of limits and tragic choices?

Luke 10:25-37

New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition (NRSVCE)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ^[a] “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷ He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, ^[b] gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”