

WINTER ADULT FORMATION - THE BOOK OF JOB

The winning topic for our next sessions (by a wide margin) in the survey of attendees at last summer's Adult Formation series is the **Book of Job**—the “poster child” for attempting to answer the question, “why do bad things happen to good people?” Although God's ultimate answer to Job might not be particularly satisfying to many of us, the responses of Job's friends might echo some of the thoughts that cross our minds when we deal with adversity or tragedy in our own lives.

Since this will be a new topic for me to present, I can't say for sure right now what each session will entail; I can only provide a general idea of how we'll approach our consideration of Job in the five Saturdays you'll be invited to gather here. The material will come from one of the topics covered last June at the Institute on Sacred Scripture I attended at Georgetown University, with Sr. Barbara Green, O.P. as the presenter. Although I had always tended to avoid this particular book of the Old Testament considering how depressing it can sometimes seem, I was impressed by how much it has to offer us as we navigate life's many challenges. Anyway, this (at least for now) is how the sessions might look:

- January 6 - Introduction to Job: Why are questions more important than answers?
- January 13 - Job and his “friends”: part one
- January 20 - Job and his “friends”: part two
- January 27 - What becomes central between Job and God?
- February 3 - God's two speeches: what does God ultimately assert in response to Job?

All the sessions will take place in the Burke Center on those five **Saturdays at 1:00p.m.** and should last between 90 minutes and two hours depending on the number of chapters we end up covering and the length of our discussions.

If you've been to these sessions before, you know that the larger Burke Center meeting room has limited seating: thirty is a fairly comfortable number, but we can squeeze a maximum of forty if necessary—first come, first served. So call the rectory—before Christmas if possible—to register. You will need a New Revised New American Bible in order to follow along and you can either borrow one each week or purchase one here for \$10.00. If you do need to borrow or buy, please indicate that when you call.

If I can get more specific about the material to be covered each session, I'll let you know before January 6th. But I'll look forward to our usual lively exchange of observations and reflections during these five winter Saturdays.

Fr. Bob