

# FAITH EXPRESSIONS

## A Seminar Series for Artists

### The Prodigal

This series is an opportunity for members and friends of Second to explore their faith and artistic expressions around the scripture passage of Luke 15:11-31, The Prodigal. The seminar meets on a one- to two-week basis for a total of six two-hour sessions spanning a period of two months. The time between sessions allows participants to visualize, read, hear, review and explore presented information as they decide their personal approach to interpreting the parable.

**Who should participate:** poets, dramatists, writers, storytellers, musicians, videographers, dancers, choreographers, graphic artists, photographers and sculptors. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all six sessions since the seminar series stresses the value of creating art through a multi-disciplinary experience and interaction with a spectrum of artists. Artists who take part in the series will have an opportunity to explore their spirituality and their spiritual journey through their artistic medium. Artists will then have their art exhibited or performed at Second or other appropriate venues.

This parable [to the right] has been read, studied and interpreted over hundreds of years. It continues to influence the arts, morality, faith and language. In this seminar series, we will explore the parable through the avenues of religion, literature, poetry, music, dance and the visual arts. Our purpose is to gain a deeper understanding of the various interpretations by artists over the years and to allow attending artists to explore their own faith expression through their chosen media. Together we will discover and discuss the variety of theological, social, historical and cultural responses the narrative has elicited.

We should always be mindful that we bring our own presuppositions to the scripture text, whether from personal experience, insights or religious experience. Be cognizant of how your background has influenced the way in which you have come to understand this incident. Your readings, encounters with differing interpretations, with music, poetry and literature and visual art may confirm your assumptions or challenge them.

Ultimately, we ask not only what do you make of the parable, but what does it make of you? We ask you to develop your own relationship to the narrative and explore how your art can give expression to that newly formed connection.

### New Testament Text – The Prodigal

LUKE 15:11-31

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup>"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup>"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"



### Seminar Session 1

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 7-9 PM

#### Introduction, Overview and Discussion

Dr. Ray J. Marquette, visual artist, retired PC(USA) executive

### Seminar Session 2

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7-9 PM

#### Literature, Drama, Poetry

Dr. Linda Rinker, poet, artist, retired English professor

### Seminar Session 3

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 7-9 PM

#### Graphic Arts and Sculpture

Dr. Ray J. Marquette, visual artist, retired PC(USA) executive

### Seminar Session 4

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7-9 PM

#### Music

Dr. Michael Sells, Dean Emeritus of the  
Jordan College of Fine Arts, Butler University

#### Dance

Ms. Therese Chatelaine, Professional Dancer/Choreographer,  
MA Dance Performance, Butler University

### Seminar Session 5

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7-9 PM

Presentations by students on the initial vision for their art media

### Seminar Session 6

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 7-9 PM

Presentations by students on the initial vision for their art media

### Exhibit and performances venue to be determined

Open to all who are new or young explorers in a media, as well as seasoned artists. This is a mutual support venture where we learn from each other.

**This is not a class instruction series in how to do particular art media.** This is an opportunity for members to give expression to their faith in their chosen media. Classes are two hours in length. Format will be lecture (and demonstration where appropriate) with time for Q & A, student comments on how their media might interpret the scripture passage, and encouragement to enhance our understanding of the passage through cross disciplinary dialogue.

The scripture passage selected, Luke 15:11-31 The Prodigal, has been chosen because there is there a significant body of work on the parable that can act as inspirational material (poetry, drama, written material, storytelling, music, videography, graphic art and sculpture) for participants to explore for meaning and inspiration.

#### Program Director:

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