

Spiritual Growth at the Grotto



This workbook is for you to use while you are touring The Grotto. The questions are divided into sections that one would ordinarily see on a basic trip through this area.

The Grotto is an outdoor/indoor area that offers you an opportunity to experience God's story through Jesus, creation, and the lives of men and women who have influenced the past 2000+ years of Christianity.

The Grotto is divided into two main sections. The lower level includes the Grotto worship area, the Chapel, and various statues/artwork. This area is free and open to the public. The upper level is only accessible through the elevator. To enter this area you will need to purchase a token at the gift shop (at the entrance to the Grotto) which is \$4.50 as of 6/15/2014. The upper level consists of artwork/statues within many various gardens, ponds, and nature areas. A large glass walled chapel is also at the top along with St. Anne's chapel in the wooded area.

A note should be written concerning The Grotto, reverence, respect, and our experience. You can approach this booklet and The Grotto in one of two ways. First, you can use this time to find the faults with the Catholic Church, the history of the saints, and the general theme of mediation and idolatry. However, this booklet is written for you to use the second approach; this approach involves following the guidance of the area for self reflection, prayer, and a deeper walk with God.

At various places in this booklet you will have an internet address to find out more about the question/individual discussed. You can view this on an electronic device while at The Grotto, or you can research at home.

Please feel free to answer as many questions as you wish and write more if you wish.

A simpler children's version of this booklet is also available for children but can be used by anyone who wishes to use artwork in their spiritual reflection.

These booklets are free of charge but we request that you not sell these to others. Jesus says, "Freely you have received, freely you shall give." Matthew 10:8.

Entrance



As you enter the Grotto and begin the path you will notice the following statues/sites. Feel free to stop at each one, or whatever one you wish and go through the questions. If you want to journal any thoughts please do so.

St. Philip Beninzi (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Benizi_de_Damiani)

Who was this man?



What importance does he have for Christianity?

Christus Garden

What do you see on this statue?

What thoughts or prayers come to your mind?

The Grotto of Our Sorrowful Mother

This site is a large cave in the cliff with candles, altars, statues, and a prayer railing. There are also seats behind on the lower level. Feel free to sit or stand where you wish. Take some time to go through this area before working on the questions.

1. What is a “grotto”? Why is this in a cave?
2. Who is the sorrowful mother?
3. Why is she sad?
4. Notice the statue. Where in the Bible would this refer to?
5. How do you think Mary felt when she saw that Jesus had died?
6. Why are there candles on each side of the area (candles in the large wooden structures)?
7. What is an altar?
8. Are there candles by the altar? What does this mean?
9. How many candles do you see within the grotto (on the stands), and what shape are the stands?
10. Is there a need to be sorrowful in our Christian life today?
11. What are the people doing around this area—if there are people?

St. Peregrine (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Peregrine)

Who was this man?

Note = The circle around a person’s head was a sign of the “pleroma” or fullness from divinity. This was typically a sign that someone was a saint or holy.



1. What do you notice about his painting? Write some of the details.
2. Are there candles by his painting? What does this mean?
3. What does the Bible say that a Saint is? (1 Cor.....)
4. What has been the traditional meaning of “Saint.”
5. Which applies to you?

Front of the Chapel

Behold Thy Mother

What do you see in these statues?

Where in the Bible does this come from?

Wall of Chapel

Left = What scene is this from in the Bible?

Center = What story is this from in the Bible?

Right = What story in the Bible is this from?

Why are these in front of a chapel?

As you enter the chapel notice that you naturally lower your voice (or at least you should)? Why does this happen?

**Remember that for many, and possibly you, this is considered a sacred/holy place. There may be people inside who are hurting, needing prayer, or are spending their time in reflection and praise. Please be respectful of them and be quiet. If you are with a group soft whispering is acceptable but if someone is being disrespectful you need to ask them to stop. Parents = this is a great time to teach our children about respect, honor, and peace. They will naturally lower their voice and this is a good time to explain how art and architecture work together to inspire a sense of awe within us. No matter what we believe, this is a place of holiness and respect. The phrase Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus at the front is a word we get Sanctuary from. Sanctuary is a place of safety, peace, and quiet.*

Inside the Chapel

Center

What do you see on the wall? Write and/or draw all that you see and take time to express what you see along the center back wall and around the “altar” area.

What does this symbol mean = (It is a symbol for Mary—notice the word similarities)

What does Sanctus Sanctus Sanctus mean? Where in the Bible is it located?

In the Old Testament scriptures the priest had a place to enter that was separated from the congregation. The dwelling place of God was holy and separated from the people by a curtain and/or separate tent/door. There is no door/curtain separating us today. Where is this in the Bible and explain why?

How is this setup similar to an Old Testament temple of Israel?

How is it different?

Arches are a Roman style of architecture which gives the impression of a vaulted ceiling or expanse/sky.

Candles represent the eternal fire of God and the Holy Spirit.

Who are the characters in the paintings? Explain what they mean and why they are there.

Along the Walls

Left = Mary

Right = Joseph and Baby

What story/stories do the following tell us

1. Paintings left to right (along the side walls) from back to front then front to back.
2. Small carving scenes above the paintings also tell a story. What story do they tell?

Who are these people/statues?

Left Back = St. Maria Goretti Virgin and Martyr

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maria_Goretti)

Left 1 = St. Pegrine (where have you seen him before?)

Left 2 = St. Anne (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Anne)

Left 3 = St. Philip Benizi (where have you seen him before?)

Left Front = Mary

Right Front = Joseph and Jesus Baby

Right 3 = Sacred Heart

Right 2 = Seven Holy Founders (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servite_Order)

Right 1 = St. Juliana Falconieri (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juliana_Falconieri)

Right Back = St. Therese

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Th%C3%A9r%C3%A8se_of_Lisieux)

What do you remember about this place? How did you feel being in here?

What thoughts did you have while in here? If you came back, what will you view first next time?

Read the verses on the left and right of the walls. What do they say to you today?

What type of music is playing in the background?

Top Level

*You are welcome to spend your full time at the lower level or purchase an elevator token (\$4.50 as of 6/15/2014 at the gift shop near the entrance) and ride to the top. The upper level is different from the lower but still deserves the same level of respect and peace as the one below.

On exiting the elevator you can go to the left to the upper chapel or go right to follow the prayer trail. This guide will follow the trail first and then end at the chapel.

Walk

Ahead of you is a map of the upper level. Follow the arrows and go left.

St. Jude Thaddeus

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jude_the_Apostle)

Who was this man?

Look at his statue—describe what you see and what it might mean?



St. Joseph Grove

1. Who was this man?
2. There are 7 stages (7 is the perfect number in ancient world and Bible). What does the Bible use 7 for?
3. Notice that each station has sorrow and joy. Why?
4. Notice the details of each sculpture. Look especially in the backgrounds of the stages. These are hidden messages in the story. What do you notice?
5. Is the Christian life sometimes sorrow and sometimes joy? How does this fit into your Christian life as a whole?
6. Who is Joseph holding in the big statue? Where have you seen this before?
7. What is the boy holding and what do they mean?

Sacred Heart Statue of Jesus

1. Why is this called Sacred Heart?
2. What do you notice about the statue that speaks to you?

Garden with Lady Statue

Spend some time looking at this garden and listening to the fountain (if it is running). How does “The Rose City” exist in a culture somewhat distant from Christianity?

World Peace Prayer Pole

1. What 4 languages are written on this pole?
2. What do they say?
3. What are your thoughts about world peace?
4. How have Christians contributed to world peace?

Peace Garden

What are the 15 mysteries of the Lady of Sorrows garden (3 groups of 5)

Group 1: Joys

How are these Joys in your life?

Group 2: Sorrow

How are these Sorrows in your life?

Group 3: Glory

How do these provide Glory in your life and the life of Jesus and the kingdom of God?

Extra added Group 4: Luminors

Why is this an important added group in the Christian faith?

In your life?

Some of the Joys were listed as Sorrow in the Joseph section. What would be your explanation of the two different applications?

Labyrinth

Note = in keeping with the level of respect at The Grotto, there may be people walking along this path. There may also be people who want to be on the Labyrinth for prayer, reflection, and meditation. Please be courteous to others, slow down and reflect if they are ahead of you, and be mindful that they will be focusing on various issues in this part of the garden.

Walk along this path and pray about what you are experiencing today. On the return (or if you go a second time) pray about all those who have walked with you in your Christian walk. Thank God for them and think about how they have helped you, challenged you, and loved you.

Way of the Sorrowful Mother

These are stations in the life of Jesus. They may seem repetitive, yet they are unique and have their own story to tell.

1. Look at each statue/carving and notice the detail. What do you notice in the artwork that adds to the story of Jesus?
2. Does your understanding of the story of Jesus change, become enhanced, or did you learn something new?
3. Explain what you found in #2.

Stop on one of the benches and ask yourself then write:

How is my life integrated with this story of the life of Jesus?

Dambana = Filipino Shrine

(<http://www.catholicsentinel.org/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=35&ArticleID=9432>)

Who are:

The Lady of Dambana?

Sante Nino (Saint Child)?

Saint Lorenzo Ruiz? (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorenzo_Ruiz)

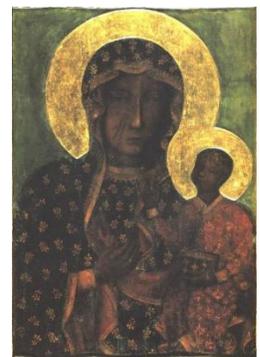
Notice these statues. What are they holding in their hands?

Czestochowa (Poland)

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cz% C4% 99stochowa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cz%C4%99stochowa))

Who is in the rug picture/fabric?

Notice the artwork—what are some of the details you see and what do you think that they mean?



Lithuanian Shrine

Why are their swords in Mary's heart?

What tyranny did these people fight?

Where is Lithuania?

Why do you think that there is a memorial here?

St. Francis Site:

Who was St. Francis of Assisi?

What do you notice in his statue that describes his ministry?

Why is it important to have him as an important figure historically?

Before going to the Red building (St. Anne Site) stop on one of the benches.

What do you hear? Listen carefully. List or name all of the sounds?

What does this tell you about your faith, Christianity, and an urban center such as Portland?

Do you feel any tension between past and present sitting in this spot? Why or why not?

St. Anne House

Note = there may be others in this building. You may choose to enter or wait for them to leave. This should be treated with the same level of respect as the chapel at the bottom of the hill. The prayer benches do not suggest one is worshipping to an idol. To pray on them in front of the pictures only suggests that the paintings and statues give context to prayer. You are praying with reminders of historical witnesses for our faith. While we may not believe they are anyone special their lives were given in service to Jesus. Much like visiting the Veterans Cemetery. Many of the soldiers may not have been men or women of honor ethically, yet many were. However, we have a level of respect while there for their service and the service of others in the future.

If you feel compelled to kneel on the prayer benches please understand that this is not idolatry, the room portrays a presence of faith and sacrifice. You know Jesus is Lord and that God receives your prayers. This may be an environment where you wish to pray. Others may not but notice the paintings and see what is being communicated.

St. Anne is historically considered the mother of Mary. Where have you seen a statue to her?

The 7 priests/monks are also listed in the painting to the right. Where have you seen them before?

Who are these men?

1. Sostine
2. Amideus
3. Mannetus
4. Alexis
5. Hugh

6. Bonfilius
7. Bonajuncta

Who are they gazing at in the painting?

Why does her heart have 7 swords in it?

The painting on the back wall—where have you seen it before?

What are your thoughts and feelings standing in this small house?

Chapel

Note = this is to be a place of quiet, reflection, and respect. There may be people here talking and making a lot of noise. They will leave quickly so just wait for them to go. The comfortable chairs are to be enjoyed and add to a sense of peace and rest.

Notice the statue in this location. Where have you seen this before?

Why is this a common statue here at The Grotto?

What do you think of when looking at it?

How is this different from the other statues/paintings/images?

While here spend some time in prayer for what you have observed and experienced. Before heading back into Portland while what you see out the window.

Is it possible to experience what we just observed only here or are we sent back to our world?

Notes:

