ONBOARDING 2 | JAN - JUN 2026

THE SANCTIFICATION OF WORK

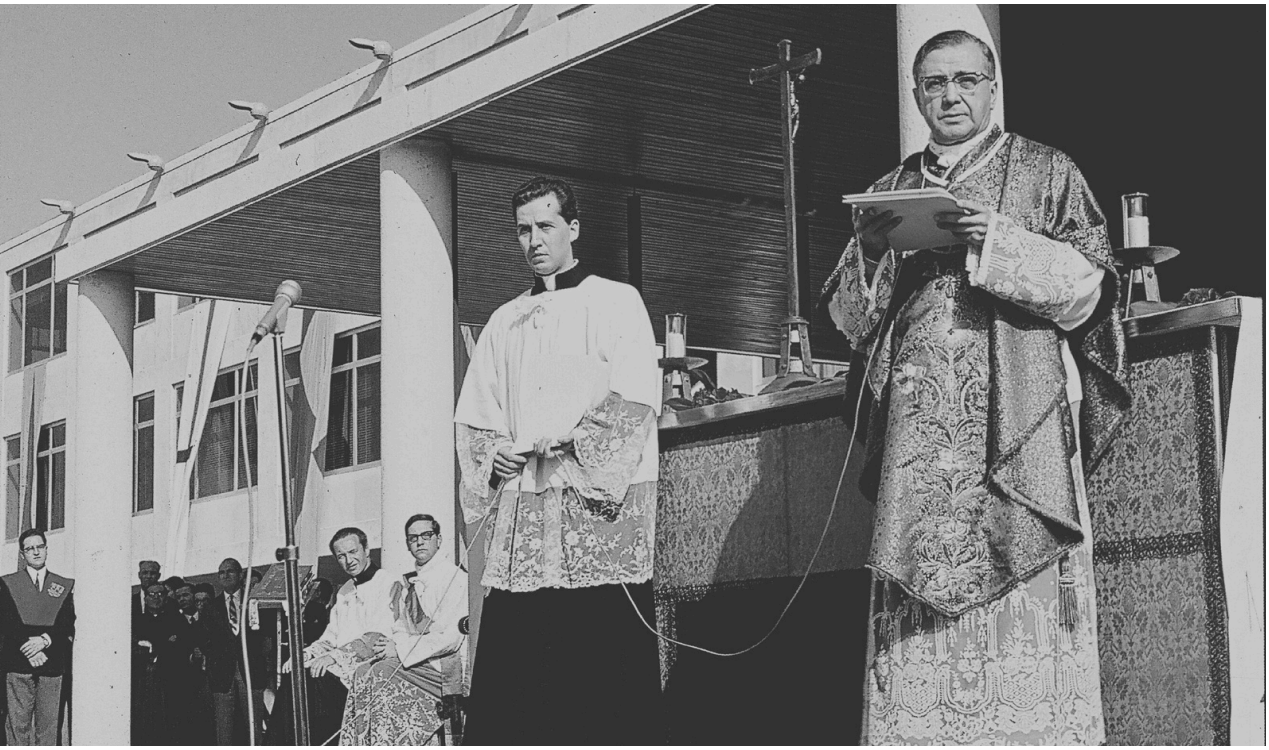







REGION OF EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

PATH TO THE **CENTENARY** 2028/30



Homily of St Josemaria, Passionately Loving the Word at the University of Navarra on October 8, 1967.

Passionately Loving the World

LISTEN

On October 2, 1928, St. Josemaria received the message of being united to Jesus in the middle of the world. On August 7, 1931, he had the illumination of lifting the Cross to the pinnacle of all human activities. While he only began using the specific term "sanctification of work" in the 1940s, and emphasized it in the 1950s and 1960s to reinforce our secularity, the core remains our union with Jesus as children of God in every activity.

READ

In his homily "Passionately Loving the World," he explains that ordinary life is the "true setting" for our lives as Christians. Our daily encounter with Christ happens where our yearnings and affections are, as we discover "something holy, something divine" hidden in common situations like the home, the workshop, or the fields.

DEEP DIVE (AI)

He teaches us to turn the "prose of each day" into "heroic verse" by putting love into every action. While heaven and earth seem to merge on the horizon, they actually "meet... in your hearts" when you sanctify your everyday life. This sanctification covers our whole life, including our families, human love, and civic duties. Within this broad panorama, professional work is a primary place to live out our encounter with God. The following sections explore how we achieve this specifically through the sanctification of work.

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From the Father

The sanctification of work can be explained in different ways. In one point of The Way, St. Josemaría wrote: 'Add a supernatural motive to your ordinary work and you will have sanctified it.' *(no. 359)*. This does not mean simply adding an external ornament of devotion to one's work. It is the very purpose of work: the why and the wherefore that determine the way we carry it out.

What, then, is the 'supernatural motive' on which the sanctification of work depends? It can be none other than the love of God and, as an inseparable part of this love, service to others.

Sanctifying work is this: doing it for love of God and to serve others, and this requires doing it well, with professionalism, a term that St. Josemaría often uses.

We need to work well – we heard this in the video – because "God will not accept shoddy workmanship." *(Friends of God, 55)* We cannot offer him things that are consciously done badly, that is, without taking care of the details, without seeking the perfection of what one is doing. […] Work is "born of love; it is a manifestation of love and is directed toward love." *(Christ Is Passing By, 48)*. This is the foundation upon which work is made into –it can be made into– something truly holy and sanctifying."

Commentary of the Father on the video : The Heart of Work : St Josemaría's Vision



St Josemaría's understanding of Work: an Overview



St. Josemaría taught that work is a divine vocation and a means of personal sanctification and apostolate. His 1928 illumination led to a mission focused on the universal call to holiness, specifically through the sanctification of daily work and ordinary life.

READ

Inspired by the mystery of the Incarnation and the pages of Sacred Scripture, he spread a Christological vision of work, integrating it into the spiritual life without separating the secular from the sacred.

LISTEN

By placing Christ at the summit of all human activities, we reconcile the temporal world with the divine. Opus Dei is presented as a particular charism within the Catholic Church that helps individuals transform their routine duties into a path for apostolic outreach and personal perfection.

Role of Human Work in God's Plan for the World



READ

This article presents St. Josemaría's vision of work as a participation in God's creative work, in continuity with the biblical tradition and the Church's magisterium.

LISTEN

Human work is seen as an active cooperation in perfecting the created world.

Human Work and the Work of Creation and Redemption

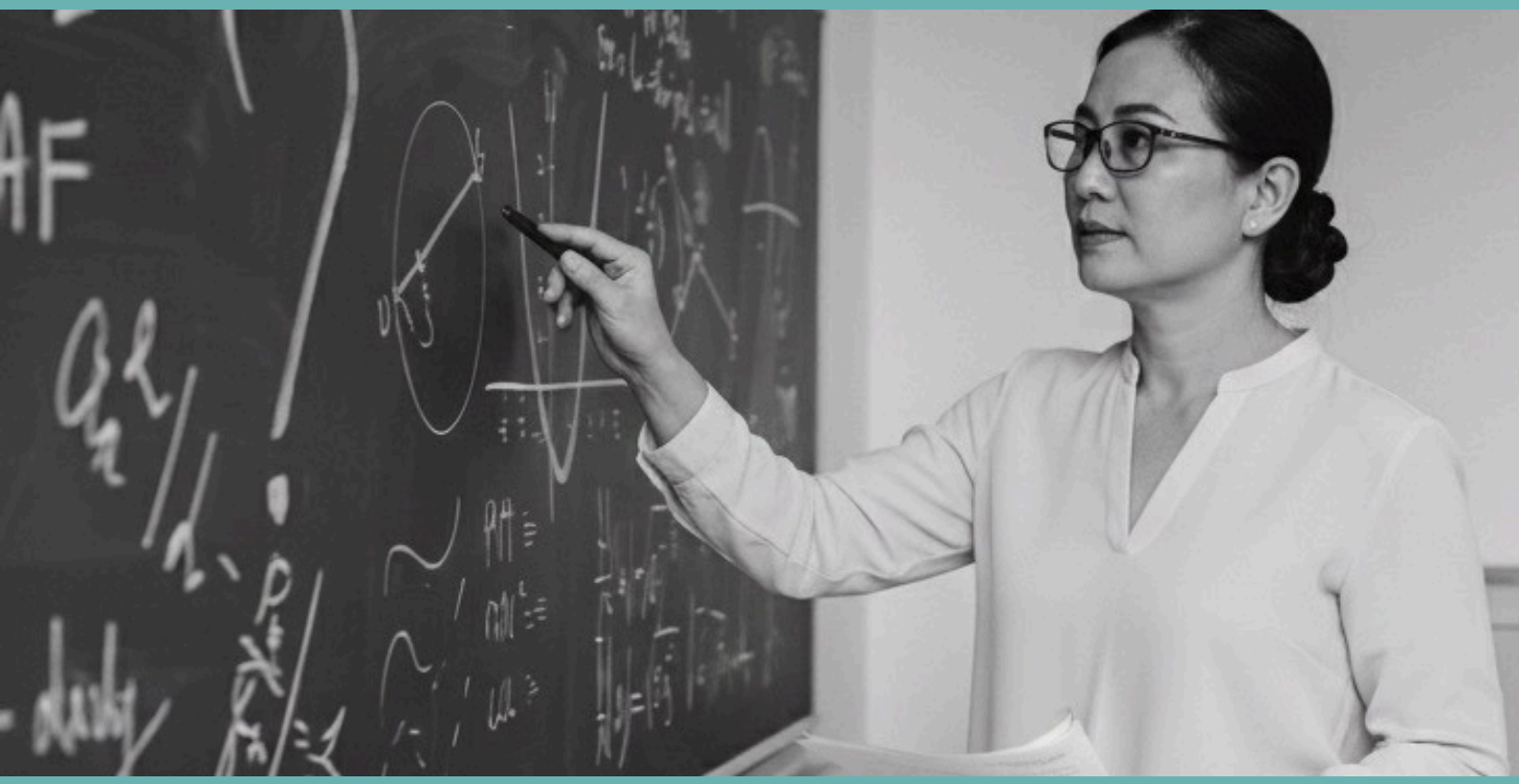


READ

LISTEN

Our work, besides cooperating in the divine plan of creation, can also share in the work of redemption; it becomes a means of sanctification and transformation of the world when carried out, in Christ, with charity and a priestly soul.

Work, the Natural Condition of the Human Person



READ

Beginning with the evolution of work throughout history, this article offers reflections on its dignity and importance in human life.

LISTEN

Inspired by St. Josemaría's teachings, it presents work as a place of encounter with God and a means of sanctification.

Work and Daily Activities Assumed by Christ



READ

The hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth reveals that our ordinary work and daily activities have a deep divine value.

LISTEN

They can be a path for close union with God and responding to his call to holiness, by striving to imitate our Lord's entire life.

Podcast Summary

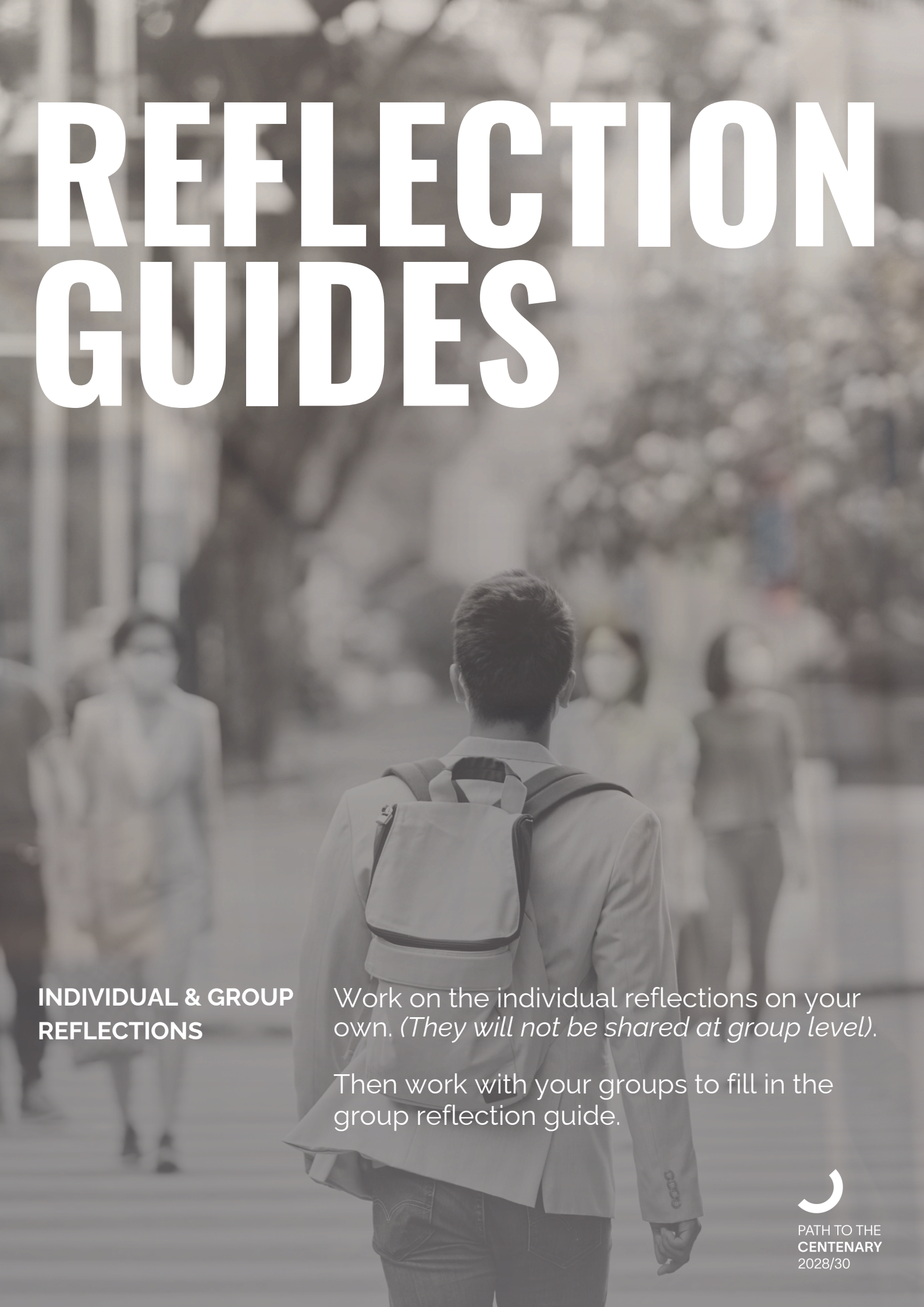


LISTEN

This AI generated audio is a is a summary of all the texts in the Centenary series on Work highlighting the key points covered in the texts on how ordinary work becomes a divine path.

- It examines the idea that the world is still "under construction" (in statu viae) and that your daily industry provides the "finishing touches" to God's creation.
- By reflecting on Jesus' hidden years as a craftsman in Nazareth, the audio explains how to turn your workspace into an altar and live a "Mass of twenty-four hours".
- It breaks down how to imprint the "form of Christ", love and service, on every task, ensuring work serves your neighbour rather than becoming a selfish idol.
- Finally, it focuses on the "subjective greatness" of work, showing that God is more interested in the person you are becoming through virtue than the material product you create

REFLECTION GUIDES



INDIVIDUAL & GROUP REFLECTIONS

Work on the individual reflections on your own. *(They will not be shared at group level)*.

Then work with your groups to fill in the group reflection guide.

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INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION

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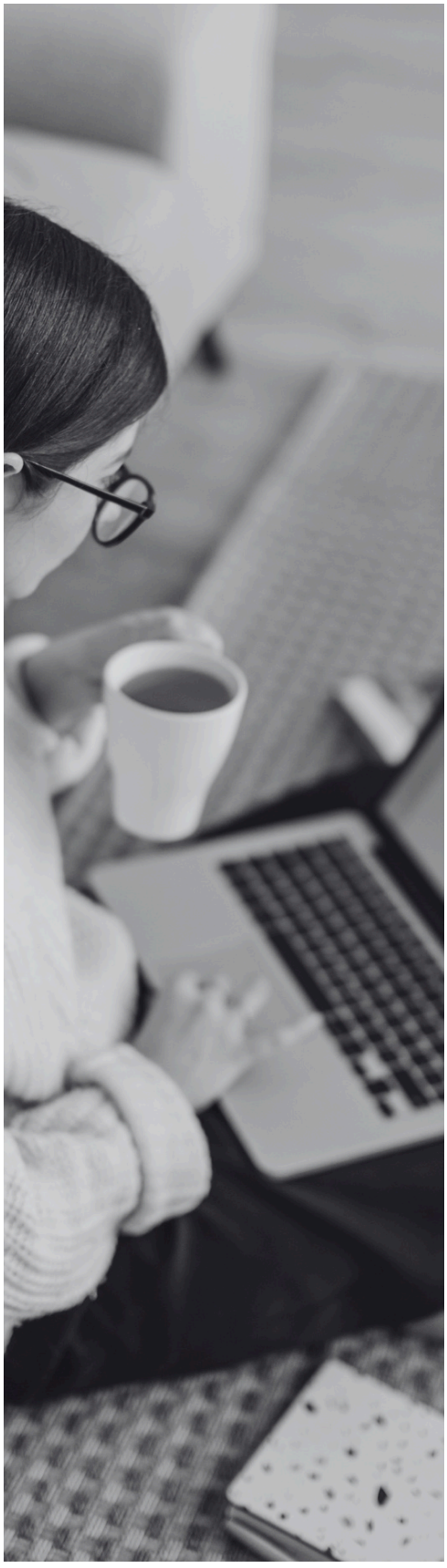
1. What stood out for you as you read these texts?

2. What new perspectives on work emerged? How do they change the way you see your own work ?

3. When work becomes demanding, what do you notice about yourself?
What do the texts invite you to remember?
What difference could that make?

4. What would a sustainable change look like in the way you approach your work?

5. What perspective could you share in the group discussion that would help transmit the message of the sanctification of work to others?



GROUP REFLECTION

1a. In your county,
- How is work commonly experienced in your country today?
- What pressures, expectations or values shape the culture of work?
- How is work integrated into family, faith & health?

1b. Are there examples from public discourse (media, research, social trends) that help. illustrate this?

2. From these materials, which messages about work feel most needed in your context?
- For members of the Work
- For all Catholics
- For the general public

What makes these messages likely to resonate?

3. Looking at your local context, which themes around work most need to be addressed in your country?

Some themes have been suggested as examples from Rome (work and family etc), What else emerges as important?



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