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Discussion Questions for

"ON BLESSINGS"

1. The Latin translation of "Bless" is to "speak well," of someone. Have you spoken well of a young person lately? Were there important persons who spoke well of you when you were young?

2. Among other imperatives, Fr. Rolheiser said that the young "hunger for the father's blessing and that older people have a responsibility to "feed the young," What does that mean to you?

3. After God created the universe, the earth and its inhabitants, God looked at it all and proclaimed it to be "very good." How can God still believe that the world he created is "very good?"

4. Fr. Rolheiser gave an example from Buddhist monks who say, "We don't see what's outside ourselves, we see what's inside ourselves." What does that mean? What is inside you that makes you see the world the way you do?

5. Talking about the temptations faced by Jesus in the desert, Fr. Rolheiser said we are most vulnerable to temptation when we're

feeling "empty." What does it mean to feel "empty?" Have you ever felt that way?

6. How can we consider ourselves "Blest by God" if we're not happy? Not rich, or famous, or successful?

7. Fr. Rolheiser said that bad language, i.e., four-letter words, are not true curses. He said an adult telling a child to "Shut up" was an example of a true curse. How is that a curse? Did you ever feel cursedness as a child? How do people live out their cursedness all their lives?

8. When we live our "cursedness" how do we behave toward others? - The young? How can we change?

10. Blessings need to come from an older person of the same gender - why? How can a younger person be threatening to an older person? Have you ever felt threatened by a younger person?

11. Were you ever resented (cursed) by an older person when you were young? If a young person doesn't want your blessing, what should you do? How can grandparents help?

12. Delight is the opposite of depression, when - how do you feel delight?

13. Fr. Rolheiser said one way to be truly blest is "to be seen." What does it mean to "be seen?" Is there more than one way to be seen?

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Scripture Quotations for Before & After Discussion

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord,
all you servants of the Lord.
Who stand in the house of the Lord
through the long hours of night.

Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary,
and bless the Lord.

May the Lord who made heaven and earth
bless you from Zion.

Ephesians 1: 3-10

Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the
heavens, as he chose us in him,
before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish
before him.

In love he destined us for adoption to
himself through Jesus Christ, in
accord with the favor of his will, for
the praise of the glory of his grace
that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we have redemption by his
blood, the forgiveness of
transgressions, in accord with the
riches of his grace that he lavished
upon us.

In all wisdom and insight,
he has made known to us the
mystery of his will in accord with his
favor that he set forth in him
as a plan for the fullness of times,
to sum up all things in Christ, in
heaven and on earth.

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