WELCOME (30 minutes)
- Refreshments and/or food served
- Light-hearted and social atmosphere

PROCLAIM (5 minutes)
- Host leads opening prayer

Let us begin with a very slow and intentional signing of the cross.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.*

Lord, on this Lenten journey, give me the courage and commitment to walk the steps of the Calvary Road with You. As You say to the lepers and the sinful woman, “Your sins are forgiven” may I, too, welcome Your loving mercy, drenching my soul with healing. When the stories of my life feel too great for my human heart, may I hear Your words, “have faith. I am with you always.” As the apostles responded to Your call to “come and follow me” help me find the courage to leave that which holds me back – fear, anger, doubt, pride. Sear into my soul the conviction of the blind man who cried out “Lord, that I may see” and help me to embrace a vision of life that brings civility and true justice. As You say to the apostles “this bread is my Body, take and eat. Do this in memory of me” may I celebrate the Bread of Life in Your Eucharist, and allow it to satisfy the hungers of my soul. So, dear Lord, on this Lenten journey, please guide me as I navigate the rocky ground that blocks me from hearing Your Word, so that I may “yield thirty, sixty and a hundred fold” in kindness and good works.

Amen. ©jfb

Watch the video (9 minutes 43 seconds)
DISCUSS (40 minutes)

• Fr. Jim shared that the language of the soul is necessarily metaphorical and symbolic. Do you find yourself stuck at the literal or do you find that you are someone who enters into Mass or prayer for the experience of the Divine and deeper self?

• What are the three most important passions of your life? Would others agree?

• Symbols draw us into meaningful experiences. What are some important symbols or symbolic expressions in your life? What do they communicate?

• How do you bring a deeper meaning to the ordinary events of your day? How do you live the symbolic life?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 minutes)

• Read the prayer on the next page with your group for closing prayer.