

# PARISH BIBLE STUDY

Cinema. Contemplation. Community.

"Cinema Divina: A *Lectio Divina* experience in Film"  
featuring Sidney Poitier in the 1963 Academy Award Winning Classic!

**PLOT:** Five former East German nuns, living on a small farm in the Southwest U.S., enlist the aid of a free spirited Army veteran Homer Smith (Poitier) to build a chapel for them and teach them English.

## Invite a friend!

Thursday ☞ March 17th & 24<sup>th</sup> ☞ 7:00 8:30pm  
*Journey with us through the Lenten Desert*  
*For March Madness: Movies for Lent!*







## Cinema Divina

1. **LECTIO:** "Reading" the film with an eye toward the Divine. Where do the movie characters encounter Christ? How is His Divine Providence present? Where are His golden fingerprints of Providence detected?
2. **MEDITATIO:** How does the movie aid in fine tuning the senses? To see? To hear? To smell? To touch or feel? To taste? What is the image or scene from the movie that the Spirit leads you to?
3. **ORATIO:** Our opportunity for prayerful dialogue with the Lord, sharing the thoughts and emotions that we experienced and felt during the movie.
4. **CONTEMPLATIO:** Our time to be a good listener with the Lord, sitting attentively with Him. Perhaps simply listening in the silence, but most importantly being present to Him. Giving freely of ourselves to Him with no other distractions or mental dialogue.
5. **OPERATIO:** St. Paul reminds us that we are given fruit so that we may share it with others. How can we work to use the fruit from this movie to deepen our relationship with Christ and at the same time, help others to also grow in their own relationship with Him?

*Lilies of the Field* is a 1963 film adapted from the 1962 novel with the same name by Catholic author William Edmund Barrett starring Sidney Poitier, Lilia Skala, Stanley Adams and Dan Frazer. Poitier won the 1963 Academy Award for Best Actor, the first time a black man won a competitive Oscar. Poitier also won the Silver Bear for Best Actor at the 13th Berlin International Film Festival. The film was nominated for four additional Oscars including Best Picture, Supporting Actress, Adapted Screenplay and Cinematography.

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where were there "desert" themes presented in the movie?  
(HINT: can you find at least 3 of them)
2. What are the characteristics of a "desert" experience?
3. Why can the Season of Lent be called a "desert" period in the liturgical year?
4. When did 'Divine Providence' make an appearance in the movie? How can we be more attentive or watchful to incidents of Providence?
5. What would you say to help someone who was struggling with a "desert" period in their spiritual life?
6. What image, scene, or feeling were you drawn to in the movie? Why? If you could pick one scene to freeze frame to capture this image or feeling, which would it be?

**'So I will allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart.'** (Hosea 2:16 NAB)

*"Lilies of the Field"* Scene Selection: TIMES

1. Logos/Divine Pit Stop	0:00 15:17
2. "I Ain't No Nun!"	15:18 21:15
3. Trading Bible Lessons	21:16 25:31
4. Juan & Homer	25:32 31:20
5. "Poor Man's Vatican"	31:21 33:28
6. "Amen!"	33:29 38:24
7. Committed Contractor	38:25 44:41
8. Feeding the Poor	44:42 48:08
9. Introducing a Miracle	48:11 52:37
10. "Deal Me Out!"	52:38 56:26
11. <u>Out of His Skull</u>	56:27 (59:00) 1:04:44
12. "One Man Cathedral"	1:04:45 1:09:22
13. "El Boss!"	1:09:23 1:19:11
14. Celebrating Charity	1:19:12 1:23:26
15. Finishing Touches	1:23:27 1:28:11
16. "Hallelujah!" / Credits	1:28:12 1:34:33

59:00 è

I'll hold his job open, he's a pretty good man with a bulldozer.

