



NAFSCC
North American Forum for
SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

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January 6, 2012

American Bible Society Presents *Lectio Divina*

By Robert Bursley

The Diocese of Trenton hosted the American Bible Society (ABS) for a workshop on *Lectio Divina* based on their publication for Catholics and which bears an Imprimatur. The resource is entitled: *Pray with the Bible - Meditate with the Word: The Exciting World of Lectio Divina, A Manual for the Prayerful Reading of the Bible*. [A review of this Manual appears in the November/December 2011 issue of *The Bible Today*.] Our presenter for *Stairway for Conversing with God* was Father Randy de Jesus Soto. He holds a Doctorate in Biblical Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian Institute in Rome and is a Professor at St. Louis Seminary in Missouri.

Father Randy's presentation covered the origins of *Lectio Divina* and the Catholic understanding of scripture. He then took us up the stairway of the traditional steps of the lectio "ladder". He viewed the movements dynamically and with a deep unearthing of the passage of the Word of God from the intellect for the objective meaning (lectio), to the heart for what it says to me (*meditatio*), being for engaging God in conversation (*oratio*), nothing for an openness to whatsoever, however and whenever (*contemplatio*) and will with Gods grace to act upon the Word, our *Fiat (actio)*. Each of the five steps was broken into three separate moments to probe even more richly into the Word of God for our personal and communal live. Father Randy concluded the workshop offering several significant Websites among which was *Biblia Clerus*

(<http://www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/index>)

The workshop is excellent and highly recommended. The seventy-five participants who attended were engaged. The Manual and the Workshop are ABS's ecumenical outreach to Roman Catholics. The workshop is a gift – as well as free of charge - to the Roman Catholic Community. Contact Mario Paredes for this offering:

MParedes@AmericanBible.org.

The Adoration of
 the Magi
 May the Joy and Peace of the
 Christmas Season stay
 with you throughout
 the Year

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Wednesday at the Webinar



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For more information and registration, contact Mary Carter, NAFSCC Webinar Coordinator at mcarter@jesusanswers.com