

## 2006-07 BSP#7 Group Time Discussion

### (A) Questions on the Text (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

1. Read the passage below on Manichaeism. Read Acts 17:32. Why did the Athenians regard the notion of physical resurrection as strange and even scandalous?

*“Manichaeism was a complex, dualistic Eastern religion, essentially Gnostic in character. A central tenet of Manichaeism was the dualistic opposition between the uncreated principles of Good-Evil, Light-Darkness. The material world was considered by Manichaeism to be evil, in opposition to the spiritual. Thus the human body and acts of human sexuality were looked upon as evil.”*  
(Source: Walter Schu, *The Splendor of Love*, p.124)

2. Read Acts 19:11-12, 2 Kings 13:21 and Mt 14:36. How do these passages support the Catholic tradition of venerating the bodies and belongings of the saints (relics)?

*(2 Kings 13:20-21) Elisha died and was buried. At the time, bands of Moabites used to raid the land each year. Once some people were burying a man, when suddenly they spied such a raiding band. So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet.*

*(Mt. 14:36) People brought to him all those who were sick and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak, and as many as touched it were healed.*

### (B) Session Review (Suggested time: 20 minutes)

Review today’s session outline for the Navigator’s Time, particularly the summary (item G). What is the most important point you learned from today’s session? Why? Are there any issues discussed in today’s Navigator’s Time that you don’t understand? Discuss them with your group members and see if they can help you. If satisfactory answers are not readily available, put the issues or questions on paper. Either bring them up during Q&A or submit them to the navigator for post-session response.

### (C) Optional Application Question (Suggestion: Do this question only if your group chooses not to do (B) above.)

Read Acts 17:29. What does it mean to “make God in your own image”? In what ways does our culture project its own image of God? How do we know that the Christian God is not simply our own mental image of God that resembles some ideal of our own making?