

## **Out of My Mind: Parish Book Study – Session 3**

### **Guiding Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> Now the body is not a single part, but many. <sup>15</sup> If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. <sup>16</sup> Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." <sup>22</sup> Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, <sup>23</sup> and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, <sup>24</sup> whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, <sup>25</sup> so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. <sup>26</sup> If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Summary: Melody completes her first interview, takes part in the competition, goes to dinner afterward with the group. Her picture is in the paper the next day (mixed feelings about this). She gets left behind for the big competition. Her sister Penny gets hurt. Melody works through the complex feelings of guilt over Penny at the same time she works through feelings of rejection and betrayal.

### **Questions:**

Describe how you think Melody was able to turn her feelings of betrayal, rejection, and disappointment into laughter? Do you think it would have been different if the team won 1<sup>st</sup> place without her (vs 9<sup>th</sup> place)?

Think of something that meant a lot to you that ended in betrayal, rejection, or disappointment. After some distance from it (space or time) were you able to look differently at it?

Do you think there's any value to the statement "If I don't laugh, I'll cry."? How could this be a good approach to a problem? How could this be a risky approach to a problem?

Melody has a robust community at home and with some of her school support. How does this community of support help her? How might the lack of cohesive community at school restrict her?

How do you think a community of people in your life helps you? If you are adverse to asking for help or being supported by your community, why do you feel that way? Is there something that you need support for that you've been retreating from rather than reaching out for intercession?

### **Matthew 18:12-14**

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. <sup>14</sup> In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.