

A Woman For Our time – Study Guide

Here are some suggestions for discussion questions after watching the film. I hope they will be stimulating – and that they might even lead to an interesting project or two.

1. Reading Chapter I of the SFO rule, which particular aspect of the Secular Franciscan way of life listed there do you think most characterized St. Elizabeth? How can we use her example in our ongoing formation and reflection on our Rule?
2. What do you think was the greatest challenge Elizabeth and Ludwig faced in their marriage? How did they overcome it? What similar challenges do we face and how can we overcome them? How did they encourage each other to serve God? Why is this important for husbands and wives?
3. Elizabeth helped the poor not just as a private citizen, but, along with her husband, as the ruler of their country. Where does her work line up along the spectrum of Catholic social teaching in the areas of private charity vs. government giving to the poor? What insights of hers in this area are valuable to us today?
4. If your SFO fraternity were to found an association to aid the poor based on Elizabeth's example, what would it be like and what would it do?
5. Elizabeth went through some great challenges in her spiritual life as well (such as consciousness of sin, feeling of abandonment by God, worries about possible complicity with "the world"). Which one do you most identify with and why? What can we learn from her about overcoming similar spiritual difficulties in our lives?
6. In what way is Elizabeth a pro-life saint? What does being pro-life involve? What would her pro-life motto be? Could you design a sign or banner based on it?