Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting (MULOA)

Individual 'Lectio divina': The body of Christ

Objective: Energised spiritually to contribute positively

Questions: *What might God be saying to Mothers' Union through this passage?*

Celebrating what we bring to the body of Christ: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NIV)

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with
Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or
Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not
made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would
not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not
an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the
body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body
were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the
body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where
would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I
don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are
indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour.
And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable
parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to
the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts
should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one
part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of
you is a part of it.

1. **Reading**: Someone prays for us to be open to the passage with our mind, heart and emotions and for his Holy Spirit to guide us; and reads the passage slowly and prayerfully out loud. Read the passage again individually in our heads. Have a time of silence for 1-2 minutes.
2. **Meditation**: Each person reflects on the passage. Go for a walk or find a place to sit. Be attentive to words, phrases and ideas that come to mind. Linger on them, ponder them in your hearts and listen to what God might be saying to us for our time together.
3. **Prayer:** Join up with one or two others to share your thoughts and feelings and to offer them together to God in prayer.
4. **Contemplation:** Come back into the main group; sit in silence for a few minutes in the presence of God, allowing time just to be with God.
5. **Living:** Reflect on what God might want us to contribute as individuals to this meeting and/ or to Mothers' Union. Write one or two things on a post-it in the light of your reflection. Offer your contribution to the group by placing the post-it on the cross.