Instructor’s Notes

This unit may be done individually without any group meeting, if acceptable to the coordinator and the group.

Students should use their Learning Journal to record their TR example.

Writing Your TR Example
Begin with a brief period of prayer to ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in writing this example.

1. Describing Experiences and Situations
   - Choose a significant experience or situation.
   - Nonjudgmentally describe:
     - Who are the key participants?
     - What are the key events?
     - When do the events occur?
     - Where do the events occur?
     - Why is this experience or situation important for your ministry, especially in relation to JPIC?
We “enter” TR by surfacing and describing a specific experience or situation. Here we attempt to describe the “who, what, when and where,” along with a statement of “why” we chose this experience or situation. The choice of experience or situation is guided by both personal and group factors, with emphasis on those pressing issues that we face as ministers to and with the People of God, all the baptized faithful.

It is crucial in this phase that we describe as fully and nonjudgmentally as possible. Too often we may miss important insights later because we rushed to interpret and judge the experience prematurely.

2. Conducting Social Analysis
Continue to reflect and write for your example in the mode of social analysis:

- **Why** might the events have unfolded as they did, given the cultural context and other circumstances?
  - What assumptions may have been at work regarding, for example, the participants’ gender roles, family expectations, interactions and relationships in church and society, economic and political factors, etc.? Provide evidence wherever possible, e.g., demographic statistics, etc.
  - How have the histories and memories of the participants in the experience or situation affected the choices they have made?
  - What prominent images, stories and metaphors seem to illuminate the experience or situation?
  - What aspects of the experience or situation are most relevant to the goals of JPIC?
- What knowledge and experience do I bring from my background in ministry that gives me insights regarding social analysis in this example?
3. Encountering Christian Tradition
Now draw upon one or two aspects of our rich Christian tradition to help illuminate your example.

- What images, stories, rituals, official teachings, prayers, etc.—especially those most relevant to JPIC—can be brought into conversation with this experience or situation in its cultural context? Provide specific citations and evidence for these wherever possible.
- How do these aspects of Christian tradition illuminate and challenge the assumptions and values uncovered during social analysis?
- How does social analysis illuminate and challenge these aspects of tradition?
4. Determining New Actions
Now, drawing upon the first three phases, imagine one or two new actions that you or others might take.

- What are new possibilities that we see for action in relation to the experience or situation, drawing from our social analysis and encounter with Christian tradition?
  - What is to be done?
  - Who will do it?
  - Where and when will it be accomplished?
  - How will we evaluate the outcome?