

# The Law of Caring

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

1. The Fourth Commandment admonishes us to “honor” our parents. Why did it not command us to “love,” “cherish,” “adore,” “respect,” etc.? What makes “honor” so singularly important? What does it mean to honor someone? Who do you honor in your own life? Are you honoring this person out of choice or out of need? How is “honoring” like “caring”? How is it unlike caring?
2. The idea that we ought to “honor your father and your mother” is very specific. Yet, Sr. Joan widens the target of the commandment to include all who, through love, nurtured the growth of our lives. How are we to deal with those who came before us, but who did not treat us so kindly? Are we still commanded to honor them?
3. In America today, so many of us have elderly parents who live in assisted living or nursing homes. Many of us struggle with financial pressures, guilt, grief and feelings of powerlessness. How can we reclaim a sense of honoring our parents in such situations?
4. In your discussion groups, see if you and your “classmates” can imagine new ways of dealing with an aging community of increasing population that honors both the way that they live and the way that they die.