Discussion Questions for *On the Waterfront*

1) Talk about our observations...
2) How did the murder of Joey change the lives of these people?
    a) Talk about this symbolism… Who is this like in our faith?
3) In your own experience, has something fruitful ever come out of tragedy?
4) Talk about the experience of transformation that occurred in front of this tragedy…
    a) In Terry…
    b) In the priest…
    c) In the longshoremen…
5) What had to happen for these transformations to occur?
    a) Who was the catalyst: who was the person of encounter
6) Let's look at these phrases…
    a) "Did you ever hear of a saint hiding in a church?" How did that provoke the priest? What are we called to do?
7) "There's a look in his eye" What does this mean? What about Edie's reality… What does she NEED? Books or truth? Have you encountered a person that had a "look"? "I don't know what it is, but I need to stay with this person." Or "there's just something about the way they look at me" Who was this person? Did they have an impact in your life or faith?
8) "I could have been somebody / instead of a bum… That's what I am." Terry is being totally honest with himself at this point. Have you ever had an experience of this kind--self realization? Seeing something about yourself or admitting something about yourself for the first time? What was it?
9) Joey's jacket… What happens when each man is given the jacket? What about Terry? What is this like?
10) Were you surprised when Terry told the truth about his fight? What was your assumption about his career up to this point? Give an example of a way that someone has surprised you lately--your judgment of their character was wrong…
11) What is the experience of love in this film?
12) What is the experience of truth in this film?
13) Most of the people in this film fight the truth and fight change… Why is this such a difficult thing for us (accepting truth and change)?