

St. Therese Adult Study Series

A Time of Great Heroism and Great Tragedy – WWII from a Catholic Perspective with Father Andrie and Dr. Tod Worner

Reflection Questions for Week 4 with the Article, *The Final Solution*

For the next session on November 4th, read the article, *The Final Solution: The Term and the Plan* that was handed out during the session. There is an additional article <https://nuremberg.law.harvard.edu/documents/450970-speeches-to-ss-officers?mode=image> you may also read. There is also a recommended movie, "Conspiracy" found both on YouTube at https://youtu.be/_59VZIO0YO4 and on Netflix (2001 version). These links and the printed article will also be posted on the website. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: *"Lord Jesus, in your mission here on Earth, you invited all who believe to join you. As you once called the Apostles, please continue to invite and inspire missionaries to go out to all the world. May people everywhere follow your example of lending hand and spending a moment, because every person matters. Lord Jesus, I ask for your blessing upon your mission servants, close-by or oceans and continents away. Among all who strive for peace, wherever they may go, may hope in you endure and love be its mainstay. Amen."* <https://www.heartofthenation.org/daily-prayers>

Before you read "The Final Solution" article, there are a few words that may be unfamiliar. Most of the German words/phrases are already translated in the article. *Pogrom*—an organized massacre of a particular ethnic group. *Babi Yar*—a ravine in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, the site of Nazi massacres, also known as Babyn Yar. *Shoah*—Hebrew word for Holocaust.

1. (pg. 4) What reasoning do you suspect they used to treat the Jews as "foreign guests" without rights? Is that how we would treat guests?

2. (pg. 8-9) As the author talked about Jews leaving Germany, do you have any connection with grandparents, cousins, or relatives having lived through this time? What stories have they shared?

3. (pg. 14-15) The "Jews of the East were condemned to death, and the Jews of the West to deportation." How did this "final solution" change and why?

I realize this may be hard. What Nazi decision stood out for you above all regarding the Jewish people in this article?