

We had no formal topic tonight, but that did not mean we did not have a lot of discussions.

I passed out a tradition that is done on Jan. 6, which is the feast of the Epiphany. This is when the Magi came to visit Jesus. You get chalk and write the following over your front door: "20+C+M+B+26". It is a blessing for your house, The C, M, B represents the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. And the 20 and 26 stand for the year 2026. Fr. Joe stopped by and talked about his homily and what the 3 magi were looking for and the Epiphany they had when they found Jesus realizing he is the Son of God.

We discussed "Mary Co-Mediatrix" which refers to the Catholic belief that Mary, Mother of Jesus, serves as a *secondary*, subordinate mediator (Mediatrix) and participant (Co-Redemptrix) with Christ in distributing grace and salvation, stemming from her "yes" at the Annunciation, but recent Vatican guidance suggests avoiding these unofficial titles as they can confuse people about Jesus' unique role as the sole, primary Mediator.

Discussion of Mary led to the Rosary and the Hail Mary and how did the Rosary begin. Monks and clergy memorized and prayed all 150 psalms. Ordinary laypeople, many of whom could not read, substituted: 150 "Our Fathers" (the Lord's Prayer). Over time, Christians began repeating the Hail Mary instead of the Our Father. This practice became known as "Our Lady's Psalter"—150 Hail Marys mirroring the 150 Psalms. A popular tradition says the Virgin Mary gave the Rosary to St. Dominic (c. 1208). Many of us in the group have been praying the rosary or started to pray the rosary daily.

We talked about 2 books written by St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort (1673–1716), a French Catholic priest and missionary.

1) The Secret of the Rosary which is about:

- The origin and power of the Rosary
- How to pray it well and fruitfully
- The spiritual effects of faithful Rosary prayer

2) The Fruits of the Rosary which Focuses on:

- The spiritual benefits (“fruits”) of praying the Rosary
- Conversion, perseverance, growth in virtue, and union with Christ
- Highly practical and devotional in tone

Michael suggested that we reread the book “The Practice in the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence. ” because of it being in the news lately.

I handed out an article entitled “Pope Leo XIV downplays the Filioque in new apostolic letter”. We will talk about this at our next meeting.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 20th from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

Christmas Seasons Blessings,
Norbert