

St John's Men's Spiritual Group

The meeting was held on Tuesday 4/2.

We started with an opening prayer.

We discussed a name for our group. Since we are not a group that meets just to pray but to discuss issues related to our faith and our growth in our faith, we decided to name our group "St John's Men's Spiritual Group"

For consistency, we decided that we will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6pm.

This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday and I handed out some wallet size cards that will be available in church this weekend. They have instructions on how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Also, after the 9AM mass until the 11 AM mass, the Eucharist will be exposed for moments of quiet reflections and prayer and to say the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Eucharist will also be exposed after the 11 AM mass until @ 4pm. If you ever get a chance, visit The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy located in Stockbridge, MA.

The Lenten retreat was discussed and that there were not too many parishioners that attended. Fr. Joe has mentioned that next year he will probably hold the retreat earlier in the Lenten season. The attendance for the Easter Triduum was really encouraging, and the services were very spiritually moving. Someone outside of our group had asked me why we call it Good Friday if Christ died. We call it Good Friday because it is the day Christ died for our sins and His victory over death and sin and the celebration of Easter is the very pinnacle of Christian celebrations. Also, the word "good" originally meant "holy" in Old English, so "Good Friday" could be synonymous with "Holy Friday"

We continued with our discussion of the book "Beautiful Eucharist". We had a very moving conversation about how we each see Christ as a personal Christ. How we can draw close to Him by going to mass and receiving the Eucharist realizing we are receiving the true Body and Blood of Christ, and that there are those that receive the Eucharist who don't show the reverence as they approach and receive the sacrament. We also talked about various ways we can pray beside the standard "rote" prayers we all learned. In the future we will have a session on various ways of prayer.

When you do attend Adoration or before Mass, just picture Jesus sitting up on the altar and have a conversation with Him.

One practice that was mentioned was to read the Gospel before you attend mass on a Sunday and reflect on the reading before the Mass. Also, there are many Catholic internet sites where you can get a daily download of the daily gospel and they will usually have a reflection about that gospel. Another thought was to read about the Saints and their lives to see how we can grow our own spiritual life from their examples.

Again, I know that everyone will not be able to attend all our meetings, but I thank those of you that do come as that what will make our Men's Spiritual Growth a success.

We will continue reading the next 3 chapters of Beautiful Eucharist" (ch.7,8,9).
Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 16 at 6pm in the church hall.

Blessed Easter Week

Norbert