

Men's Group Notes 2024-11-19

Michael had a suggestion for our meetings. We will place the "talking cross" in the center of the table. When someone needs to express a feeling, he will pick up the cross and he has the floor. While he has the cross, no one can interrupt that person.

We discussed having a social night out. Perhaps go to a restaurant. We need to discuss what date/time would be good and where to go.

There was a discussion about the direction of the group. The consensus was that we have enjoyed reading the various books and the discussion that each has brought with them, but we would like to get a better understanding and awareness of our Catholic faith and the church. One of the ways we will do this is that we will go over the parts of the Mass. I will ask Fr. Joe to do a presentation on the Mass.

One book/play for future discussions recommended by Rich was "the Surprise" by Chesterton. In *The Surprise*, Father Brown is called to investigate a seemingly simple case but ends up unraveling a complex mystery. The story is known for its clever twist, as is typical of Chesterton's detective fiction. Father Brown is presented as an unassuming and humble character, yet he has an extraordinary ability to understand the human heart, which allows him to solve mysteries that baffle others. While the plot of *The Surprise* might seem straightforward, it is infused with Chesterton's philosophical reflections on human nature, faith, and the unexpected, making it a memorable and thought-provoking read.

We had a discussion on the incarnation and the sacrificial lamb, and the word made flesh.

Our main topic tonight was the Our Father prayer. We reviewed the "Our Father" with a discussion of each of the sentences. This led to a discussion about the beginning of the prayer which states "Our Father" being male centered but understanding that God is neither male nor female, but this is used as an expression to indicate his care of us and we are a family through Christ.

In the Jewish tradition the name of God was not to be spoken.

Why do some versions of the Our Father have "forgive us our trespasses" and some use "forgive us our debts", I will do a little research on the topic for the next session.

This then led to a discussion about all the various catechism versions that have been printed, and which one we should use. The New standard Revised Version was the one suggested. Online it states that "The **New Revised Standard Version** of the **Bible** (NRSV) was published in 1989 and has received the widest acclaim and broadest support from academics and church ..."

The next meeting on 12/3 and we will talk about various forms of catholic prayer. There is a function in the hall that night so I will arrange for a meeting to be in a different space.