

Men's Group Notes - 2/4/2025

This February marks the one-year anniversary of our spiritual men's group. We had originally planned to continue our discussion on the topic of evil, which Michael had brought up at our last meeting, but since he couldn't make it tonight, we decided to wait for him to be present before resuming the conversation.

Tonight's meeting was slightly different—it was more of an organizational meeting. We took the time to reflect on what worked well this past year and discussed the direction we'd like to take moving forward.

We expressed a desire to return to reading and discussing books together, and we also explored the possibility of having a group retreat. St. Peter's is hosting a 3-day retreat, so we discussed the idea of organizing something similar for our group. However, it seems that a one-day retreat might be more feasible. A few potential venues were mentioned, including the Franciscan Guest House Retreat in Kennebunkport, Rolling Meadows in North Andover, and the Gonzaga/Eastern Point Retreat House in Gloucester.

Since the woman spiritual group has had difficulties in getting established, we discuss the possibility of inviting some woman to our group meetings. This could involve inviting them to all our gatherings or selecting specific meetings.

At our next meeting, we will have two special guest speakers: Sr. Helena Burns and Maggie Burns.

Sr. Helena is a member of the Daughters of St. Paul, an author, speaker, and filmmaker, and hosts a series on EWTN called *Digital Catholics*.

Maggie Burns will be joining her, and together they will share their testimonies on what it's like to be a woman in the Catholic Church today, the significance of their Catholic faith, and why they embrace being Catholic women. After their presentation, there will be a Q&A session.

We thought it might be a good idea to invite a few women who are interested in starting a women's group to attend this special meeting. I checked with Sr. Helena and she said it would be ok to invite a few women to attend this meeting.

Sr. Helena actually has a chapter in the first book we read, *Beautiful Eucharist!!* We should reread her article which is chapter 11, before the next meeting.

We may have some pizza and non alcoholic beverages that night,

With Lent approaching, we started to discuss what book we may read next,

-another Dynamic Catholic book,

or books that we have mentioned previously

-Radical Forgiveness by Colin Tipping, this book provides the necessary tools to help you forgive profoundly, more or less instantaneously and with ease.

-Everybody needs to forgive somebody :12 stories of real people who discovered the life-changing power of grace

Blessings to all and hope you all are looking forward to our very special next meeting!

Norbert