

Mens group notes 2025-04-01

Rich told us about Maria Valtorta's *The Poem of the Man-God*. In Volume 5 of *The Poem of the Man-God* by Maria Valtorta, the "Readings on the Stations of the Cross" offer a profound spiritual reflection on the events of Christ's Passion. Through vivid and contemplative descriptions, Valtorta presents each station as an intimate encounter with Jesus' suffering, focusing not just on the physical pain He endured, but also the emotional, spiritual, and symbolic significance of His actions. To read about the graphic details of crucifixion, read section 11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS. Here is the link to the readings:

<https://sites.google.com/site/poemvaltorta/passion>

Another book was also mentioned that talks about the Crucifixion, "A Doctor at Calvary: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ as Described by a Surgeon, Pierre Barbet". This book provides a forensic pathologist's analysis of the Holy Shroud of Turin, which reveals the graphic account of Jesus's suffering at the hands of the Romans. Through a modern medical lens, Dr. Barbet examines the methods of infliction and physiological effects of each wound. He also delves into the historic practice and mechanics of crucifixion. This book is available on amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Doctor-Calvary-Passion-Described-Surgeon/dp/1626548846>

As a follow-up to these discussions, I handed out a sheet with the 7 last words of Christ.

The following question came up "where there any woman who have received the stigmata?" Here is what I found out. Several women throughout history have received the stigmata, which are the visible marks corresponding to the wounds of Christ's Passion. Here are a few notable women who have received the stigmata:

- St. Catherine of Siena** (1347–1380)
- St. Veronica Giuliani** (1660–1727)
- St. Gemma Galgani** (1878–1903)
- Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich** (1774–1824)
- St. Teresa of the Andes** (1900–1920)
- Blessed Maria of the Divine Heart** (1865–1939)
- St. Rita of Cascia** (1381–1457)

We talked about the Lenten retreat services that will be held next week. On Monday April 7 at 6pm there will be a reconciliation service and on Wednesday April 9, there will be a Mass. Also, we will be having a Special Divine Mercy Session on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 27 at 3pm. We will do the Divine mercy chaplet along with vespers.

In preparation for the reconciliation service, I handed out an Examination Of conscience sheet. Which lead to a discussion on are we cafeteria Catholics.

We decided to officially invite woman to join our group. So, we will change the name from St. John's Men's Spiritual group to St. John's Spiritual Group. I will reach out to some woman and invite them to our next meeting. This announcement will also be posted in the bulletin. **NOTE: Along with the name change, we are changing the start time from 5pm to 5:30 pm to accommodate those what have to rush here from work. We hope this will open the group up to more people.**

We talked before about going to see Scott Hahn in Waltham, but it didn't work out. So instead, we can see him do a live streaming this Friday night, **April 4, at 4PM** from the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, At St. Paul's Church, Bow & Arrow Streets, Cambridge. For more information and to register to vies online visit

www.harvardcatholicforum.org/scott-hahn-veritas

There is NO CHARGE for this event.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 15 **at 5:30pm.**

We will view a presentation of the "Last seven words of Christ" and a video from Sr. Helena called "A Soul in Purgatory Reveals the Secret to Hearing God's Voice in Prayer".