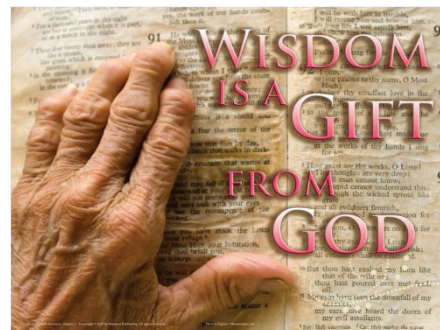


4.14.2018

WISDOM

Just Because You're Right Doesn't Make It So

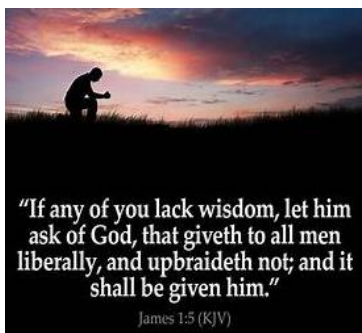
Wisdom is the first and highest gifts of the Holy Spirit. It makes the soul responsive to God in the contemplation of divine things. Where Faith is a simple knowledge of the articles of Christian belief, Wisdom goes on to a divine penetration of the truths themselves. Built into Wisdom is the element of love, which inspires contemplative reflection on divine mysteries, rejoices dwelling on them, and directs the mind to judge all things according to their principles.



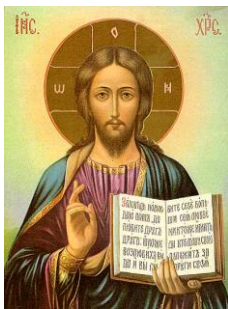
“For power is given to you by the Lord, and strength by the most high, who will examine your works, and search out your thoughts.” (Wis 6: 2-4) This proverb from the Book of Wisdom is a not-so-subtle reminder that because we seek out what we believe will make us happy, does not necessarily mean our choices are right with God.

Can you think of a time when you were 100% right about something? You were correct beyond any question....but your actions/outcomes were wrong? For instance:

- Lottery winners like Jack won 113 million after taxes. Unfortunately he ended up in alcohol rehabilitation while his granddaughter was found dead with an overdose of drugs. Conversely, Debi only won 9 million after taxes allowing her to pay for a “Garden of Angels” cemetery reserved for abandoned newborns.
- Beauty pageants for children, breast augmentation graduation gifts for teenagers, and “fountain of youth” surgeries for seniors, continue to feed the “ugly” industry without regard for the price of human vanity. A recent Internet headline, “The most beautiful girl in the world,” featured a narrative about a young model in Russia. The child in the story is six years old.
- Lady Di was privileged. Mother Teresa was not. One ate with celebrities; the other fed the starving. One dressed for royalty, the other for the forbidden. One was a superstar; the other, a saint. Both were surrounded by “untouchables.” The princess won the hearts of the media; the sister, the Nobel Peace Prize. At Lady Di’s funeral the rich wept. At Mother Teresa’s funeral the poor prayed.
- He had everything going for him. Appointed as treasurer by the most sought-after man in the country he was part of the inner circle. Friends, enemies, politicians, military leadership, and religious authorities, all wanted to speak with him regarding his personal connection. Promises of money, fame, and prestige were laid out before him. All he had to do was say “yes.” He did. He died. And his name will live in infamy. His name was Judas Iscariot.



Many will justify their right to chase after money, beauty, privilege, and power. *The question still remains: Will they have the wisdom to do what's right with that gift?*



1 Kings 3:16-28 – Solomon’s Heart of Wisdom

Later, two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. One woman said: “By your leave, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth in the house while she was present. On the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were alone; no one else was in the house with us; only the two of us were in the house.

This woman’s son died during the night when she lay on top of him. So in the middle of the night she got up and took my son from my side, as your servant was sleeping. Then she laid him in her bosom and laid her dead son in my bosom. I rose in the morning to nurse my son, and he was dead! But when I examined him in the morning light, I saw it was not the son I had borne.”

The other woman answered, “No! The living one is my son, the dead one is yours.” But the first kept saying, “No! The dead one is your son, the living one is mine!” Thus they argued before the king. Then the king said: “One woman claims, ‘This, the living one, is my son, the dead one is yours.’ The other answers, ‘No! The dead one is your son, the living one is mine.’”

The king continued, “Get me a sword.” When they brought the sword before the king, he said, “Cut the living child in two, and give half to one woman and half to the other.”

The woman whose son was alive, because she was stirred with compassion for her son, said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby—do not kill it!” But the other said, “It shall be neither mine nor yours. Cut it in two!” The king then answered, “Give her the living baby! Do not kill it! She is the mother.”

When all Israel heard the judgment the king had given, they were in awe of him, because they saw that the king had in him the wisdom of God for giving right judgment.

The Word of the Lord



Luke 2:25-35 – The Presentation

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.

He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”



The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Catechism

1831 - Wisdom is from the Holy Spirit

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. They belong in their fullness to Christ, Son of David. They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.

216 - God's Truth

God's truth is his wisdom, which commands the whole created order and governs the world. God, who alone made heaven and earth, can alone impart true knowledge of every created thing in relation to himself.



Modern Comment

Wisdom sometimes hides itself in another's decision to abandon what you thought was important.

Lessons from Rhode Island, Florida, and Oklahoma.

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Can you recall a time when you were grateful that your recommendation was turned down?

2. Is there anyone in your present or past whose gift of "wisdom" made you a better man? What is the best advice (wisdom) you ever received?



Men's Group Calendar

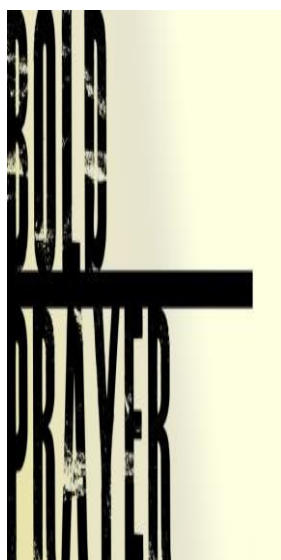
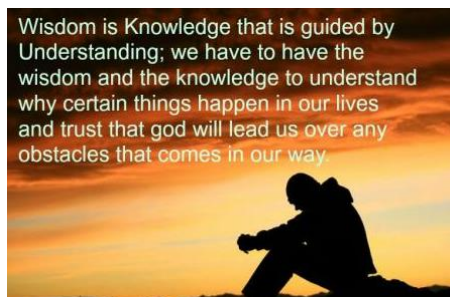
A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.

4/28/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
5/12/2018	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
5/26/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
6/9/2018	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
6/23/2018	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library

Bring Christ Into The Emptiness of Our Lives

- Spend time with the Lord in Adoration. Silence, weirdly and paradoxically, fills the emptiness. Silence isn't an absence; it's presence.
- Spend time with those who bring joy to your life. Family, friends, small groups...
- Invite Christ into your relationships. Acknowledge His presence in every moment, whether you're alone or with others; pray together.
- Ask God for Deeper Trust. It is SO hard trust God in these experiences. Doubting is OK if we bring that honestly to Him. He can and will use that to bring you to a place of Deeper Trust in Him.
- Just be. This is THE hardest thing to do. To just be in the emptiness, not running away from it, not trying to fix it or fill it. Letting Him love you and do the work He wants to do in you. What is Christ trying to teach me during this period of emptiness? How does Christ want me to grow from this experience?

WHEN I'M
WORRIED, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I'M TRYING TO
DO EVERYTHING
MYSELF. WHEN
I'M AT PEACE, IT'S
USUALLY BECAUSE
I REMEMBER
THAT GOD IS IN
CONTROL.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

Fill the Emptiness of Life with Christ. Allow a place for Jesus to reside in your heart. Spend time with Jesus.

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group

Happy Easter! He is Risen!

Christ: The Power & Wisdom of God

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

**THE FEAR
OF THE LORD
IS THE BEGINNING
OF KNOWLEDGE,
BUT FOOLS DESPISE WISDOM
AND INSTRUCTION.**
PROVERBS 1:7