

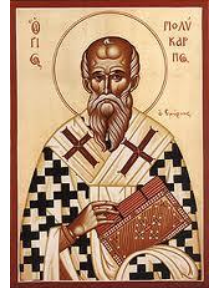


3.11.2017

Words of Inspiration

The Source of Inspiration and Motivation

We continue our discussion surrounding Life Choices and Leadership. These choices will leave a legacy that is defined by one's encounters, experiences, and the choices one makes in his life journey. It is important to note that God breathes new life into our Souls through Holy Scripture. It is the source of True Inspiration and Motivation in our lives.



The question will be to ask yourself, "How can I best accept and use that inspiration to do God's work? It is time to grow and move on. "What's Past is Prologue."

After our special program today, we will focus the discussion on another source of Truth and Inspiration: a saint who died in 156 A.D. This one has many miracles associated with him and was martyred in a sensational way. His name is St. Polycarp. He was a Bishop in an area near present day Constantinople, Turkey.

*"Beware of greed and remain pure and just. Restrain yourself from every vice.
He who cannot restrain himself, how will he be able to teach others restraint?"*

St. Polycarp – February 23

Today is a special meeting format. The group will take note of special selected scripture picked just for you. We will be breaking up into small groups to exploring the consequence of Scripture and walk through a process to help you apply it in life.

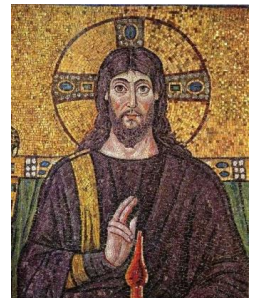
Let us pay close attention to the Scripture and our presentation. May God bless us with His Wisdom, His Work and the wherewithal to complete the specific mission given to each one of us. Amen. And AMEN.

Mark 10:46-52 Be Healed by Faith in Christ

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me."

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus.



Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?"
The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see."

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you."
Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.
The Word of the Lord.



Special Instructions

Words of Inspiration - The Source of Inspiration and Motivation

Steve Tomasko

1. **Break into small teams**
2. **Each man pick a scripture from envelope**
3. **Read it to yourself - If not a fit for you - Pick a different one**
4. **If it fits, Read it aloud**
5. **Answer the below questions**

Focus Questions:

1. How is this passage especially meaningful to you?

2. Does God speak to you in this scripture? Explain how.

3. Any ideas how you can take the scripture message and use it in your life?

It is NOT about us that counts.
It is the Spirit of God that speaks through us
that makes a positive difference in the world.

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

Jesus wants us to make choices that reflect His presence in our hearts. Life constantly presents us with opportunities to choose to love and serve one another. It is not about us. It is about reaching out in love.

Men's Group Calendar

3/18/2017	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
3/25/2017	Annual Conference	Holiday Inn Rockside
4/8/2017	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
4/22/2017	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
5/13/2017	Men's Group	7 AM Mass

You are God's representative on Earth. When you Bless and encourage the people in your life, you are revealing God's love for them.

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated. We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

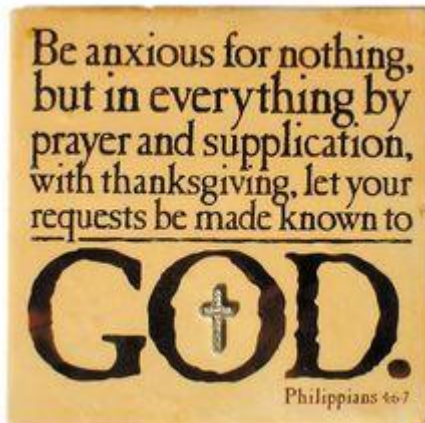


Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

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 on this path. 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, give them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior.
Amen. And AMEN.





Saints are holy people and regular human persons who lived extraordinary lives. Saints responded to God's invitation to use their unique gifts. They are teachers and guides for us.

God calls each one of us to lead a life of exceptional holiness.

Imagine being able to sit at the feet of the apostles and hear their stories of life with Jesus from their own lips. Imagine walking with those who had walked with Jesus, seen him, and touched him. That was what Polycarp was able to do as a disciple of Saint John the Evangelist. Polycarp, as a holy man and bishop of Smyrna, found there was only one answer -- to be true to the life of Jesus and imitate that life.

St. Polycarp - February 23, 156 A.D. - The Rest of the Story

Polycarp faced persecution the way Christ did. Not chasing after martyrdom, but avoiding it until it was God's will as Jesus did.

One day, during a bloody martyrdom when Christians were being attacked by wild animals in the arena, the crowd became so mad that they demanded more blood by crying, "Down with the atheists; let Polycarp be found." (They considered Christians "atheists" because they did not believe in the Roman pantheon of gods.) Polycarp was not only known as a leader but as someone very holy.

He remained calm but others persuaded him to leave the city and hide at a nearby farm. He spent his time in prayer for people he knew and for the Church. During his prayer, he saw a vision of his pillow turned to fire and announced to his friends that the dream meant he would be burned alive.

As the search closed in, he moved to another farm, but the guard discovered he was there by torturing two boys. He had a little warning and decided to stay, saying, "God's will be done."

Then he went downstairs, talked to his captors and fed them a meal. All he asked of them was that they give him an hour to pray. He spent two hours praying for everyone he had ever known and for the Church, "remembering all who had at any time come his way -- small folk and great folk, distinguished and undistinguished, and the whole Catholic Church throughout the world." Many of his captors started to wonder why they were arresting this holy, 86 year-old bishop.

But that did not stop them from taking him into the arena on the Sabbath. As he entered the arena, the crowd roared like the animals they cheered. Those around Polycarp heard a voice from heaven above the crowd, "Be brave, Polycarp, and act like a man."

The proconsul begged the 86 year-old bishop to give in because of his age. The proconsul asked Polycarp to swear by Caesar to save himself. Polycarp answered, "If you imagine that I will swear by Caesar, you do not know who I am. Let me tell you plainly, I am a Christian."

The proconsul reminded Polycarp that he would be thrown to the wild animals unless he changed his mind. Polycarp answered, "Change of mind from better to worse is not a change allowed to us."

Because of Polycarp's lack of fear, the proconsul told him he would be burned alive but Polycarp knew that the fire that burned for an hour was better than eternal fire.

When he was tied up to be burned, Polycarp prayed:

"Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and powers, of the whole creation and of the whole race of the righteous who live in your sight, I bless you, for having made me worthy of this day and hour, I bless you, because I may have a part, along with the martyrs, in the chalice of your Christ, to resurrection in eternal life, resurrection both of soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit.

May I be received today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice, among those who are in your presence, as you have prepared and foretold and fulfilled, God who is faithful and true. For this and for all benefits I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, to be with you and the Holy Spirit in glory, now and for all the ages to come. Amen."

As Polycarp said Amen the fire was lit. Eyewitnesses reported they saw a miracle. The fire burst up in an arch around Polycarp, the flames surrounding him like sails, and instead of being burned alive, he seemed to glow like baking bread, or gold being melted in a furnace. When the captors saw he wasn't being burned, they stabbed him. The blood that flowed put the fire out.

The proconsul would not let the Christians have the body because he was afraid they would worship Polycarp. Instead, he burned the body. The ashes were discarded. Later, resident Christians stole the bones in order to celebrate the memory of his martyrdom and prepare others for persecution.

The date was February 23, 156 A.D.

ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen to God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Use Every Moment to see Jesus in all things.

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Mark 11:24

Litany of Saints

Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.	Saint Vincent de Paul: Pray for us.
Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.	Saint Elizabeth: Pray for us.
Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.	Saint Therese & Saint Joan of Arc: Pray for us.
Holy Mary: Pray for us.	Saint John Vianney: Pray for us.
Michael, Gabriel, Raphael: Pray for us.	All holy men and women: Pray for us.
Angels of God: Pray for us.	Lord, be merciful: Lord, save your people.
Abraham, Moses, and Elijah: Pray for us.	From all harm: Lord, save your people.
Saint Joseph: Pray for us.	From every sin: Lord, save your people.
Saint John the Baptist: Pray for us.	From all temptations: Lord, save your people.
Holy prophets: Pray for us.	From everlasting death: Lord, save your people.
Saint Peter and Saint Paul: Pray for us.	By your coming among us: Lord, save your people.
All Holy Apostles: Pray for us.	By your death and rising to new life:
Saint Mary Magdalene: Pray for us.	Lord, save your people.
All disciples of the Lord: Pray for us.	By the gift of the Holy Spirit:
Saint Stephen: Pray for us.	Lord, save your people.
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity: Pray for us.	Be merciful to us sinners: Lord, hear our prayer.
Saint Agnes: Pray for us.	Guide and protect your holy church:
Saint Boniface: Pray for us.	Lord, hear our prayer.
Saint Thomas More: Pray for us.	Bring all peoples together in trust and peace:
Saint Hilary: Pray for us.	Lord, hear our prayer.
All Holy Martyrs: Pray for us.	Strengthen us in service: Lord, hear our prayer.
Saint Augustine: Pray for us.	Jesus, Son of the living God: Lord, hear our prayer.
Saint Basil and Saint Gregory: Pray for us.	Christ, hear us: Christ, hear us.
Saint John Chrysostom: Pray for us.	Praise the Lord, who is so good: God's love endures forever.
Saint Catherine: Pray for us.	Praise the God of gods: God's love endures forever.
Saint Teresa d'Avila: Pray for us.	Praise the Lord of lords: God's love endures forever.
Saint Patrick and Saint Barbara: Pray for us.	Lord Jesus, hear our prayer:
Saint Benedict: Pray for us.	Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.
Saint Ignatius: Pray for us.	Amen. And AMEN.
Saint Clare and Saint Ann: Pray for us.	
Saint Francis Xavier: Pray for us.	

Prayer is simply talking to God like a friend and should be the easiest thing we do each day.