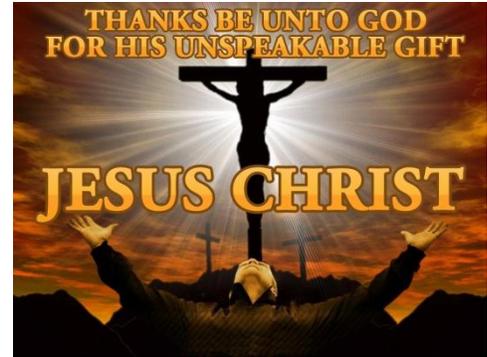




**Catechism** *Blessing and Adoration*

**2626**

Blessing expresses the basic movement of Christian prayer: it is an encounter between God and man. In blessing, God's gift and man's acceptance of it, are united in dialogue with each other. The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing.



**2628**

Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator. It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the "King of Glory," respectful silence in the presence of the "ever greater" God.



**Modern Comment – Rick Warren Interview**

Below is an excerpt of an interview with Pastor Rick Warren, author of "The Purpose Driven Life." In the interview by Paul Bradshaw with Rick Warren, Rick said:

People ask me, What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. We were not made to last forever, and God wants us to be with Him in Heaven. One day my heart is going to stop, and that will be the end of my body—but not the end of me.

I may live 60 to 100 years on earth, but I am going to spend trillions of years in eternity. This is the warm-up act – the dress rehearsal. God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

We were made by God and for God, and until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense. Life is a series of problems: Either you are in one now, you're just coming out of one, or you're getting ready to go into another one.

The reason for this is that God is more interested in your character than your comfort; God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy.

We can be reasonably happy here on earth, but that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ likeness.

This past year has been the greatest year of my life but also the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer. I used to think that life was hills and valleys – you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore.

Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it's kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life.

No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can thank God for.

You can focus on your purposes, or you can focus on your problems: If you focus on your problems, you're going into self-centeredness, which is my problem, my issues, my pain. But one of the easiest ways to get rid of pain is to get your focus off yourself and onto God and others.

We discovered quickly that in spite of the prayers of hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay or make it easy for her. It has been very difficult for her, and yet God has strengthened her character, given her a ministry of helping other people, given her a testimony, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad of life. Actually, sometimes learning to deal with the good is harder. For instance, this past year, all of a sudden, when the book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy.

It also brought a lot of notoriety that I had never had to deal with before. I don't think God gives you money or notoriety for your own ego or for you to live a life of ease.

So I began to ask God what He wanted me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two different passages that helped me decide what to do, II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72.

1. First, in spite of all the money coming in, we would not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases.
2. Second, about midway through last year, I stopped taking a salary from the church.
3. Third, we set up foundations to fund an initiative we call The Peace Plan to plant churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.
4. Fourth, I added up all that the church had paid me in the 24 years since I started the church, and I gave it all back. It was liberating to be able to serve God for free.

We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or am I going to be driven by God's purposes for my life?

When I get up in the morning, I sit on the side of my bed and say, "God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better."



God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings.



**THANK GOD FOR TODAY BECAUSE TODAY I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- † **PRAISE GOD during Happy Moments**
- † **SEEK GOD during Difficult Moments**
- † **WORSHIP GOD during Quiet Moments**
- † **TRUST GOD during Painful Moments**
- † **THANK GOD during Every Moment!**

**Questions to Focus on:**

1 What part of Rick Warren's message really resonated with you? What do we as humans find most difficult to live out in our "Purpose Driven Life"?

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2 Based on what you heard here today, what message would you like to have written on your tombstone?

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**Men's Group Calendar**

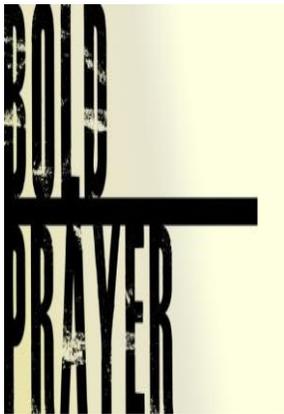
<b>1/24/2015</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>2/14/2015</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>2/28/2015</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>3/14/2015</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>3/21/2015</b>	<b>CMFNEO Annual Conference</b>	Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School 8AM-4PM

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. God loved you since the foundations of the world were laid. He counts your success by you just being YOU.

For YOU are his success. And you are so valuable that he sent his only child to die in your place, that for the rest of this peculiar thing called life, you would live as a complete success.

May God Bless You.

St. Hilary Men's Group



**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.**

**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. You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior.  
Amen**



## ***That Man is a Success***

- Who has lived well,  
laughed often and loved much;**
- Who has gained the respect of intelligent men  
and the love of children;**
- Who has filled his niche  
and accomplished his task;**
- Who leaves the world better than he found it,  
whether by improved poppy, a perfect poem,  
or a rescued soul;**
- Who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty  
or failed to express it.**
- Who looked for the best in others  
and gave the best he had.**



**I have a lot  
to be  
thankful for.**