

11.12.2016

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## THE WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME, WE ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH

### The Work of Mercy – To Admonish Sinners

Today's meeting concludes discussions of the Works of Mercy as part of the declared Year of Mercy. We will be focusing on the Spiritual Work of Mercy – To Admonish Sinners.

As a follow-up to last month's analysis on how St. Ignatius gave us a way to have a daily prayer practice that begins with a daily Examination of Conscience; we will revisit an especially relevant talk given by Father Larry Richards at the Catholic Men's Conference this past April 9th.



Father Larry Richards

Father Larry speaks about a series of five steps as St. Ignatius does. These steps lead one closer to Christ and help us to correct our paths so that Heaven becomes achievable. We will explore how Fr. Larry has provided a simple way to have daily communion with Jesus Christ. It is five easy steps that lead one closer to Christ and helps us to correct our paths.

#### Five Simple Steps advocated by Father Larry for a Life in Christ:

1. Daily Prayer Practice.
2. Pursue Spiritual Growth as a Goal.
3. Be Devoted to the Holy Spirit.
4. Decide to Love Every Day.
5. Seek Jesus Above All Else.

PRAYER IS WHEN YOU  
TALK TO GOD;  
MEDITATION IS WHEN  
YOU LISTEN TO GOD.

As men of faith, we must focus on ways to achieve the Gift of Christ's Peace that comes in living with Him. These Five Simple Steps can help us to focus on Christ and ways to avoid sin, temptation, and all things, events, factors, and objects that kill the Spirit of God in our midst.

Using such Five Simple Steps is clearly relevant in today's world. More so, living in today's world and participating in modern culture demands a self-accounting if we are to eventually go to Heaven.

The concept of an examination of our lives, our thoughts, our words and what we do; is Core to our Christianity and living a life of excellence. More so, it is central to living a life that is "well lived" and abundant. There is an implied principal that we must give our best to make our world and every life we touch Better Than It Was when we first encountered it.

"Woe to you...hypocrites. You cleanse the outside of cup and dish, but inside they are full of plunder and self-indulgence.  
...cleanse first the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may be clean."

Matthew 23:25-26





**Modern Comment**

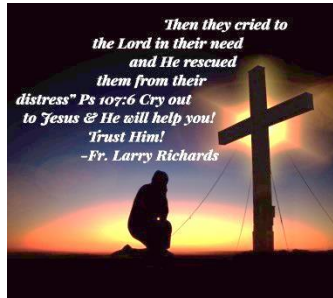
**THE WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME, WE ARE JUST PASSING THROUGH**  
**Father Larry Richards – CMFNEO Conference April 9, 2016**

**Five Simple Steps advocated by Father Larry for a Life in Christ:**

- 1. Daily Prayer Practice.**
- 2. Pursue Spiritual Growth as a Goal.**
- 3. Be Devoted to the Holy Spirit.**
- 4. Decide to Love Every Day.**
- 5. Seek Jesus Above All Else.**



Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God.



**Questions to Focus on:**

1. What part of Father Richards message spoke most clearly to you?

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2. Are there things in your life that you hold back from Christ? Can you share any of these things?

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3. Of the Five Steps advised by Fr. Larry, pick one that speaks most clearly to you.

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## Men's Group Calendar

<b>11/26/2016</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>12/10/2016</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>12/17/2016</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>1/14/2017</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>1/28/2017</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library



**A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.**



**God calls us ceaselessly**....He speaks to us and calls us in through the conversations of good people, or from sermons, or through the reading of good books; and there are many other ways. God calls us through sickness and trials, or by the means of truths which God teaches us at times when we are engaged in prayer; however feeble such prayers may be, God values them highly.

**Saint Teresa of Avila**

**Saints** are holy people, just 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.

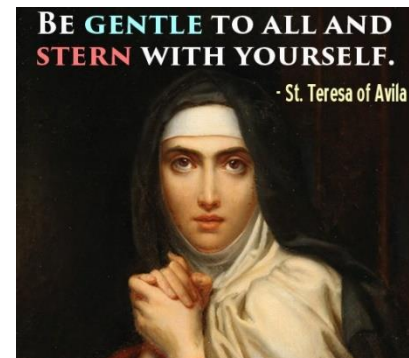
Saint Teresa of Avila was born in 1515 and died 67 years later in 1582. She is best known as Teresa of Jesus, a Mystic who has inspired millions of people to seek the Heart of Jesus. She was the first woman of the Church to be bestowed the title Doctor of the Church 40 years after her death.

She has written many books that are considered the "Gold Standard" for Mystical Literature of the Church. The kernel of Teresa's mystical thought throughout all her writings is the ascent of the soul to Heaven and eventually in Communion with God. The most widely known book is called Interior Castle and should be mandatory reading for Catholics.

One of the most famous miracles attributed to her is similar to the miracle of Jesus and Lazarus. The wall of a building fell on Teresa's young six year old nephew and he was crushed. He was found dead on the floor by his father. His efforts to revive the boy were fruitless, and the child remained deathly white.

The father carried the lifeless body to Teresa who took him into her arms. The boy's mother was with child and the father kept her unaware of the situation for fear the shock would harm the unborn child. Teresa was left alone with the child in an adjacent room.

Teresa held the child tightly, covered him with her veil and prayed that God would spare the parents the anguish of his death. Just then, his mother entered the room and became excited, asking what was wrong.





St. Teresa motioned to her to keep calm, as if it were some insignificant matter. In a few moments, the child began to breathe. He reached out his hand to his Aunt Teresa's face, caressing her. Teresa then handed the boy over to his mother. This miracle was presented at Teresa's canonization.

Probably St. Teresa's most significant vestige is the fundamental philosophy that saturates Evangelical Thought Today: Talk to Jesus as one would talk with a Friend. Just a regular conversation. Tell him your thoughts, fears, goals and questions. Then, spend time listening to His words.

Always conclude such conversation by asking for forgiveness for your sins. Ask for Jesus's protection and help. Ask for His wisdom about the questions you have and the problems you face. Most important, have that conversation in a spirit of Gratitude and Thankfulness.

Let nothing disturb you and nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices. **Saint Teresa of Avila**



**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**

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

"Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best prayer you can make."

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

**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.

*Litany of Saints*

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Holy Mary: Pray for us.

Michael, Gabriel, Raphael: Pray for us.

Angels of God: Pray for us.

Abraham, Moses, and Elijah: Pray for us.

Saint Joseph: Pray for us.

Saint John the Baptist: Pray for us.

Holy prophets: Pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul: Pray for us.

All holy apostles: Pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene: Pray for us.

All disciples of the Lord: Pray for us.

Saint Stephen: Pray for us.

Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity: Pray for us.

Saint Agnes: Pray for us.

Saint Boniface: Pray for us.

Saint Thomas More: Pray for us.

Saint Hilary: Pray for us.

All holy martyrs: Pray for us.

Saint Augustine: Pray for us.

Saint Basil and Saint Gregory: Pray for us.

Saint John Chrysostom: Pray for us.

Saint Catherine: Pray for us.

Saint Teresa d'Avila: Pray for us.

Saint Patrick and Saint Barbara: Pray for us.

Saint Benedict: Pray for us.

Saint Ignatius: Pray for us.

Saint Clare and Saint Ann: Pray for us.

Saint Francis Xavier: Pray for us.

Saint Vincent de Paul: Pray for us.

Saint Elizabeth: Pray for us.

Saint Therese & Saint Joan of Arc: Pray for us.

Saint John Vianney: Pray for us.

All holy men and women: Pray for us.

Lord, be merciful! Lord, save your people.

From all harm: Lord, save your people.

From every sin: Lord, save your people.

From all temptations: Lord, save your people.

From everlasting death:

Lord, save your people.

By your coming among us:

Lord, save your people.

By your death and rising to new life:

Lord, save your people.

By your gift of the Holy Spirit:

Lord, save your people.

Be merciful to us sinners:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Guide and protect your holy church:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring all peoples together in trust and peace:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Strengthen us in your service:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus, Son of the living God:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, hear us.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

Amen. And AMEN.