

12.12.2015

## CATHOLIC BROTHERHOOD

### Fulfilling God's Plan for You

In our secular, American Society there is a need for and great value derived from movements promoting strong, effective Christian Manhood.

Although below the radar of the secular media, there is a growing movement throughout the country. The number of Catholic Men's Prayer Groups, Study Groups, small weekend retreats, annual Men's Conferences, etc., is ever increasing.

In the Cleveland Diocese there are over 40 parishes with a Men's Group that meets regularly like we do at St. Hilary. There are also small prayer groups that are not parish related. Like Many dioceses, Cleveland has an annual Catholic Men's Conference with exceptional speakers to which all men in the diocese are invited to attend.

Father Bronovsky and Randy Malick recently introduced an annual weekend Men's retreat program at St. Hilary similar to programs already in place at ST. Mary's in Hudson and St. Francis in Medina.

These events build brotherhood by giving men an opportunity to hear, learn and take ownership of what God wants from men both as individuals and as members of the communities in which they live and operate...all this in a brotherhood of likeminded men.



Let us learn some ways to help us fulfill God's plan for us and bless those in our lives.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts?

Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

## Colossians 3:12-14

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

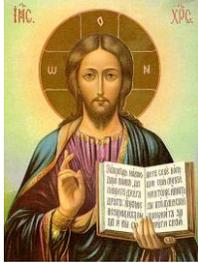
And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

Do not save your loving speeches for your friends till they are dead. Do not write them on their tombstones, speak them rather now instead.



## Romans 5:2-5

Through Him we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.



## Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

The Word of the Lord.

## Catechism

### 730 - Our Mission is Given

At Jesus' last hour: He commends his spirit into the Father's hands at the very moment when by His death He conquers death, so that, "raised from the dead by the glory of the Father," He might immediately give the Holy Spirit by "breathing" on his disciples.

From this hour onward, the mission of Christ and the Spirit becomes the mission of the Church: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you."

## Modern Comment

### Jim Kilcoyne: Catholic Brotherhood

There are four objectives associated with Catholic Brotherhood.

1. Taking On A New Life in Christ
2. Promoting Manly Spirituality
3. Building Christian Awareness
4. Developing Christian Community

## Questions to Focus on:

1. Are you content with your current relationship with Jesus Christ? If not, what is lacking?

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2. Can you recall a serious challenge or set-back you overcame that strengthened your relationship with God?

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3. As a baptized Christian, what are you currently doing to spread the Good News?

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### Men's Group Calendar

<b>12/19/2015</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>1/9/2016</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>1/23/2016</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>2/13/2016</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>2/27/2016</b>	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
<b>3/12/2016</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>

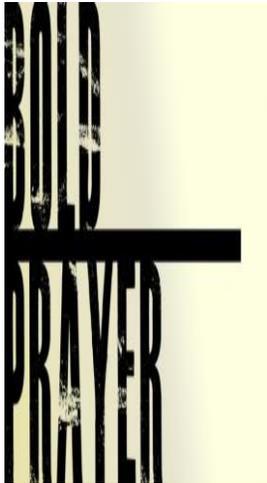


**A Man who never quits  
is Never Defeated.**

Faith is not just an Intellectual Ascend. The Word of God which rests in our hearts must be put into Action.

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. 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**

**✝ Give Samples of Jesus away Daily: Mercy, Kindness, Justice, Joy, Forgiveness, Compassion, Peace ...and most of all Love.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Psalm 51:2



*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.*

*"Go to Holy Communion even when you feel lukewarm, leaving everything in God's hands. The more my sickness debilitates me, the more urgently do I need a doctor."*

Saint Bonaventure



### **ACTION PLAN**

This week I will do my best to listen for 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 Blessing those in my life as God intends.

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.

Practice Forgiveness.

## **A Prayer of Forgiveness – Good Precursor to Christmas Celebrations**

**Merciful God, your living word tells us that you not only forgive our offenses, you forget them. I have a hard time with both. Forgetting past hurts and those who have hurt me is almost impossible. I have never been, nor ever want to be, a person without a memory.**

**But I do want to be able, to forgive those who have hurt me, wronged me, disappointed me, failed me, and even damaged me. I want to forgive them, because I too have hurt many in the course of my life – and I want to be forgiven even as I forgive.**

**Accepting forgiveness and forgiving others go hand in hand.**

**My Lord, I know that forgiveness is a choice, a decision. I may not feel forgiving, yet in and through this prayer, I choose to forgive, especially the following person(s):**

**(Name them.)**

**I may have to pray this prayer over and over. Old attitudes and grudges do not go away easily.**

**Help me too, God to forgive myself for real or imagined failures. Show me how to let go of the past, to stop beating up on myself, so I can eliminate my self-hatred as I grow in self-love.**

**Dear Jesus, let me become a more forgiving person – toward others and my self—so that I may experience healing, peace, and renewal, and be a Blessing to others. Amen.**