

MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY

THE FISH NET

The official Newsletter of

SAINT MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

May-June 2019

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ABOUT US

The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's fellowship is a group where men explore the faith together, help each to grow spiritually, learn from each other, explore what it means to be a catholic man in today's world, and enable men to mature spiritually and live a fuller expression of the catholic faith in the context of other like-minded men. The group meets bi-weekly and sponsors events throughout the year where men share and grow spiritually. The Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Men's Fellowship group is affiliated with the National Fellowship of Catholic Men.



A Mother's Love

It's often said that a mother's love will lead her to do things she once thought impossible to do to protect and take care of her children. In nature a female animal will fight off male predators to save the life of her offspring. There's stories of women who appeared to have super human strength lifting heavy objects to save their children. Who among us hasn't had his mother constantly warn him about situations in life that could be detrimental to his well being? Our Blessed Mother is no different. Over the centuries she has appeared with a message of love and warning. In many apparitions she has professed her love for us. A love so strong that she pleads with her son, our savior Jesus, and the Father, so that we don't experience the wrath of God. Yet, she always asks us to do the simplest of things, pray the rosary daily for peace. She doesn't ask that we pray the rosary to ease the pains in her heart that are like thorns wrapped around her heart caused by the sins and blasphemies of men. She asks us to pray for peace so that we her children can live in peace and be spared the chastisement of the Father. Because of our Blessed Mother's love we have survived world wars, natural disasters, the rise of hate, and hard times. Even today as more people than ever before claim to not have any religious affiliation continues to grow she continues to reach out to us ready to protect us from the evil one and lead us to her son, Jesus. Only a mother's love would endure so much for so long as she prays for her children to come back to the Lord.

What Kind of a Father Would Do Such A Thing?

The Gospel of Luke tells us the story of the prodigal son, (Lk 15:11-32) We often focus on the son who squandered his inheritance then begged for forgiveness and the father forgiving him. Seldom do we consider the father's actions. What kind of father would divide his property to give a share to his son because the son asked for his inheritance? What kind of father would dress his son in the finest clothes, give him jewelry, then throw a big welcome home party for the son after he wasted his inheritance? What kind of father would endure the insults of his oldest son because he throws a party for his younger brother, while assuring the son that everything that the father has is for the son? Most of us fathers today would have told the younger son to get a job and don't ask for an inheritance. Most of us fathers would have welcomed the son without any fanfare. Most of us fathers would ask the older son if he was losing his mind questioning what he does with his money. When reading this scripture many of us fathers ask the question, What kind of father would do such a thing? The answer is simple; our heavenly father. Just as the father in the scripture gave his son what he asked for, felt compassion for him and forgave him when he returned, and lovingly confided to the older son that everything he owns is his, so too does our heavenly father give us what we ask for, forgives our transgressions, and promises us an inheritance as His sons if we follow the teaching and commandments of Jesus. But it doesn't stop there, because as fathers we must emulate our heavenly Father and provide, forgive, and care for our children. We must become such a father. Happy Father's Day!



HAPPY FEELINGS

We're not talking about the Frankie Beverly and Maze 1977 song. We're talking about the feeling you get when you awake and feel God's presence in your life. The feeling that you get when as you open your eyes and feel God right there as you thank Him for another day and submit your entire being to His will. We're talking about the happiness that consumes your soul and you can't wait to retreat to your sacred prayer space and pray. We're talking about joy that inflates your heart to the point that it feels as though it'll burst and fill the world around you with the love of Christ that you feel. We're talking about meeting Jesus and his mother, Mary in prayer and basking in their love for what seems like a few minutes but is actually almost an hour. We're talking about being consumed by that happiness that only God can fill your life with. Let's challenge ourselves to spend more time with the Lord and open our hearts to the love that He has for us. Let's open ourselves up to experience those Happy Feelings and more importantly to live our lives in Christ.





BATTLE STATIONS!

Each branch of the military has a term that whenever personnel hear it they prepare to defend their vessels of positions from an attack. In the Navy its Battle Stations, in the Army and Marines it's man your fighting positions, in the Air Force its scramble aircraft.

At that command everyone has a designated place to go and weapon to fend off the enemy's attack. As men of faith, we must man our positions to battle the enemy. As St. Paul tells us, *"Our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens."* (Eph 6:12) In battling the enemy it's incumbent upon us to have a place that's free of the distractions of today's world; a place where we can meet, talk to, and be in the presence of the Lord. We have to create this space whether within our home or a favorite quiet spot away from home, we need to create space. We need to make our own sacred place that we invite the Holy Trinity and our Blessed Mother into to strengthen, teach, and minister to us as we pray to them to protect us and our families from the powers and principalities that permeate our society. As men of faith, as priests, prophets, and kings through our baptism, and as spiritual leaders of our families it's time for us to man our battle stations and fend off the evil one's attacks.



PRAYER CORNER Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits and blessings which you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Merciful Friend, Brother, and Redeemer, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Saint Richard of Chichester (1198- 1253)

WORD!

When Satan tempted Jesus in the desert challenging Him to turn stones onto bread, Jesus replied that *"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God"*. (Mt 4:4) In rebuking Satan, Jesus was also giving us instructions. For us the word of God brings life. Although we may have heard or read these words of Jesus, we don't often take them to heart. Yet, Jesus, who came to fulfill the prophecies, in essence quoted the scriptures that were handed down to us too. Following the word of God must be important to us as Christians, and men of faith. After all, throughout the Old Testament men were told to adhere to God's word. King David, as he lay near death said to Solomon, *"Take courage and be a man. Keep the mandate of the Lord your God, following His ways and observing His statutes, commands, ordinances, and decrees as they are written in the law of Moses, that you might succeed in whatever you do, wherever you turn"* (1Kgs 2:3-4) The psalmist, tells us, *"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in company with scoffers. Rather, the law of the LORD is his joy; and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted near streams of water that yields its fruit in season; its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers."* (Pslm 1: 1-3) Even before David and the psalmist, as Joshua lead the Israelites into the promise land the Lord instructed him, *"Do not let this book of the law depart from your lips. Recite it by day and by night, that you may carefully observe all that is written in it; then you will attain your goal; then you will succeed"* (Jos 1:8) The word of God has been the key to our life from the very beginning of time. As these three passages tell us, those who meditate on the word of God night and day, and follow all that He commands us will be successful. However, the success that scripture refers to is not the success that modern society extols. Yes, The Lord will provide your needs and your children will strive. But, the true reward of success is not to come in this life, but, in the next when we return home to the Father. Even though He tells us to follow the word in scripture, because of His infinite love for us, we have a choice. To live in the word leads to prosperity and eternal life. To turn away from the word as the psalmist says, leads to ruin. There is only one choice for us men of faith, Word!

CATHOLIC MEN WEBSITES

<https://thosecatholicmen.com/>
<http://catholicfamilymen.com/blog/>
<https://www.romancatholicman.com/>
<http://realmenpravtherosary.org/>

COMING EVENTS

May 3, 2019-Men's Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm- Chapel
 May 8, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
 May 22 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
 June 5, 2019 Meeting; 7:00pm – Center library
 June 7 2019- Men's Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm- Chapel
 June 15, 2019- Men's Prayer Breakfast, 9:00am-Center
 June 19, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
 June 22, 2019- Family Movie Night, 6:30pm- Center