



THE FISH NET
The official Newsletter of
SAINT MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
JULY- AUGUST 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.



CHOSEN

Many of us Christian claim to have made a choice to follow Jesus. But did we choose Him or did He choose us? According to scripture, Jesus says, "It was not you who chose me but I who chose you." Yes because of free will we may have decide to follow Jesus. He chose us but why? Jesus goes on to say "and I appoint you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you" (Jn 15:16). In reality, Jesus chose each us for a purpose; to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. While many may deem this an impossible task, we men of faith accept the call and spend our lives tilling the garden to bear fruit. Jesus gave us everything that we need to bear this fruit. He gave us the beatitudes ; instructions on how to treat our fellow man and His new commandment- to love one another.. When we follow the commandments, live the beatitudes, and love one another we are the living, breathing, images of Jesus that the world needs to see. We become an inspiration for others to follow and pass on to the generations to follow. Thus the fruit will remain. As men of faith not only did we not choose, but we are blessed and proud to be chosen.

THE CATHOLIC BIBLE'S BOOKS		
OLD TESTAMENT	Gn Ex Lv Nm Dt Jos Jc Rt 1Sm 2Sm	
	1Ki 2Ki 1Ch 2Ch Ez Ne Tb Jdt Es 1Mac 2Mac Jb	
	Ps Pr Ec Sl Wis Sir Is Je Lm Ba Ek Dn	
	Hc Jl Am Ob Jh Mi Na Hk Zp Ha Zc Ml	
	INFO "Bible" comes from the greek βιβλία ("The books"). The Catholic Bible contains 73 books: 46 from the Old Testament and 27 from the New Testament.	
	NEW TESTAMENT	Mt Mk Lk Jn Ac
		Ro 1Co 2Co Ga Ep Pp Cl 1Th 2Th 1Ti 2Ti Tl
		Pm Hb Ja 1Pe 2Pe 1Jn 2Jn 3Jn Ju Ro
		KEY
		PENTATEUCH HISTORICAL WISDOM MAJOR PROPHETS MINOR PROPHETS GOSPELS GENEALOGY LETTERS APOCALYPSE
		Symbol NAME Creation
		CatholicLink

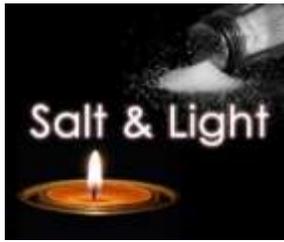
5 Habits of People Who Have a Good Prayer Life

Written By Becky Roach March 14, 2019 <https://catholic-link.org/5-habits-of-people-who-have-a-good-prayer-life/>

- 1. It's a daily priority.** – It certainly requires daily consistency. People who have a good prayer life typically pray at the same time every day and keep to it as they would any other important appointment or meeting. Set an alarm on your phone to remind you when it's time to pray.
- 2. They get help, support, and advice.** – They don't do it alone. They have accountability partners, mentors, and spiritual directors who help keep them on track. They also use books, apps, and other resources to keep learning and growing.
- 3. They read the Bible too.** – Reading the Word of God is an important aspect of daily prayer. When we read the Scriptures regularly, we become better at recognizing the voice of God.
- 4. They keep praying even when it's difficult.** – None of the people we asked described themselves as being "good" at prayer. A common characteristic among them seemed to be that they always felt there was more they could be doing to improve their prayer life. Many reported times of spiritual dryness or not hearing from God. Yet, they never gave up coming to God in prayer. They kept praying even when it was difficult, even when life got busy, even when they didn't feel like it. People who are good at prayer have faith and trust that even when they can't hear God, God hears them.
- 5. They practice gratitude.** They spend a good deal of their prayer time praising and thanking God for all that He has done in their lives.

Summer Time

It's that time of year again! A time of weekend Bar-B-Ques, crawfish boils, and family reunions. It's that time of year for family vacations or maybe a short get away. It's that time of year when we try to make as many memories for our children and squeeze in as much family time with them before the new school year starts. We go all in for family fun! Unfortunately, we sometimes do so at the expense of our faith. We get caught in vacations or day trips to the beach or water park giving little or no thought to attending Mass; after all its summer time. Many times we'll plan on going to a late Mass after we have our fun, but somehow we're exhausted to get there. Other times Mass is an afterthought- we think about it as we go to sleep on a Sunday night and how we'll make it up next week. After all, the family had a good weekend spending time together doing things that the children will remember and cherish for the rest of their lives. Creating memorable experiences for our children is important; it teaches them the value of family and a father's role in providing for the family. But, as fathers, men of faith we must also lead by example in teaching our children how to live the faith. Even during summer we must make attending Mass a priority to instill in our children that we must keep holy the Lord's day and worship Him even when away on vacation. Our children must see us giving thanks and praise to God for blessing the family with those same experiences. Those memories will warm our children's hearts their entire lives and will make wonderful stories for their children. But, teaching them how to live the faith and trust in God will carry them through life's challenges surpassing summer time.



SALT AND LIGHT

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us that we are the salt of the earth and that we are lights set upon the lampstand so that everyone can see our good deeds for the glory of the Father. Some of us see this as a compliment while others see this as a warning and call to action. Jesus warns us that when salt loses its taste it is useless and must be thrown out and trampled on and that a light hidden under a bushel basket serves no purpose. Thus the warning we must nurture and strengthen our faith that we share with others that brings out their faith in God just as salt brings out the flavor in whatever we add it to. We mustn't hide our light under the bushel basket lest it will die out. Instead we must let God's light shine on the good things that we humbly do in service to God's children as the Spirit guides us. Yes we are put here to be the seasoning that brings out the faith in others and the light that shines on the good that God does through us so that we can help our lost or searching brothers and sisters find their way to our Lord.

Put A Little Love In Your Heart

Way back in the day there was a song by Jackie De Shannon that started off with Think of your fellow man, give him a helping hand, put a little love in your heart. Turn on any news cast or view social media today and the first thing to come to mind is why is everyone so angry, why are so many people filled with anger and hate. It's as if society has gone from the Summer of Love 50 years ago to the season of anger, fear and hate 50 years later. Yet in the face of this anger and hate few Christians speak out against the hate and murder. As men of faith speaking out isn't enough for us. We know that as difficult as it is to do, we must do as Jesus commands us, *"to love one another as I loved you, so you also should love one another."* (Jn 13:34) We know that Jesus loves us in spite of our short comings and failings, so to must we love our fellow man. We don't have to agree with his views or condone his actions, or even like his personality, but we must love him. The only way for us to live this command is to open our hearts up to the word of God and the Holy Spirit. We must ground ourselves in the word of God to strength us and defend ourselves against the powers and principalities of this world. We must open our hearts up to the Holy Spirit to fill us with the grace of God's love so that we can love as Jesus loves. For us men of faith failure to love is not an option because to hate our fellow man is to hate the father. After all, scripture tells us that on the sixth day God said *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* (Gn 1:26) At this moment in time, the world is longing for men of faith to lead by example and stop the hate, anger, and fear. Brothers, put a little love in your heart and we can change the world.

PRAYER CORNER

If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon Our Lady. Just say this simple prayer, **"Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now."** I must admit, this prayer has never failed me.



Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Come Together

In 1969 John Lennon wrote a song that the Beatles recorded about people uniting. That song, Come Together, with the hook "Come Together Right Now, Over Me" is a classic that speaks to us today. The hook is also a call to us men of faith. Think about it. We come together to watch the World Series, Super Bowl, Final Four, Stanley Cup, even the Little League World Series. We come together to go to sporting events, play sports, picnic, party, and build things. But how often do we come together to pray, read scripture, and help each other on our spiritual journey? As men, we've been socialized to believe that our problems, emotions, disappointments, tough times, and even our faith are not to be shared. We were told that a man handles everything on his own. The reality is that our problems, emotions, and yes, our faith is meant to be shared with others, especially other men. When we share our faith we not only help other men to become better husbands, sons, and Christians, they help us in return. The Book of Proverbs tells us *"As iron sharpens iron, so man sharpens his fellow man"* (Prv: 27; 17) In other words men are called to help each other to grow and become better men. When we come together as brothers in Christ, we gain new perspectives to our faith, and realize that we are not alone in our doubts, fears, and struggles. We realize that others have experienced the same things and survived and learn from them. We share our doubts and embark on the search for truth together gaining new insights. And yes, we feel the presence of God among us as we pray. After all Jesus told us *"Amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two are three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them."* (Mt 18; 19-20) Because of this passage, Christian men, especially Catholic Christian men, throughout the world have formed prayer groups and fellowships to grow and strengthen in each in faith; and to pray with and for each other. Brothers, Jesus is calling us to be a force in this world through our prayers and the way that we live our faith. Instead of John Lennon singing the words, listen as Jesus calls out to us; "Come together right now, over me!"

COMING EVENTS

- July 3, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
- July 5, 2019 - Men's Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm – Chapel
- July 6, 2019-The Creed-10:00am- Rooms 3-4
- July 13, 2019- The Creed-10:00am- Rooms 3-4
- July 13, 2019 - Family Movie Matinee; 6:30pm – Center
- July 17, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
- July 31, 2019-- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library
- August 2, 2019-Men's Rosary for Peace; 6:00pm- Chapel
- August 3,, 2019- Family Movie Night; 6:30pm - Center
- August 14, 2019-Meeting-7:00pm-Library
- August 28, 2019- Meeting; 7:00pm - Center library