

## Notes on the 2019 Catholic Men's Conference for the parish Spirituality Tab

Note: The entire set of talks can be purchased for \$20 and downloaded at <https://cmfpstore.contentshelf.com/shop>

BISHOP THOMAS J. OLMSTED

The bishop introduced the **Prayer Guide for Families**, the companion guide to his exhortation **Complete My Joy**.

He also commented on the demonic situation where a new abortion law was enacted in New York State. Jesus said, *"Some evils can be driven out only by prayer and fasting."* Please join me in fasting and praying that this law will soon be overturned ... [and] that the hearts of the governor and everyone else who supported this and cheered for it will be converted.

SISTER BETHANY MADONNA

### **Rise Up, O Men of God**

Sister's talk included:

1. Receiving God's Love. Examples: – God's plan according to young Simeon – Peacocks – Taste buds – Fingerprints – Roman law of adoption – How the woman jumper saved the priest at the top of the Golden Gate bridge.
2. Receiving His Mercy. Examples: – Sister singing verses from At the Table on the CD Home by Josh Garrels – Blessed Charles de Foucauld – "This culture is gunning for men" – 12 steps of Alcohol Anonymous – Matt Fradd – Covenant Eyes – Jason and Crystalina Evert – I don't have to put up with this – Confession
3. Giving Your Joy. Examples: – Pro Bikers for Life, We Ride for the Lord – Seeing the crosses in your life as blessings – Wheelchair bound Nick "hanging" on the cross – The real reason for a daughter's conniption fit – The way men love and affirm is different than women – How her dad protected and provided – Dorothy Day – The power of a man's voice speaking to the heart of a vulnerable woman – Dr. Michael J. Brescia – March for Life

She concluded: It's your turn now to say Yes!

TERRY KENNEDY

### **Exodus 90**

Mr. Kennedy described his own journey during the ninety-day spiritual exercise for men. The next program starts on Ash Wednesday – March 6, 2019.

<https://exodus90.com/about/>

FATHER DWIGHT LONGENECKER

### **The Way of the Warrior Priest**

Father expounded on:

- How He Became a Married Priest in the Catholic Church
- The Heresy of Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism
- How Man's Free Will (Choice) Begets Pride, Desire and Power
- How Repentance, Faith and Service Knocks Pride, False Desire and Power on Its Head
- How a Man (God as Jesus) Dying, Saves Us
- "Concelebrating" Mass with the Warrior Priest
- Deciding for Jesus at a Billy Graham Crusade
- What True Masculinity Means

FR. JOHN PARKS

### The Holy Mass

Father explained what a sacrifice and the sacrifice at Mass means.

In addition, several optional sessions were held in the unique auditorium "pods" at Xavier that were not recorded.

- Fr John Parks moderated a presentation by Sean Kelly titled Fighting the Good Fight or How to Do Evangelization. Sean is from St. Paul Street Evangelization, evangelization requires courage, so they go out in pairs. Simple techniques: wear our medals or crosses, pray at restaurant meals. He says the keys to evangelization are:
  1. Listening
  2. Befriending – Be charitable, atheists are in search of truth, labels are not their true story
  3. Proclaiming – Know the 4 main concepts of the Kerygma:
    1. God loves us
    2. Sin destroys us
    3. Jesus restored us
    4. We are invited to holiness – Propose not impose, invite people to Mass
  4. Praying
- Steve Greene presented the Four Questions Every Catholic Should Have Ready for an Atheist:
  1. What causes the universe to exist and stay? (METS – Matter, Energy, Time, Space), "science will figure it out eventually" "random cosmic accidents" (See Romans 1:19-22 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.)
  2. Where does life consciousness and rational intelligence come from? (e.g. the soul, See CCC 366: The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God - it is not "produced" by the parents - and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.)
  3. Do you believe in objective morality? (e.g. the infanticide of severely disabled babies)
  4. Where do universal human rights come from?

Extra credit:

5. What would it take to doubt your atheism? "the stars lining up and saying, I am here"
- The Emcees for the day, Adam Minihan & David Niles, presented the 7 Steps to Forming A Men's Group
  - Panelists Father John Parks, Steve Greene, and Mike Phelan were joined by Bishop Olmsted (from the audience) for a Q&A Panel Discussion session where questions were submitted online.
  - Fr John Parks did the homily at the closing mass presided over by Bishops Olmsted and Nevares. A striking triptych mural hang as a backdrop behind the altar at mass in the gym by artist Ruth Stricklin.

