

St Johns' Faith Sharing Group notes July 15-2025

Michael sent a YouTube video of Fr. Mick Schmitz and his homily on the Good Samaritan. This led to a discussion of why the 3 people who passed by the person in need all react differently. Were the priest and the Levite too busy or in a hurry to get somewhere that they could not stop. And why did the Samaritan, an enemy to the Jews, stop. Fr. Mike gave an example of a study that was done for seminarians who were supposed to give a lecture and were broken into 3 groups. Check out the video here

https://youtu.be/nTgDnhi6ysk?si=2kfIOcJVZ_V2UKt6

As part of the video, Fr. Mike suggest that we Make a list of "*I know I need to ...*", and we decided that we would each write a list of our own. It can be a spiritual to do, like saying the rosary, going to confession ..., material to do as I need to complete a project I started... or a neighborly to do like call a relative, visit a sick friend, help someone I know who is asking for assistance... We will share our list at the next meeting.

Michael shared with us a book/movie based on the true story of nine Cistercian monks from the Monastery of Tibhirine in Algeria. In the mid-1990s, during the Algerian Civil War, they lived in a monastery alongside a Muslim community. The monks' peaceful existence was threatened by Islamic fundamentalist groups, forcing them to confront difficult choices about whether to stay or leave. Sounds like a movie/book we could read in the future.

We talked about The "Camino" (Spanish for "The Way") in Spain most commonly refers to the Camino de Santiago, a network of pilgrimage routes leading to the shrine of St. James in Santiago de Compostela. These routes, collectively known as the Way of St. James. There are also Camino ways in the US. I have a handout for the group.

Getting back into our book on the Apostles Creed, we discussed the difference between the legal code of the torah versus the Christian theological laws/words of God.

Our next meeting will be August 5 at 5:30 pm in the church hall. We will continue reading from Bishop Barron's book "What Christians Believe, Understanding the Nicene Creed" pgs. 68-79. (NOTE: this gets us halfway through the book!!!!)

We also agreed to rename the group "St. Johns Faith Sharing Group".

Blessings and once again, thanks for the deep thoughts and discussions our group is having.
Norbert

PS: as a reminder, St. Johns will host a coffee and doughnut social on Sunday, August 3rd, after the 11a.m. Mass in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity to gather, to chat, enjoy treats, and meet other parishioners we don't usually get to associate with.