Spiritual Development: Conquering the Crisis of Faith

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Introductions

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What are we talking about?

• Tools for success in spiritual aspects for
  • Yourself
  • Your Council
  • Your Campus

Spiritual Development

• We live in a world today that is trying to “cut out” the existence of God.
• Today is a crisis of culture and a crisis of Christianity and we need to act now!
The Crisis of Faith

• Avoiding “Spiritual desert.”

• *How can we do this?*

How can we tackle the Crisis of Faith?

• Personal Prayer

• Communal Prayer
Personal Prayer

• Setting the time aside for you and God.
• Through activities such as:
  • Daily Prayer
  • Rosary
  • Sacraments
  • Reading

Daily Prayer

• All Catholics are called to have a relationship with God.
• Building that relationship with Him
  • How?
Rosary

- Rosary is essential in every person's spiritual growth.
- How do we fit it in our everyday lives?

Sacraments

- Eucharist
  - Daily/Weekly Mass
  - Adoration

- Confession
  - Frequently (monthly)
Reading

- Spiritual Reading
- Lives of the Saints

Resources

- Prayer Apps:
  - iBreviary, Pure Faith ($0.99), Saint of the Day, Examen Prayer, Laudate
Communal Prayer
• Councils that pray together stay together
• How?
  • Holy Hours
  • Programs
  • Scripture

Holy Hours
• Gather together in Adoration
  • Frequency?
  • How?
Programs

• Marian Visitation Program
  • University of Mary Council 16402, Bismarck, ND

• Marian Procession
  • Mount St. Mary’s University

• Programs for Liturgical Seasons

Working with the Chaplain

• Chaplains are a great spiritual resource for a council.
  • Invite your chaplain to attend and lead prayer at meetings.
  • Request their spiritual guidance to the council.
• Explore learning new prayers at meeting
• Grand Knight should meet with the Chaplain Monthly
“Ignorance of Scripture is Ignorance of Christ”

- St. Jerome

Lectio Divina

• There are four stages when a group prays Lectio Divina

1. LECTIO- “Reading”

2. MEDITATIO- “Meditation”

3. ORATIO- “Prayer”

4. CONTEMPLATIO- “Contemplation”
Lectio Divina

- Find a passage
- Read it aloud twice

Lectio Divina

- Share aloud one word or phrase that caught your eye
- Read the passage again but this time by another person
- Silence
Lectio Divina

- Share aloud “I hear/see…”
- Third person reads the same passage
- Silence
- Final reflection

Lectio Divina

- Share aloud at more length
- Break into communal prayer
Council Bible Study

- Reasons for a Bible Study
  - God’s word is a living resource
  - Form bonds in a comfortable setting
- There are a wide variety of options for materials
- Sunday Readings
- Chronologically Through a Single Book
- Catholic Literature

Council Bible Study Tips

Working with Existing Bible Studies
- If run by staff, recruit them
- Ask them to help group knights together
- Utilize their training materials

Logistics
- Should occur once a week
- Multiple groups allow more people to attend
- A leader should be appointed for the study
“Open wide the doors to Christ…”

- Allow Christ to penetrate your being and grow
- Willingness to build an even greater foundation for your faith

Faith is fundamental to our human existence and we enact it our everyday

- Integration of faith
- Be courageous! Be bold! Be Catholic!
Augustinian Spirituality

“Pray as if everything depended on God.”

We must educate ourselves…

“Pour forth a ray of your brightness into the darken places of our minds”
(Thomas Aquinas, Prayer for Students)
Resources

- Are you carrying your rosary?
- Have you read “These Men we call Knights”?
- Are you subscribed to The Catholic Gentleman?
- Bishop Robert Barron Daily Gospel Reflections
- Into the Breach

Remember...

- Avoid the “Spiritual Desert”
- Personal Prayer
- Communal Prayer
- Everyday Lives
- Opening our hearts to Christ
- Faith
- Depending upon God
- Resources
QUESTIONS???