



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

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It's A Simple "YES"

By Brendan McVicker

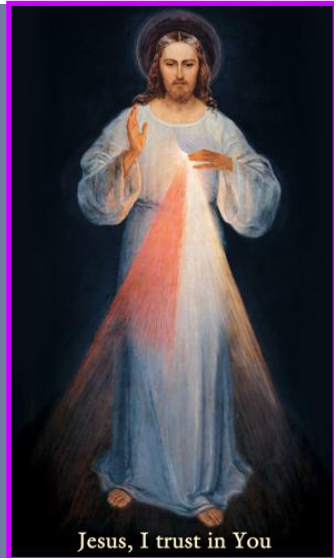
Dad's Confirmation Letter... (used with permission 5/31/2018)

Dear Brigitta,

First off....congratulations on the gift of your Confirmation and all the graces that come to you from it. I am so proud of all that you do, all your accomplishments and so many wonderful exciting experiences are immediately ahead in your future. You really make your mom and myself very proud. You really are a great example for so many. We often hear so many good comments....and we say, "is that our child??"....just kidding.

The next eight years will be very exciting for you as you finish high school and into the college years. Soon the great big real world will be at your door. Be strong Brigitta in everything....protect your values, protect your faith and you will have a blast. You have an electric, inviting personality that draws people to you. It is a wonderful gift God has given you. You will meet a lot of wonderful people with genuine good hearts and you will build life long friends and relationships.

(continued on page 4)



Corpus Christi

"God added, You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me always."

Ex 25:30

"This is My Body."

Matt 26:26

Day of Renewal

By: Mike Allison

The 6th Annual Men's Day of Faith Renewal was held at St. Mel Parish in Fair Oaks, CA on April 14, 2018. The theme was "The Eternal Treasures of the Catholic Faith".

The Lord blessed this day calling nearly 200 men to join for a Rosary, Holy Mass, confessions heard by five priests, fellowship as brothers in Christ and of course the famous catered BBQ pulled pork lunch.

The guest speaker this year was Dr. Allen Hunt, Co-partner of Dynamic Catholic with Mathew Kelly. Allen gave three grace filled talks to the men entitled:

The Meal

The Man

The Mission



Before his conversion to Catholicism, Allen was the Senior Pastor at Mount Pisgah, an evangelical Methodist congregation serving more than 15,000 persons each week through all of its ministries.



On January 6, 2008, on the Feast of the Epiphany, Allen converted to Catholicism. This transition represented the culmination of a fifteen-year journey in which God began leading Allen home to the Church. The seed was planted when a group of Dominican sisters at Our Lady of Grace in North Guilford, Connecticut, challenged Allen to look more closely at the truth of the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Allen later became convicted in this truth as he studied the great Doctor of the Church, St. Thomas Aquinas. Thomas was, and still is considered one of the greatest minds and theologians of all time, yet he was left

speechless and dumfounded when once celebrating the Mass, at the moment of consecration, Thomas had the realization that all of his writings and teachings were, but straw, as compared to the mysterious reality of Jesus truly present in The Holy Eucharist.

(continued on page 3)

Day of Renewal ... (continued from Page 2)

We are the people of the Eucharist.

In his talk entitled *The Meal*, Allen shared a story about when he was in his second-grade classroom in North Carolina sitting next to his best friend, Jimbo. A messenger from the principal's office came into the classroom and said Allen was needed in the principal's office. He went down the hall and walked into the office where his mom was waiting for him and said she was signing him out for the day. She had a little coat and tie for him to put on and said he was to get in the back seat of the car with his older brother. His dad then proceeded to drive the family for over an hour to the home of his grandparents.



Allen's dad led the boys by the hand into the back bedroom where his grandfather lay. Only now about 130 pounds or so and very weak from his 3-year battle with cancer.



The boys were alone with their grandpa. As he lay on his bed he said to the boys, "I wanna tell you something and I want you to write it down." Allen and his brother replied, "yes sir".

Their grandfather again said, "what I'm going to tell you, I want you to write down". They again replied, "yes sir".

Allen told us the words his grandfather spoke were the last words his grandfather ever said to him. And, yes, Allen wrote the words down...

"Always remember who you are."

Allen said he carries that little piece of paper in his bible and brings it with him everywhere he goes to speak. *"Always remember who you are"*.

And the answer to who we are brothers is...
We are the people of the Eucharist.

Always remember who you are.



It's a Simple "Yes"

...(continued from Page 1)

There is so much to see and do. Unfortunately some people will come long with not so great intensions. Pray daily that you have God's help to recognize the good and the bad. Not everything will go your way. You will have ups and downs, some tears and some broken hearts and meet a lot of frogs that don't turn into a princes. A note from Dad...Never settle for the frog! Stay joyful and strong and know that you are loved by a very large family. The sky is the limit for you. Have fun and work hard. You will do fantastic things.

Please always have room for Mary and Jesus in your heart. Their love and protection is the greatest gift of all in our lives. And now comes Confirmation.....I know sometimes all the sessions, the retreats, dedicating the time sometimes frustrates in preparation for Confirmation. A unique benefit of being Catholic is having the sacraments; it is truly a gift, but of all the sacraments I think Confirmation is probably one of the most misunderstood. Believe it or not but as I was flying to Chicago for business a couple weeks back (a secret about your Dad, is that I pray a lot when I fly. The more I fly, the more I pray...I realized a plane is just a machine), I asked the Lord how can I make it clear and simple. How can I tell Brigitta very simply what Confirmation is? Confirmation is such a mis-understood sacrament. Many think they are confirming their faith as a Catholic to God, but we don't confirm anything, He is confirms us, not the other way around. My heart knows it, but can I communicate this often misunderstood sacrament? Well, His help came.....When Fr. Anthony poured water on your forehead and made the sign of the cross on your forehead in Baptism, he said I claim you for Christ. Finished! Done! You belong to Christ. "I do claim you! I created you! You are mine! Confirmation is God now calling you to recognize that He has claimed you as His and that you are called to "WITNESS". He gives you His protection because He now gives you the strength, the grace to do so through the Sacrament of Confirmation". Wow...It is that simple.

One thing as we grow older that we need to understand is that our Spirituality and Faith is not something that just happens on its own. It is like the rope climb at school; you can get up, but it will take effort. Our faith is an exercise. Jesus tells us this also. The Lord will test us at times to help us grow stronger in faith, hope and love. Brigitta, just ask Jesus to guide and help you daily and open yourself to receive that help through your Confirmation. It is a simple "yes". Nothing more so don't think you have to say a thousand Rosaries a day or something like that. Many people scoff or laugh about it at times because they don't understand but it truly is a simple "yes" and then open your heart. Confirmation completes your Baptism. The confirmed receive the "seal" of the Holy Spirit. A seal means ready for a purpose. Our total belonging to Christ, our enrollment as His "WITNESS", that He has claimed us as His, as well as, the promise of divine protection in trial. He protects us in so many ways that we do not even know.

You may not feel the Holy Spirit touch you the second the Bishop touches you, or have a tongue of fire over your head. But I can promise you that if you invite the Holy Spirit daily, He will give you strength and protection in your life and for your family. I truly believe it, and He has done great things for me. He will do great things for you.

Otherwise the power of the Holy Spirit sits un-utilized because the Holy Spirit never forces anything. It is only by your "yes".

So Brigitta, I love you, I pray for you daily, I encourage you. Use all the wonderful gifts you have because you have many. Great things are a head for you in all phases of your life. Love life, have fun and hold on for the ride! Mom and I are truly blest to have you as our daughter.

Love You Much,

Dad



Saints Corner

St. Peter—June 29

Peter, the first pope, was a fisherman from Galilee. Jesus invited him to follow him, saying: "I will make you a fisher of men." Peter was a simple, hard-working man. He was generous, honest and very attached to Jesus. This great apostle's name was Simon, but Jesus changed it to Peter, which means "rock." "You are Peter," Jesus said, "and on this rock I will build my Church." Peter was the chief or prince of the apostles.

When Jesus was arrested, Peter became afraid. It was then that he committed the sin of denying Our Lord three times. Fear for his safety got the best of him. But Peter repented totally. He wept over his denials for the rest of his life. Jesus forgave Peter. After his resurrection he asked Peter three times: "Do you love me?" "Lord," Peter answered, "you know all things. You know that I love you." Jesus truly did know! Peter was so right. Jesus said kindly: "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep." He was telling Peter to take care of his Church because he would be ascending into heaven. Jesus left Peter as the leader of his followers.

Peter eventually went to Rome to live. Rome was the center of the whole Roman Empire. Peter converted many nonbelievers there. When the fierce persecution of Christians began, they begged Peter to leave Rome and save himself. It is said that he actually started out. On the road he met Jesus. Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "I am coming to be crucified a second time." Then St. Peter turned around and went back. He realized that this vision meant that he was to suffer and die for Jesus. Soon after, he was taken prisoner and condemned to death. Because he was not a Roman citizen, he, like Jesus, could be crucified. This time he did not deny the Lord. This time he was ready to die for him. Peter asked to be crucified with his head downward since he was not worthy to suffer as Jesus had. The Roman soldiers did not find this unusual because slaves were crucified in the same manner.

St. Peter was martyred on Vatican Hill. It was around the year 67. Emperor Constantine built a large church over that sacred location in the fourth century. Recent archaeological findings confirm these facts.

Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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Fraternity Sacramento Men ...

Meet every third Wednesday of the month.

We meet at Denny's in Orangevale at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Mike Allison with any questions at email address...

(meallison5@gmail.com) or

Text 916-834-6226



CARRY YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR HEART - A CALL TO HOLINESS

A husband/father's guide to his vocation and spiritual direction. Each Newsletter focuses on one of the Guidelines or Areas of Growth from the "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" book. These guidelines to our Fatherhood Vocation & Spiritual Formation have been formatted based on the Fatherhood Retreat Guideline Teachings & under Spiritual Direction of Fr. Santan Pinto, S.O.L.T.

PILGRIM

Remember that you are on a journey - a journey to search for eternal happiness. The path to heaven is very narrow, steep and far less traveled.

Why not choose a large wide gate, a clear open road and a lot of people to keep you company along the way. Why wouldn't I want my journey to follow such a path? We will think 'why not such a path' until we take hold of the plow that Jesus ask us to hold firmly with both hands and don't look back. The main point of taking the narrow path on our journey is that we are putting God first in our lives; that we spend our lives on God's will for us. It is hard at times, but God puts His light of hope into our hearts. Hope of a great reward that cannot be found by going on any other path.

We are far from alone on this narrow path. Slowly you will become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit seep slowly into your heart much like a soft mist upon the grass. When this happens along your journey you are open to the true and only path. You die to the world; to self. Peter knew this when He said in John 6:68, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life". The Holy Spirit guides us and the prayers of the entire church, angels and saints are with us. The Holy Spirit is your guide on the narrow path. If we are not led by the Holy Spirit, by what are we lead?

The path to heaven is not easy. The "world" constantly urges us by advertising, television to "take care of ourselves" by putting me first. Jesus tells us quite the contrary. Take up your cross daily and lose your life for His sake.

"Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you." John 6:27

Grandfathers

Psalm 92:14

They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green,

God knows every tear and every sorrow of His children, and He longs to fill in the gaps that earthly fathers may have failed to fill.

A Father's Legacy

"The father of one who is right with God will have much joy. He who has a wise son will be glad in him." Proverbs 23:24, NLV



POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.



St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.



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To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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