

Elk River: Over 40 Catholic Men of FAITH



A diverse group of men came together at St. Andrew's Catholic Parish in Elk River on November 26 to examine their Catholic Faith at the Ecclesia Domestica Men's Retreat.



Beginning the day in devotion to Our Lady, early arrivers prayed the Rosary in the main Church before joining in spontaneous adoration of our Lord in the Tabernacle.

With Nic Davidson leading the way, the men learned about Pope St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body in their first talk of the day.

Deacon Craig Korver followed up with a passionate discussion of Catholic faith, and what it has meant in his life. Kerry Haugh, a farrier from Wells, MN described the importance of fellowship in our faith. Haugh used of the strength of a rope, versus the weaknesses of individual fibers that are easily broken. We have real strength through the body of Christ, our Church. Kevin Dockendorf, a small business owner from Cold Spring, ardently argued the scriptural case that there is a way back from trouble and despair.



Following each presentation, in small groups, the men examined the issues raised and shared their own situations.

Fine dining was evident! The men were served by a festive kitchen staff who served Pastor's Lasagna for lunch. It was topped off with a dose of wisdom during a lunchtime welcome from Pastor Mark Innocenti of St. Andrews.

Late in the afternoon, the men prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, and then celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Fr. Jerry Mischke presiding.

With a burning call to action, Ecclesia Domestica ('Church in the Home') leader Kevin Olson urged that all Catholic men tap into the heavenly power available through our magnificent Catholic Church. Loyal to its magisterial authority, we have available to us the abundant graces of God, through the work of Jesus Christ. To a rousing round of applause, Olson urged that we wrap ourselves in the mantle of our Blessed Lady, and step out in Catholic faith in our families, parishes, workplaces and communities. The day wrapped up with powerful prayer ministry filled with the Holy Spirit.



In a note the following day, one participant had this to say: "For me after the retreat my heart is just overflowing. I can hardly contain it. After this retreat I feel a little scared and yet excited about what the Holy Spirit is telling me and where He's leading me. In faith I will keep on following HIM." Well said!