

42 Men: Called to Follow Him!



Over 40 men arrived on Saturday, August 13 at 8:00 a.m. for a men's retreat themed "Catholic Men: Called to Follow Him". Held on the verdant grounds of St. James Parish, rural Underwood, it was led by the men of Ecclesia Domestica, under the guidance of local pastor Fr. LeRoy Schik and Fr. Jerry Mischke (retired).



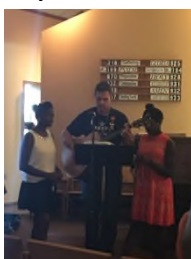
The men were on fire for our Lord and Savior by the end of the Large Group talks, Small Group sessions, panel discussions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in song, confessions, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

After Rosary in the sanctuary led by the neighboring Men of Mary in Battle Lake, the group heard an engaging and spirited presentation about the meaning of being a man, based on the creation story in Genesis, and the responsibilities of men discussed in Ephesians. This keynote talk was presented by Nic Davidson of St. Cloud, a convert to the faith and former Assemblies of God missionary in Haiti.



In front of St. Joseph and Our Lady, Kevin Olson of the Ecclesia Domestica team gave a passionate call to manly holiness. Latin for "Church in the Home", Kevin's group is fervent in calling men to stand up in leadership, faith and modeling the spiritual tools available through and provided by our Holy Mother Church.

Talks by Ecclesia's Dan Mead of Avon, Jesse Morgan of Zimmerman, and Kevin Dockendorf of Cold Spring rounded out the large group presentations. Interspersed were directed but informal small group sessions where men had the chance to react to the talks. Deacon Craig Stich was the luncheon speaker, and a panel of men's prayer group representatives discussed their experiences regarding men in prayer at other parishes.



The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass followed late in the afternoon. Following Mass, St. James Parish provided another excellent meal, which was followed by prayer ministry in the early evening. As a follow up to this retreat, a group of local parishioners are planning to meet August 27 to start a local men's prayer group at St. James Church.



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