

## Day of Reflection:

# Ecclesia Domestica Retreat St. Alexius/Our Lady of the Angels/St. Paul's Parishes

Oh, what a blessed day! About 55 men showed up on Saturday, February 4 at Sauk Centre to hear about and discuss the theme of DEFENDING OUR FAMILIES. Kicked off by Adoration and First Saturday Mass at Our Lady of the Angels, the presentations that



followed were led by men from Ecclesia Domestica ([www.ecclesiadomestica.net](http://www.ecclesiadomestica.net)), or 'Church in the Home'. Under guidance from Heaven, it was hosted by local pastor Fr. Greg Paffel and attended by Ecclesia Domestica chaplain Fr. Jerry Mischke (here photo-bombed by Ecclesia's Jesse Morgan).



Jesse gave a passionate defense of his personal Marian devotion, urging us forward for daily devotion to Our Lady through the Rosary.

Earlier, the men heard from Tim Drake, a Lutheran convert, author, former senior reporter for the National Catholic Register, and EWTN staffer. In well-received talks, Ecclesia's Kerry Haugh and Kevin Dockendorf provided their testimonies regarding the importance of fellowship in the faith journey, and where to find strength in times of trouble.



Informal small group discussions provided the chance for the men to explore what they had heard. Ecclesia men Dan Mead and Deacon Craig Korver led two of these groups: "What was said in small group is private, but it was clear these men are seeking out our God in new ways," noted Mead.



Over lunch, Fr. Paffel exhorted all to demonstrate the qualities of King David: a king and leader, a prayerful man, a scandalous sinner but come to repentance, one with respect for the authority of kingdom before him, and a man of honor and bravery. Good qualities for men today!

Ecclesia Domestica leader Kevin Olson wrapped up the retreat with a passionate call for Catholic men to stand up in the faith, to be the husbands, fathers, and church lay leaders that God expects of us. We have such power and grace from God through Holy Mother Church.

Following Mass for Sunday and another tasty meal (thank you, ladies of St. Paul's!) the evening closed with a powerful prayer ministry and altar call. Men are truly equipped to lead our 'Church in the Home'!

