

Saint Mary Youth Ministry In-Service February 2010 – Session #6

Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man

Often when we hear stories about the wealthy in the Bible, we think of them as being the “bad guys.” Responsibility goes along with being wealthy. Bill Gates is an example of someone very wealthy who spends his money responsibly by helping others financially. The tragic earthquake in Haiti has been devastating for millions of people; however God’s people come together to help. Look at the numbers of people who have donated money, time and their skills to those in need following the earthquake.

The Question is: “Where is your Heart in everyday life?” It’s not that we don’t make mistakes...we strive to live, love and serve others as Jesus.

Luke 17:5-6

As infants, the beginning of our Faith occurs in Baptism. As we grow into teenagers, we encounter questions and doubt. Doubting is not wrong...but you must seek answers to your questions. Sometimes as a parent, we can feel threatened when our teen expresses doubt. We can simply and calmly respond, “I’ll pray that your Faith grows.”

Luke 18:1-8

This judge was crooked and did not care about the people. Put Jesus into the role of the judge. People came to him from all over with requests for healing and help. He was completely just. When we pray, we often expect that God will answer our prayer the way we want it to be answered. When natural disasters happen, people look to blame God...instead, a natural disaster is not in God’s control. Maybe you didn’t get what you wanted, but now you understand that God had a different plan than your plan.

Today’s youth are used to immediate responses with the internet, texting, phone calls.... Praying and waiting for an answer is extremely challenging. God knows what is good for us. Youth will not grow in the Faith if they don’t stay close to God who accepts them as they are and loves them unconditionally...just the same as parents love their children. Actually, God loves us more than even our own parents. Keep the calm and hope reminding them that they are totally loved.

Liturgy

There are lots we can give up during Lent like soda or candy...but at this age it’s important to go deeper. Focus on just one sin that you commit over and over again. Ask God’s help to not commit that sin. We receive light from the Holy Spirit. Just say, “With your help...help me to get over ____.”

If you don’t go to Mass regularly, begin during Lent and make that your priority. You love God and God loves you...God is within you in a special way through receiving the Eucharist.

Reconciliation

What’s the difference between just talking directly with God and confessing your sins to your pastor? What will your pastor think about you and your sinful act? A pastor during confessions is thinking, “Thank you for telling me and being honest.” Why do we have the priest? It’s easy just to talk with God. We need someone human to talk to face-to-face...like Jesus was to so many. He loved his people unconditionally.

Morality

Place yourself at the foot of the Cross. The Crucifix is not only a symbol of Jesus' suffering, but his love for us. Be conscious of the immoralities of the world. Again we can look at the volunteers going to Haiti...you probably cannot go there, but you can pray for them or help in other ways.

Additional Notes: Be sure to read about the Apologetix coming to Edgerton. This is a great faith group or friend or family opportunity. More details will follow.

Schedule for February 14 Session at St. Mary

5:30 p.m. Youth Mass (Sophomores are Liturgical ministers)

6:15 p.m. Pizza & Panel
Representatives from the Madison diocese will join us for a panel discussion on vocations. The panel will include a priest, sister, deacon and lay person. They will share their about their vocations and answer questions.

7:15ish Break into faith groups. HS faith groups will meet in designated rooms.

Please let me know feedback from the youth and yourself regarding this presentation.