

Real Catholic Men Newsletter

December 1, 2009

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Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word."

Luke 1:38

RCM Radio Show a Reality

As you receive this December newsletter, 7 episodes of *Real Catholic Men* are "in the can." The series premieres January 11th and will air on KBVM (88.3 FM) Wednesdays and Fridays at 4:15 PM (right before *Fire on the Earth* with Peter Herbeck – how's that for a sweet spot!).

I appreciate any constructive feedback you may provide – the truth is fine, as long as it's presented in love! The show will continue to evolve and find its "voice" over time.

Send your thoughts and suggestions to:

David@RealCatholicMen.com

Advent – The Start of the REAL New Year!

The candy had barely been poured out of my kids' Halloween bags before the Christmas decorations were going up in department stores and malls across the country. Forget waiting until "Black Friday" – which is *still* too early. Thank God we Catholics can keep seasons straight!

The new liturgical year began Sunday, November 29th. I know that, because my 4 ½ year-old daughter has an Advent calendar from pre-school, and she was VERY adamant about putting that first little paper flame on the first purple candle as soon as possible.

We all know that the consumers' "starting gun" has been fired, and that we are expected to mindlessly flock to the nearest Target to get "the best deals in town." But our faith tells us that this is a season for waiting -- yes, waiting – a season of preparation and reflection. Whereas Lent may be a more "well known" time of preparation, for Our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, preparing during Advent is just as important.

Our faith is a faith of waiting. The Old Testament is a history of waiting and preparing for the Messiah. The New Testament is a story of waiting for the King of Kings (the earthly ruler the people expected, even though The Savior was *in their midst!*) and then waiting for the Risen Lord to come again.

In today's ATM/give-it-to-me-NOW world, waiting is frowned upon, even mocked. "Your internet connection only goes *how fast?* Loser!" But we know (or do we?) that it is *only through waiting and preparation* that we will make ourselves ready to receive the gift of the Son of God in the manger.

So in this Advent season, I ask you to quiet yourself. Read Scripture daily. Meditate in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Prepare yourselves. Because Jesus arrives in a Nativity near you December 25th. The question is: Will you be ready to receive Him?

New Book by RCM (and You!) in the Works

In 2010, Real Catholic Ministries begins soliciting testimonies and reflections from men around the country that will be compiled into a new book called: ***Journey 365: A Year-Long Guide to Spiritual Growth For Catholic Men, by Catholic Men.*** Each day will contain a Scripture passage selected by a man of faith, with a reflection on what that passage means to him and how it has made him a better Catholic man. Entries can be submitted via mail or through the Real Catholic Men website beginning 1/1/2010. RCM has already talked with a publisher who is very interested, and we're praying that the testimonies will come flooding in. Thank you in advance for your prayers and participation in this endeavor.

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Talking About Advent on "In Person" with Dina Marie December 7th

I am pleased to announce that I will once again be a guest on KBVM's "In Person" program with Dina Marie on December 7th at 8:05 AM. We will be talking about St. Joseph, the Catholic journey of Advent and the upcoming Real Catholic Men radio program.

KBVM (the country's first lay-owned Catholic radio station) has been incredibly supportive of Real Catholic Ministries and all its endeavors. As a matter of fact, the day after my appearance, KBVM will be celebrating its 20th birthday!

I've said this before during the times I help out with their Sharathon, but it bears repeating: These people truly love their listeners. They love them so much that they give you real "Soul Food" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please support their ministry when and where you can ... including listening to "In Person," weekdays at 8:05 AM.

Men On A Mission Wants You!



I have recently been handed the reins of the men's group at St. Matthew parish in Hillsboro, Oregon. On a good night, the former "Men at the Table" managed maybe 3-5 men. I am hoping that this new group, deemed "Men on a Mission," will be the bridge between the annual men's conferences that many men have been asking for. This new group will meet one Saturday morning a month beginning in January (exact date and time TBD). This gathering will be offered to all men on the Westside of Portland, including (but not limited to) Tigard, Beaverton, Aloha, Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Cornelius and North Plains, and will be reading Fr. Larry Richards' new book, *Be A Man*. Cost for materials is \$10. I'm reading the book right now and I can't tell you how many powerful passages I have already underlined. You'll love it.

If you live on the Westside, please let me know if you would like to be a part of this group. I will be submitting announcements for the parish bulletins in the area, but consider this a personal invitation from me.

I am also hoping to establish a similar group on the Eastside of Portland and into Vancouver in early 2010.

Thank you for all your prayers of support. Please know that I pray for all of you each day. We are ALL indeed Men on a Mission.

New Website: Vocation Boom!

Ex-Catholic Answers: Live! host and current KBVM Sharathon Emcee, Jerry Usher, has launched a new website to support the vocation and mission of the priesthood. www.VocationBoom.com is a tremendous resource for those discerning a call to the priesthood, or just wondering what the religious life is all about.

Please check out the site if you have the time. It is (obviously) a great cause, and Jerry has done so much to spread the truth about the Catholic faith. I'm sure your support would be greatly appreciated.

Important Dates in December

December 3 rd	Feast: St. Francis Xavier
December 8 th	Immaculate Conception Holy Day!
December 12 th	Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 14 th	Feast: St. John of the Cross
December 25 th	Nativity of the Lord CHRISTMAS
December 28 th	Feast of the Holy Innocents