

Real Catholic Men Newsletter

February 1, 2010

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*Seek first the Kingdom
of God and His
righteousness, and all
these things will be
given to you besides.*

Matthew 6: 33

Can We Top This???

On Saturday, January 30th, 1,200 men attended a Christian men's conference at New Hope Community Church. That's awesome! But think about this: only 200 men attended the RCM conference last year. What's holding us back as Catholic men?

I would love to have to look for a bigger venue. I would love 1,000 men to hear what it means to be a Real Catholic Man. What do you think? Can we do it? I am challenging each of you to personally invite as many men as you can. Maybe we can make it into *the Oregonian* as well.

Check out the online version of the Christian men's conference story: www.oregonlive.com/living/index.ssf/2010/01/hundreds_of_christian_men_gath.html

RCM on the Road – And Back At Home!

As I write this, I have just returned from the Southern Oregon Men's Retreat held at St. Rita's in Gold Hill. This was the second time since 2008 that I've had the pleasure of being a part of this gathering. What a grace-filled time! I feel so fortunate to be able to share my love of Christ with people who begin as strangers but quickly become brothers.

This year's theme was "True Discipleship," as we reflected on Matthew 16: 24-26. It was a time of deep reflection as we contemplated and discussed what we are willing to do to be a disciple of Christ. Personal Adoration time was a highlight for many, and meals with the guys was thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward for many more retreats with these men – both as a speaker, and as an attendee.

At the end of this month, I will hit the road again. This time I'll head to Pendleton, Oregon for the 2nd Annual "Go West Catholic Men Conference." It'll be great to take in the event as a participant/spectator and see how someone else does it. Believe me, I'll be taking lots of notes. For more info about this event, log on to www.gowestcatholicmen.com.

Back here in the Portland area, men are already registering for the RCM retreat in April. This weekend is going to be amazing; I am so looking forward to it! I've got a lot of work to do, and that will be my focus over the next couple of months. Don't miss this great chance to deepen your relationship with our Lord. Details can be found here: www.realcatholicmen.com/main/page_events.html

And finally, registrations for the **3rd Annual Real Catholic Men Conference** will be accepted beginning on March 1st. Those who register before April 15th (tax day!) will get \$5 off **each** paid admission. If you are a returning attendee, and bring someone who has never been to the conference, your name will go into a drawing for a fabulous prize. How's that for incentive?

Real Catholic Ministries' First Women's Event

What do you do when you want to celebrate life? You throw a party, of course! Real Catholic Ministries presents the 1st Annual **Women's Tea for Life**, a fundraiser for area pro-life groups. The event, slated for Saturday, April 17th in the St. Cecilia Parish Center from noon to 2, features yummy food, live music, fabulous prizes, fellowship, and fun. It's enough to almost make you wish you were a woman. *Almost*. Tell the lovely lady in your life to mark her calendar for this fun event, or better yet, buy a ticket for her and a girlfriend to go as your Valentine's Day gift. Only 50 event tickets will be sold, so go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ylgdk37> for more information and get your registration in today. Call Heather with any questions: 503-640-3456.

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Great Turnout For January Meeting

The first Men on a Mission meeting was held on January 9th at St. Matthew parish in Hillsboro. More than 20 men attended from all over the Portland area and SW Washington. I bought way too many donuts, but that's okay – I love donuts!

We began by sharing why we were there and what we hoped to get out of the group. While stories differed, there was one common thread: we all wanted to improve our relationship with Christ!

The other thing that I was pleasantly surprised at was that more than a few people said they wanted to meet even **more** often. So, in order to fulfill that request, I am looking into starting a men's Bible study. If there are men asking for it, and if God wants it, I'll make it happen. Dates and times are to be determined,

For those of you who missed the first meeting, it's not too late to join! Our next meeting will be **Saturday, February 13th**. We will begin by attending 8:15 AM Mass at St. Matthew, and then we will go across the street and discuss the first chapter of Father Larry Richards' new book, *Be A Man*. I have these books available for just \$10. If you want to come this month, but have not yet purchased a book, I will have copies available. I can also mail one to you so you can be "up to speed" when we meet.

It is wonderful to share our faith with other men who are on the same journey we are. We are called to be in communion with each other – not to go it alone. Please take advantage of this group – or others like it if there is one in your parish.

If there are any questions, you can call me at: 503-640-3456. I hope to see you there!

Radio Show Now On RCM Site

If you have been unable to listen to the new RCM radio show due to your work schedule or other reasons, the first three episodes are now available for download on the Real Catholic Men website "Media" page.

My goal is to post the episodes some time during the weekend after they air. New episodes can be heard on 88.3 PM KBVM in Portland, Salem and Vancouver, WA, or on www.KBVM.fm every Wednesday afternoon at 4:15 PM, with encore presentations on Friday afternoons at 4:15 PM.

If you're already a listener, your feedback is greatly appreciated and humbly accepted. God bless you!

Important Dates in February

February 2 nd	The Presentation of the Lord
February 14 th	St. Valentine's Day
February 17 th	Ash Wednesday
February 22 nd	Feast: Chair of St. Peter
February 23 rd	Feast: St. Polycarp

Remember!

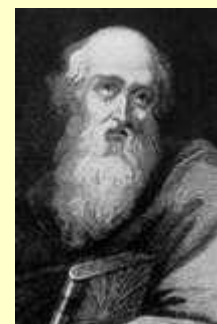
Catholics are to abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent in addition to abstaining and fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Have a blessed Lenten Season!



St. Valentine



St. Peter



St. Polycarp