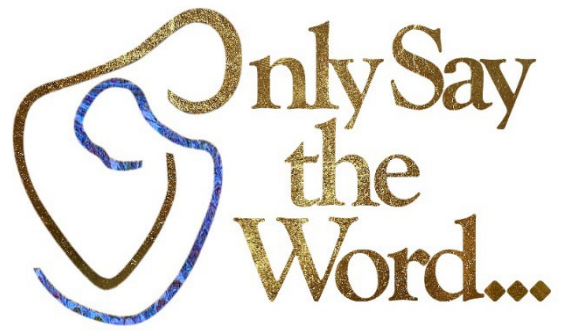


Presentation Notes

2023-2024 Themed Retreat



Friday Evening Prayer – Liza Peters

Matthew 8:5 – 13

- “Only say the word, and my servant shall be healed.”
- The centurion sought out Jesus to ask for a healing miracle for his servant.
- Jesus was so impressed by the man’s faith, and he healed the man’s servant.
- We all have suffered hurts and injuries, both in mind and body, and we are in need of healing.
- Our world is crying out in pain and is in need of healing.
- How can we allow ourselves to begin healing this weekend and be a healer in our community and in the world.

Recommended Book: *Finding Sanctuary: How the Wild Work of Peace Restored the Heart of a Sandy Hook Mother* by Jennifer Hubbard

Saturday Morning Prayer – Fr. Terry Kristofak

Philippians 4:4 - 8

- Only say the Word – God’s saving power is present in our lives today.
- We have all experienced a great loss – how do we deal with it?
- You and I share in God’s WORD.
- We can make a difference in our family.
- How we say things is often as important as what we say.

Recommended Books: *Healing After Loss* by Martha Hickman and *The Art of Listening in a Healing Way* by James Miller

Saturday Morning Conference – Noel Terranova

- God speaks the world into being in the act of creation
- The Word that God speaks in the act of creation is the eternal Logos
- The Logos is a divine and human person, Jesus Christ
- Jacob shows us that being wounded and blessed are inseparable facets of our human condition
- The centurion receives the healing he asks for because of his faith, but that is not always the case for us
- If we do not receive the healing we pray for, in the way we expect, it is not because we don’t have faith.
- The mystery of human suffering is bound up in the mystery of God’s creation
- Job accepts this mystery, especially when God reminds him that God created all things
- Jesus himself asks God to remove the suffering set before him, but also desires that God’s will be done.
- The cross and resurrection show us that God has a universal will to heal all things and draw them back to God’s self

Recommended Books: *Healing Prayers for Everyday* (edited volume) and *Job and the Mystery of Suffering* by Richard Rohr

Reconciliation – Deb Brown-Norko

John 8:1 – 11 “The Woman Caught in Adultery” (aka The Woman Caught in Mercy)

- Reconciliation is considered a healing sacrament of the Church. In participating in the sacrament, we heal our broken relationship with God; heal our broken hearts; and become healed from the burden of guilt and remorse.
- Forgiveness is a process of healing. When we forgive others, we are healed of the resentment and pain from which we suffer. But how do we forgive?
- ***“Forgiveness means giving up all hope of a better past.”***

Saturday Evening Mass – Sr. Maryann Cantlon, CSJ

Jeremiah 17:7 – 8, 14 – 16; Luke 1:26 – 28

- The deep trust of Mary in God allowed her to accept the Word of the angel and the Word within her.
- Even though Mary had complete trust in God, that did not prevent her from deliberating with the angel and asking a question.
- This story of the Annunciation is a sign to us that our faith will be challenged and will always go beyond our understanding.

Saturday Evening Conference – Deb Brown-Norko

Eucharist: a healing sacrament

- The definition of sacrament: **Through the things of this world, we encounter God.** In the Eucharist, we encounter God through the bread and wine.
- The manner in which we celebrate the Eucharist has changed drastically over the millennia, beginning with the House Church.
- The changes created by the Second Vatican Council was a nod toward those humble beginnings: all those who are participating are the celebrants of the liturgy as they are seated around the Eucharistic table and eat the bread together and drink from the common cup.
- Doctors of the Church have recognized the healing power of the Eucharist: through forgiveness of sins; as medicine for the physical body; as a source of spiritual gifts; and as nourishment for the journey.
- The Second Vatican Council recognizes that “those that are justified by faith in baptism are incorporated in Christ and are accepted as sisters and brothers in the Lord by the Catholic Church.” The laity are encouraged by the Council to take an active role in ecumenism. Is it possible for the Eucharist to be a healing agent in the reconciliation between churches?
- **Healing is turning toward wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.** The Eucharist is one means of attaining that wholeness.
- Pope Francis: The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine for the weak.

Recommended Books: *Forgiveness* by Paula Huston, *Awakening at Lourdes* by Christy Wilkens and *You Are the Beloved* by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Sunday Morning Conference – Sr. Maryann Cantlon, CSJ

- The words of each one of us have power: to encourage, to heal or to hurt and destroy.
- The simplest act of reaching out can mark you as an evangelist (the little girl in 2 Kings 5).
- As Thea would say: “You do not have to do great things. Just be content to do your little bit. If everyone did that, we would change the world.”

Recommended Books: *Wounded Shepherd* by Austin Ivereigh and *In My Own Words* by Thea Bowman