
PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for the Ann Arbor Catholic Men's Movement

March 2016



Men of Faith, linked as brothers, growing as husbands, fathers and disciples of Jesus Christ

Pouring New Wine into New Wineskins

*By Maurice Blumberg
from Catholic Exchange*

People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved (Matthew 9:17).

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As we approach Holy Week and Easter, let's reflect on what are the primary goals of all our Lenten disciplines – whether it is increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving or giving up things we enjoy. Jesus didn't become man and die on the cross just so that he could improve an old product. He didn't give us his new wine so that we could try to pour it into the "old wineskins" of our lives before him. He came to earth—and he acts in our lives today—to transform us, to pour his new wine into the "new wineskins" of the life he wants us to start living. **In other words, Jesus didn't die on the Cross just to make us better people. He came to make us holy. He came to make us new creations in him (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

Through our Lenten practices, it is wonderful to see the Lord change some area of our lives because we have become better men or because some situation in our lives has improved and is not so troublesome. These aspects of change are a beautiful part of God's work. But God doesn't just want to improve situations for us. He wants to transform us into the Catholic men of God he created us to be. This means that he wants us to learn how to think as he thinks, how to love what he loves and hate what he hates, and how to act as he would act in this world. **As St. Paul wrote: "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2).**

Because of sin, we know that our minds are fallen, and our

ability to think in godly ways is hindered. But the marvelous truth is that God can renew and restore our minds. In fact, this is one of the most important missions of the Holy Spirit. It is his job to help us put on the mind of Christ, so that we can take up the new life that Jesus so deeply wants to pour into us.

So take some extra time between now and Easter to evaluate the way you think. Are there attitudes, prejudices, and predispositions that are still holding you back? Also take some extra time to pray and tell the Lord that you want to be made new so that his life can fill you. And tell the Lord that you want the new wine of his Holy Spirit to be poured into the new wineskins of your life.

"Lord you died on the Cross for my sins, so that I can live a totally new life of faith in you. Come, Holy Spirit, and transform me into a worthy vessel. I want to be a new wineskin. I want to receive the new wine of your Spirit that you so desire to pour into my life. I want to be that new creation you called me to be."

Get Inspired! Bring a Friend!

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Speaker: Al Kresta

President and CEO of Ave Maria Radio, Host of *Kresta in the Afternoon* heard on more than 250 stations, Catholic broadcaster, journalist and author of 4 books, Former Protestant pastor now returned to the Catholic Church, Graduate of Michigan State with work at Sacred Heart Seminary, Married to Sally and Father of 5 children

**Topic: "Don't Be
Conformed to This World"**



Meeting Location:

Christ the King Catholic Church

For more information call (734) 930-4524 or visit our web site at www.catholic-men.org

Our Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3rd at

Christ the King Catholic Church 7:30 - 9:30 PM

US 23 to Exit 41 at Plymouth Road, go **East** 1/3 mile to first traffic light at Earhart Rd and turn **left**. Go to next intersection and turn **left**. Turn left at the second driveway. The meeting is in the Church.

Who Formed the Face You Are Showing to the World?

By FATHER FRANK E. JINDRA
from Catholic Exchange

Think! Think! Think!

By MARK SHEA AND JEFF CAVINS
from Catholic Exchange

I have always liked the phrase from Isaiah we have today: "I have set my face like flint" (50:7).

For the first part of my life it seemed like I was so much of an underdog. This verse gave me a great deal of courage, knowing that God was seeing me through and I could dare to set my face against those who would choose to fight me. And I did face some fights, as most young boys do.

After high school, I entered the Army at a time when Vietnam was listed as a very dirty word. This taught me a new way to set my face like flint.

Then, when I went off to seminary, where there was yet another change in the face I had to make. Does this sound familiar to many people?

So many times we put on masks to try to hide ourselves from others, or from ourselves, or even from God. Jesus used no mask in His life.

Indeed, He set His face like flint in a way that no one else ever had, or ever could. And He has passed that ability on to each one of us. When we look at all the masks we place in front of the world, how do we really compare to the One whose face was set like flint?

I don't imagine my life was that unique in comparison to other people. We have all set a face of some sort before the world. I think the question Isaiah would ask us is: who formed the face you are showing to the world? Is it a face that is designed to protect you? Or is it a face designed to reveal God to the world?

"Your attitude must be that of Christ's..." (Phil 2:4).
Read the entire hymn Paul quotes here.

Through all the messes of this life, there's only one face we really need: the face of Christ even if it means enduring some of what He did.

As we approach the days of His Passion, turn your face to His. Allow the Father to conform you to Him. **Set your masks aside. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind"** (Rom 12:2).

Then you will discover what it means to be set like flint. Who knows what sparks may fly to start the fire of the Spirit flowing again in our world? Our masks, our faces cannot do it. Only the face of Jesus can and we are His face today.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Winnie the Pooh says at the point of great decisions, "**Think, Think, Think.**" Stop for a moment today and think, what is the will of God for you? What obligations do you have? Are you married? If so, the will of God for you is to love your spouse and reflect before the world the love relationship between Christ and the Church. Are you a young person? Don't be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Begin to read the Scriptures on a daily basis and get the mind of Christ.



Mark Your Calendars Now for April 2016!

The next Catholic Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 7, 2016 in Christ the King Catholic Church. We plan to have a priest available for Confessions starting at 7:00 pm and the Mass will begin at 7:30 pm. Refreshments and fellowship will follow and our speaker will begin his talk at about 8:15.

Christ the King is located on Ave Maria Drive in Ann Arbor Township at the south end of the Domino Farms office park. All men and their older sons are welcome at the men's night.

We gladly stand with Promise Keepers and St. Joseph Covenant Keepers.

**To get on our mailing list e-mail cmmdesk@gmail.com
or write to the Ann Arbor Catholic Men's Movement, P.O. Box 466, Ann Arbor, MI 48106**