



NEWS ARCHIVE:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Editor: Kiply Lukan Yaworski, Communications
Phone: 306-242-1500; Toll Free: 1-877-661-5005
communications@saskatoonrcdiocese.com

Called to Single Life - Vocations retreat May 28, 2011 in Saskatoon followed up in fall by establishment of ongoing group

The diocesan Vocations Office hosted a daylong retreat May 28 for those living out the single vocation. Thirteen participants took part in this day of reflection, prayer, discussion and fun held at Queen's House in Saskatoon.

Some who attended were living out the call to single life by choice, while others embraced this call that circumstance had given them.

Those attending came from many diverse backgrounds and discernment histories: for example, participants ranged in age from 22 years to their seventies. Widows, widowers, single mothers and young people living out committed single life were among those who journeyed together for the day, discovering unity and fellowship within the single state of life regardless of what brought them to this path.

The retreat day, which began in prayer and ended in Mass, featured a rich collection of talks delivered through a lens of lived experience and an extensive understanding of the baptismal call to live out a life rooted in vocation.

Speaker Donna Kristian began the retreat by sharing the rich history and necessity of the single life within the Church, including God's call to all of us through the prophets of those we encounter in our daily lives inviting us to deeper holiness and meaning. Kristian stressed trust in God, and the importance of praying always and living out a life where discernment never ceases.



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Keynote speaker Jeremy Rude of Ottawa led the group through three powerful sessions. Through reflection, and personal examples Rude challenged people “not to stay at the cross,” saying that “we cannot become trapped in the circumstances of our lives.” Rather we need to walk forward in assurance that God calls us off the cross into relationship and trust.

Rude said that living a meaningful single life can take planning, sacrifice and stretching beyond the shame this culture places on the calling of single life as one of service to others. “Imagine where the Church would be without single people,” he challenged.

“Single people have a unique calling and responsibility to serve the people of God that no one else can do as well”, expressed Rude. He reflected in depth on the challenges of the single life, yet stressed that as often as we ask where God is, we must remember that “we are a people of the impossible”.

“Participants spoke highly of the day” in evaluations, said Myron Rogal, diocesan coordinator of Vocations. A common theme that came across was that “being single is not a default, but a calling,” he said.

“The Diocesan Vocations Commission chose to renew its focus in the fall of 2010 and out of that came a strong commitment to partake in active ministry toward the call to single life,” reported Rogal. As the need for this ministry continues, group gatherings are now planned on a bi-weekly basis.

Called to the Single Life Gatherings now take place twice a month and are open to all adult single Christians who sense a call from God to live out the single life in a life-giving, unselfish fashion in order to better serve the people of God, he said.

This commitment to single life can be temporary or for life.

Gatherings are not limited to any age group or circumstances as to why one is single, rather gatherings present the single life as a gift, recognizing that no matter why one is single, to grow in relationship with Christ is enhanced by sharing the companionship of other single Christians. The group’s primary reason for being is not support, said Rogal. Rather its existence is to live out a spirit of celebration of the single calling, while living everyday life and building one another up in Christ Jesus.

The format of each gathering includes opening prayer, welcome and introductions, one hour of discussion on a topic that is not directly related to single life, and one hour of a planned social outing. The first such gathering took place Sept. 20 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. **Future meetings will be held Tuesday, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22 and Dec. 13 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Saskatoon.**

For more information contact Myron Rogal at the Diocesan Vocations office: 242-1500, or toll free: 1-877-661-5005, vocations@saskatoonrcdiocese.com or join the group on Facebook.