



Hamilton Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Day of Spirituality

Saturday, November 26, 2011

St. Anthony Daniel Parish, Kitchener

What started out very slow turned out to be a wonderful event. With over 100 attending for the day, everyone was enriched listening to the speakers.

In the morning Father Rico Passero spoke on the 'Journey to His Call'. Growing up Sister Consellata told him he would be a priest to which he denied this. He wanted to be Donald Trump but on a visit to Ground Zero with the World Youth Day Cross he felt his calling. Father Rico studied in New York and asked to go to Attica to speak to the men who committed crimes. He also spoke of John Luca, a young boy in his parish, who came to Mass one Sunday with a Captain America and Wolverine action figures. When Father Rico told him they were around when he was a young boy but he never had one little Johnny showed up the following week with a package for Father Rico with the action figures inside, a tremendous gift.

Father Rico went on and spoke on 'Poverty of the Spirit' reminding us that we need to put our spiritual glasses on. We need to have fun and read scripture. The Holy Spirit is the author of the scriptures. We should relate to Mary and Joseph and make the scriptures come alive. He also advised us to read books and commentaries on the scriptures to help us better understand.

Three important points Father Rico made were: 1) God loves you for who you are; 2) Recognize how God is moving you in your ordinary life; and 3) God is crazy. Look at who he chose. He loves second chances. Church is meant to be fun. It is God's house. Have fun and show reverence.

Following a wonderful lunch Father Ted Hughes spoke on 'Poverty of the Spirit'. Father Ted is a chaplain at the penitentiary in Kingston. He told us that in prison you have to find Christ who is already there. He asked us to think of people in the bible who changed spiritually. We came up with Zacchaeus, Paul, Martha, Peter, Judas, the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment and the good thief, who Jesus promised "this day you will be with me in paradise".

He then showed us a DVD on the richness of God about prisoners released from prison. There is a Circle of Support and Accountability Group available to show the newly released they are not alone. There are others who care for them and that he is loved. The main objective is to stop the cycle. It is easier to offend if no one is accountable. They do it because they want no more victims. Remember, you know not when the time will come when you can bring richness in someone's life of God's forgiveness. Father Ted closed with showing us slides of miracles. Alone we can't turn rocks into bread.

What an incredible experience for all of us present.

Ana Sousa, Spiritual Development Chairperson