“God is a Relational God”: A Summary from the July Seminar with Fr. Eduardo

God is a relational God. God is love and we must know that God loves us personally. Adam and Eve had an intimate relationship with God. God knew them—He truly knew them. He walked with them, He talked with them and He desires this relationship with us. How do we get there? God takes the initiative. God chooses us. We are His special possession. We must respond with humility and we must surrender our wills. “Let it be done to me according to Your Will”, not mine. Ask the Blessed Mother for this Grace.

Jesus says, “Leave yourself in My Hands I will use you as seems best to Me.” I will take you when I need you You are mine. All I ask is that you love Me and console Me.”

On Day 2, Fr. Eduardo talked about Elijah, St. Josefa Menendez, and St. Faustina. Each of these saints struggled with depression and desolation. After defeating Baal and his prophets, Elijah had to flee for his life. He went into the wilderness and wished he would die because “it was too much”. God sent an angel to encourage him. Elijah continued on and after complaining to the Lord, he was able to surrender to God’s will and heard God’s Voice in the quiet whisper. The Lord appeared to St. Josefa and asked her, “Will you at least do My Will?” St. Josefa as filled with such fear and apprehension. She couldn’t give her “yes.” The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Josefa and asked her not to reject Her Son. The Lord spoke to St. Josefa and asked her, “What is to fear in My Hands? Never doubt the Goodness of My Heart.” St. Faustina, too, was filled with many doubts. The Lord invited her to rest on His Chest. All three of these saints suffered but when they surrendered to God’s Will, He gave them the strength they needed to continue. God does not spare any of His followers suffering but He invites us to rest our heads on His bosom. We will find no help, no comfort anywhere else. The other thing they had in common was that they never gave up. We, too, we are called to pick up our cross daily and follow the Lord.

On Day 3, the theme was to die to ourselves and remain faithful in the hard times of life. Father used the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead to remind us that we must believe in what Jesus says is possible. Jesus asks us, “Do you believe in My Promises? Do you believe that I AM the God of Miracles?” God still hears our prayers. Even when we are brought to despair like in Martha’s case, He is still in control. Keep on believing! He’s a Good, Good Father!

TESTIMONY OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS IN PROPHECY, HEALING, AND MIRACLES

Not Just Another Minnesota Fish Story by Tom Osten, Rochester, MN

This incredible story of prophecy, confirmation, and God’s faithfulness began during a special time of prayer over Ann (of WI), a 36 year-old mother of four who has terminal pancreatic cancer. While we prayed, my wife, Angie (Osten) received an image of fish swimming and Ann mentioned she felt cleansed in the waters off Two Harbors (MN).

Angie and I had recently been to Two Harbors and wondered if we might have actually saw their family swimming that day! Also, before we left the prayer time, I had said to Ann cheerfully, “We will meet again soon in a very
unexpected fashion. (The prayer time happened in early June.)

In July, my wife Angie and I enjoyed a 10-day vacation that took us over 1500 miles through the Upper Peninsula and down to Grand Rapids, MI, and back. We decided to spend some time in Champion, WI to visit the Our Lady of Good Help Shrine. After many hours driving, we were pleased to have found an AmericInn Hotel to land for the night.

As we pulled in, another car pulled in maybe 20 feet from our car. I got out and smiled at two young girls that just got out of their car. Then the mother got out. IT WAS ANN! I couldn't help but announce with a big smile on my face. “I told you this was going to happen!!!” I said, “Our God is sooooo gooood!” You cannot imagine the joy Angie and I felt. It turns out Ann had come to the Shrine for a Healing Service that happens on the last Saturday of every month. As they were not planning on spending another night but changed plans to allow their kids to have more swimming time. As we were leaving the hotel, we said goodbye to Ann’s family.

We went on to the Shrine that morning for Sunday Mass. We sat near the front. Just before Mass began, I turned to see who was sitting behind us. It was Ann and her family AGAIN! I was surprised there were spots left as the church was full. (Mass was in the big auditorium building for social distancing.) Ann shrugged with a smile and said, “This is where the ushers put us!”

There is a bit more to the story, but I wanted to write this to encourage you in God’s faithfulness and to keep praying for Ann and her family. God would not have put us within 20 feet of each other TWICE unless He has a special plan and wanted to get all our attention.

In the past several years, the CCRO has hosted conferences teaching about healing and praying for others. Many of YOU are stepping out in that call. At the Fall Conference, we will again be inspired to grow in this powerful charismatic gift and in all of the other gifts that we have been given. Encourage others to join you at the conference as we experience “New Growth in the Holy Spirit” since we have been rooted in the Lord because of our baptism. Please be praying for this event.

INTRODUCING FALL CONFERENCE SPEAKER, FATHER BRIAN GROSS

On Fr. Brian Gross’s second day in Watford City, (ND) he drove from his church to the Outlaws Bar & Grill downtown. It was late on a Friday afternoon in June 2012, and the place was thronging with roughnecks and geologists, engineers and construction hands, the whole range of men who had headed to a corner of North Dakota for the fracking boom. Fr. Gross took a moment in the parking lot just to count the license plates; he lost track after 32 states. The next afternoon, the young priest drove to the local country club, which was sort of a grand name for another bar and grill. Fr. Gross noticed a barmaid noticing him, her eyes widening at this stranger in a clerical collar.

“I’d like a Budweiser,” he said. “And I’d like you to show me where the Catholics are.” He was asking a question that was both wry and profound, for Fr. Brian had just taken the first pulpit of his priestly career in what had to be one of the most challenging settings in America for propounding and sustaining faith.

Plumes of dust rose from the newly cut roads as eighteen-wheelers roared along them. Watford City, North Dakota, was in the process of doubling its population from 1,400 to nearly 3,000 within a decade.

The scene inside and outside Outlaws, meanwhile, hinted at another aspect of the boom. With a 20-to-1 ratio of men to women, with pockets full from good-paying jobs, the frackers of Watford City were not exactly strangers to indulgence. Outlaws represented the legitimate end of consumption, as sophisticated a nightspot as Watford City had, but the spectrum ran all the way to prostitution, pornography, and crystal meth. “You see what it is, and I understand that I’m only one person. There’s a desire, certainly, to help people foster a relationship with God, and to help them understand that relationship is the beginning of the ordered life that people want. From the religious perspective,” he continued, “I’ve kind of broken it down to different groups There’s the single guy in his 20s who’s eyeball-deep in student loans and wants a bit of adventure. There are guys in their 40s and 50s away from their families. They want to be good guys, but they’re constantly tempted. The alcohol, drugs. What’s their relationship with their wife like? They feel like the cards are stacked against them, and they’re so in need of affirmation. There are Mexicans who come here, maybe legal, maybe not. They might show up in the middle of winter without a coat or a place to stay. And from their culture, they’re looking at you as the representative of Christ.”

This particular representative had never envisioned such a role for himself. Brian Gross grew up in Bismarck the son of a nurse and an audio technician at a local college. He attended public school—the future priest’s high school mascot was, of all things, a demon—the reflexively attended church on Sunday with the conviction that it “doesn’t affect your life that much.” Through most of his college years at NDSU in Fargo, he fell out of even that desultory churchgoing habit, watching “The Simpsons” on TV while
Fall Conference—On site / On line

October 24 8:30-4:00

Fr. Mathias Thelen,
Encounter Ministries
and special guest,
Fr. Brian Gross, Diocese
of Bismarck, ND

On Site, Limited Seating at
All Saints Catholic Church in Lakeville, MN
and On Line * Prices vary

Praise & Worship will be led by Teresa Peterson (teresapetersonmusic.com)

.Name(S): ________________________________
Email: ______________________ Phone(S): ______________________
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The virtual conference link & instructions will be emailed to you closer to the event.

Day includes: Mass, Speakers, Lunch, praise & worship, prayer ministry, shop books and materials.

Check payable: CCRO Mail check to: CCRO; 4714 Central Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN 55421 Call if questions: 763-571-5314

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

(Fr. Gross cont’d from Page 2)

His roommate went to Sunday-night Mass. Yet some remnant of belief nagged at him. He started to say a private prayer once a week, “God, how are You doing? God, do You exist? God, here I am.” At the age of 23, he went to confession for the first time in 15 years. Walking out of the church that day, he asked himself, “Am I going to be Catholic or not?” The answers came with surprisingly rapidity—giving up drinking for Lent, meeting the priest at the Newman Center, going to a live-in weekend at a seminary, hearing the call.

“I want to help people realize that a relationship with Christ isn’t some ethereal, pie-in-the-sky, nuns-with-crossed-hands, cute thing. When it’s 10 degrees out and the wind is howling, Jesus is a man who gets what you do,” said Fr. Gross.

Father Brian Gross is the pastor at Epiphany Catholic Church in Watford City, ND. The rest of the art article is a must-read! Published by the Univ. of Mary (Feb. 10, 2016) 360 Review, Energy & Tech. https://news.umary.edu/rigs-steeple/
NEXT Workshop
Intro to the Malines Documents
Presented by Sister Mary Anne Schaenzer
Monday, August 17
7–8:30 PM
On Zoom—Free—See website for link.
What are they? They are foundational documents written to give the Charismatic Renewal a guide to follow. Pope Frances comments, “In the Malines Documents, you have a guide, a reliable path to keep you from going astray.”

www.nsc-chariscenter.org/malines-documents/

Praise & Worship * Presentation * Questions/ Discussion
No need to register. Call the office with any questions.763-571-5314 ccro-msp.org


August 5, 12, 19, 26 (Wednesdays) ZOOM PRAYER GROUP (BREATH OF GOD), Begins at 7 pm (CST). Praise & Worship, Scripture sharing. Following the prayer group, prayer for healing is available. Questions and to get the Zoom link, email Josh at jjj3279@aol.com.

August 11 (Tuesday) PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT, St. Peter’s Prayer Group. Zoom meeting 7-8:30 pm. Call Peter 651-353-4311.

August 17 (Monday) CCRO WORKSHOP, Zoom link will be listed ccro-msp.org on Friday, 8/14. Topic: Malines Documents. No charge.

YouTube - RENEWAL MINISTRIES, Teachings from Peter Herbeck, Ralph Martin and more. www.youtube.com/renewalministriesrm.