

Companions on the Journey

October 27, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

The vast majority of Catholics have never been on a retreat or gone for a retreat weekend experience. Those who have done so are listed in a few small percentages. Most Catholics have never chosen to go away and be still and pray awhile. I do not know the reasons. I can make my educated guesses but what difference would that make?

I know what a retreat does for me. It calms me down. It helps me catch up on my sleep. It gives me time to observe people and to learn about people and most especially to learn about and encounter God. Saint Anthony's is hosting a Saturday afternoon retreat next weekend. It begins at 1 and runs until about 5PM. The priest who is giving the conferences is Father Timothy Danaher, OP. He is a young Dominican priest. That is the community founded by Saint Dominic. They are known as the Order of Preachers. I am guessing you would look forward to a well preached sermon from a young priest full of the Holy Spirit.

There will be opportunities for confessions too, I will be hearing and we'll see if we can get Father Canavan to come too. Mostly though the retreat is a time to be with Our Lord and to lay before Him yourself, your life, your family, your concerns, your anxieties. The retreat gives you time "to be still and know that I am God."

Yes there is a lot going on right now. Our country is mired in divisive tactics and one person attacking another verbally. Our Church has let us down on several fronts and needs to be made new again. We have to ask our God to help us find a way out of this morass and a new reason to hope. The Lord doesn't need a lot of time to make his breakthroughs in our lives. He does need us to give him some time. He also needs us to open our hearts to Him, to open our soul to Him. What hurts? What is in need to a healing touch? Where have you gotten off the right path? How can you get back on the right path again?

Most Catholics have never gone on a retreat. "Father that just isn't something I do." Well, maybe it's time to change what you don't do and dare to step out in faith. I promise you. It will be a good thing. As Jesus said to his disciples way back, "Come and see."

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry