

PARTNERS NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter for the Ann Arbor Catholic Men's Movement

September 2017



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

Will You Be Ready When the Future Comes?

By Monsignor Dennis Clark, PH.D.
from Catholic Exchange

There was a mother mouse who was scurrying across the kitchen floor with her brood of six little mice in tow. All of a sudden she came eyeball-to-eyeball with a very large and very mean-looking cat. Mother mouse was terrified! But she pulled herself up to full height, squared her shoulders, and roared at the top of her lungs, "Bow Wow!"

The cat nearly jumped out of his skin, and in the blink of an eye was scrambling up a tree two blocks away. Meanwhile, mother mouse gathered her little ones around her and explained, "Now, my dears, you see what I've always told you about the importance of learning a second language!"

Sooner or later we all come face to face with our own version of that monster cat — face to face with an event or circumstance that tells us that our world and life as we have known it has come to an end. The ugly possibilities are endless: an irreversible illness, death of a spouse or child, rejection by our loved ones, abandonment by our friends, total loss of our fortune, utter failure in our life's work, the final triumph of all our enemies.

That's just the short list, but the possibilities are endless and we've all had a taste of them. We all know what the Gospel means when it talks about the sun being darkened and the stars falling out of the sky. We know!

So it's of more than passing interest to discover how we are to survive when, inevitably, those moments do come. The Gospel gives us the key: "When all these things happen," it says, "you will see the Son of Man

coming with great power and glory." That means that when our personal world falls apart and the bottom drops out of our lives, we'll be able to see past the ugliness and see through the pain to the ultimate reality of things — which is: despite all appearances, God is still in charge, still cares, still has the power to make all things right, and still intends to do just that, in His own good time!

Now what is it that enables us to see all that so clearly when disaster has struck so hard? Faith! Only faith! Not some eleventh-hour grasping at straws, but a deeply-ingrained habit of the heart that we've built a piece at a time over many years.

So what have our hearts been saying all these years? I hope something like this, "Lord, I know from living that You love me even more than I love myself. So, Lord, I entrust myself to You, and no

Get Inspired! Bring a Friend! **Thursday, September 21, 2017**

Speaker: Bishop Boyea
Fifth Bishop of Lansing, Michigan

Topic: Town Hall Style Talk
"Are We Living in the 11th Hour?"

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, September 21st 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.

Will You Be Ready When the Future Comes? (continued)

matter what comes, I won't be afraid." If that is what our hearts have been saying — if that is the habit of our hearts — we have nothing to fear from the future because we're ready for it on the inside.

God never promised to insulate us from pain or sadness. But He does guarantee that, whatever comes, we will not be destroyed so long as we stay connected to Him. Whatever comes, He will see us through and we will, in the end, prevail, so long as we stay connected to Him.

So now is the time to speak our word of faith deeply from the heart. Now is the time to entrust our whole selves to Him and never, ever look back.

And when at last the lights grow dim and our world fades away, we shall see Him coming in power and glory! We shall see Him face to face!

Want to be a better dad? Do THIS...

Article from fathers.com

What's the biblical foundation for a Christian household?

The third chapter of Colossians contains some pointed direction for Christian families: "Wives, submit to your husbands ... Husbands, love your wives ... Children, obey your parents." We'd encourage you to read and meditate on that entire chapter and see how God might be speaking to you.

Of course, here at *National Center of Fathering* we often talk about Colossians 3:21: "Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged." We share ways for fathers to avoid embittering their children. That includes positive strategies such as listening, respecting privacy, loving their mother, and tucking in. And we track fathering habits to avoid, including losing your cool, yelling at referees, and breaking promises.

But there's one more strategy right there in Colossians 3 that we must not overlook.

Backing up just a few verses in that chapter, here's what Paul wrote in verse 16: "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

Is it going too far to connect that thought to the other statements about how to behave as a husband, a wife, a child, and a father? We don't think so. This concept actually sets up the foundation for how to establish an authentic Christian household. Dad, if we want to do better at being the loving, consistent, encouraging fathers we are called to be, the critical first step is to get in the Word and let it dwell richly in us.

Reading God's Word is the primary way we can discern his will for our lives—and for our fathering. Don't you think that's important enough to devote your time and energy toward learning, studying, and even memorizing the Scriptures?

We hear from dads facing a variety of challenges, and we try to provide them with insights and practical ideas. But looking at this passage from Colossians, maybe there's one answer that faithful fathers need to try first and keep doing over and over. That's right—*get in the Word*. Let it be a lamp for your feet and a light on your path (Psalm 119:105).

So any time you ask yourself, *How am I doing as a father?* the next question should be, *How's my daily quiet time going?* We've seen over and over how those two thoughts are surely connected.

Mark Your Calendars Now for October 2017!

The next meeting of the Ann Arbor Catholic Men's Movement will be on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 7:30 pm In Christ the King Catholic Church. The meeting will start with Mass and is followed by a time for fellowship and refreshments. After that we will return to the Church for a talk by our speaker.

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**