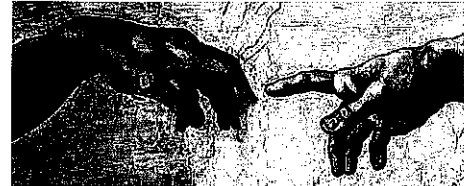


THE DESIRE FOR GOD

One of my favorite lines in the Catechism says: *"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for"* (27).



I think if we are honest with ourselves, we will recognize the truth of our desire for God and our need to know He loves us. Perhaps the next two parts of the statement surprise us: that God never ceases to draw us to Him, and that we will only find what we are searching for when we seek and turn our hearts toward Him. Any relationship takes time and effort, spending time together, learning about the other, and learning to trust. So it is with our relationship with God. If we are going to get to know God better, we need to spend some time getting to know Him. If we are going to grow in our faith, we need to find activities that help foster that.

Below is a list of suggestions for how you might spend some time with God and topics of faith in ways you might not have thought of. You can do these with your sponsor or parent, or with a friend, or alone. **Choose at least one of the following. Indicate on the back which activity you decided upon and write a brief response.**

- ❖ Attend a Parish faith-based event (outside of Mass), such as the Stations of the Cross, the monthly Speaker Series, a Healing Mass (First Fridays at 7 pm), or another spiritual event that lasts at least an hour (check the bulletin).
- ❖ Adoration is a quiet time of prayer with just you and Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Go to Adoration for a total of an hour. This does not have to be all at once, but can be several times, adding up to 60 minutes total. If you have never gone, perhaps the first time you go, you may only want to spend 5 or 10 minutes. Maybe after a while, you find more time becomes more comfortable, and even needed. Nativity has Adoration on Wednesday nights 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon - 5 p.m. St. Gregory the Great on Maple Rd. in Williamsville has Adoration in a side chapel 24/7.
- ❖ Go on "Formed.org" which is like Netflix for Catholics. Create an account (Parish code KEKDRY) and browse around the content under the "study," "watch," "listen," and "read" tabs. Choose any one or more presentations (must add up to at least 60 minutes total). That is, one movie or presentation may suffice, where if you choose a documentary or "hot topic" discussion, you may need to choose more than one.
- ❖ Read a faith-based book on a topic you are interested in or have questions about. We have many you can borrow from the LFF Office, or you can purchase or borrow one on your own. Some suggestions for teens are: *"Why We're Catholic"* by Trent Horn, *"Yes there is a God"* by John Bergsma, *"Made for More"* by Curtis Martin, *"Rapunzel Let Down"* (or any of the *"Fairy Tale Retold"* books) by Regina Doman, *"Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints"* by Colleen Swaim, *"The Hiding Place"* by Corrie Ten Boom, *"Do I Have to Go?"* by Matthew Pinto and Chris Stefanick, *"Zealous"* by Mark Hart, *"Crazy Love"* by Francis Chan, *"A Second Look"* by Mark Hart, or another book by any Catholic author.
- ❖ Watch a movie that has a message. Choose one of the following: "Amazing Grace" (2006), "Bella" (2006), "Captive" (2015), "The Case for Christ" (2017), "Courageous" (2011), "Facing the Giants" (2006), "For Greater Glory" (2012), "Faith Like Potatoes" (2006), "Gifted Hands" (2009), "God's Not Dead" (2014), "God's Not Dead II" (2016), "God's Not Dead III" (2018), "Hacksaw Ridge"* (2016), "Heaven is for Real" (2014), "Hotel Rwanda" (2004), "Miracles from Heaven" (2016), "The Mission" (1986), "October Baby" (2011), "Risen" (2016), "Soul Surfer" (2011), "There be Dragons" (2011), "To Save a Life" (2010), "The Ultimate Gift" (2006), "Unconditional" (2012), "The War Room" (2015), or anything on Formed.org.
* Hacksaw Ridge is the only rated R movie. Get permission from your parents to watch this one, or watch it with them. I do not normally advocate rated R movies, but this one is worth watching.
- ❖ Visit St. Joseph's Cathedral on 50 Franklin St, Buffalo. This is the Mother Church of the Diocese, and where the Bishop says Mass on Sunday. If you call St. Joseph's rectory they can tell you when the Bishop is saying Mass.
- ❖ Visit Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Lewiston, or Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Buffalo, or another shrine or basilica you have never been to. Our Lady of Victory Basilica is where the body of Servant of God, Fr. Nelson Baker is laid. If you call either place ahead of time, you can schedule a tour, or you can go for Mass, or just to look around. Spend at least an hour total in the church and gift shop.

