



To the Women of All Saints

The most commonly asked question I get from women is, “How do I grow spiritually?” The question is at once simple and complex. It implies a desire to grow in holiness, a term on the intimidating side for some. It also goes to the heart of who we are as human beings. We are made for God. This can seem unimaginable, especially to the person who may be asking the question seriously for the first time.

A group of women at All Saints has offered a first answer in a way that is practical, touches the heart, and builds community. It also requires time. From June 26-28, the first Emmaus Retreat for Women will be held for All Saints parishioners at the Franciscan Retreat House in Prior Lake. A dedicated team of women parishioners, who have all made the retreat somewhere else, has been hard at work for over a year to bring this powerful program to All Saints. It provides an opportunity to pray, connect with God in ways that may be new, and grow in relationship with each other. Participants come back transformed and many commit to assisting on future retreats, and are committed to ongoing fellowship with the Emmaus group.

I know several priests whose parishes have the Emmaus movement and all report that it has brought renewal in Christ to their parishioners and parishes. Participants come back refreshed in Jesus Christ, responding to His invitation to “come to me all who are weary,” (Matthew 11:28). In His wisdom, God placed in the normal routine and rhythm of life a period of rest, worship and renewal. It’s called Sunday. Sadly, too few of us take God up on His plan for a day of rest, and use time meant for refreshment to catch up, resulting in being exhausted physically and spiritually. The hectic pace of life, especially for 21st century women, is demanding and can cause a disconnect between the life God intends for you and the chaos of life. A retreat gives the chance to reclaim some of what God desires you to have, a deep and intimate relationship with Him that is meant to strengthen you for the important tasks of life.

A weekend is a long time, and there are many reasons busy women could give to say no to a retreat. The kids have activities. My husband needs to golf that weekend. There is so much to do in planning for the next family gathering. Trust that the kids can get to activities with the help of others. The husband can sacrifice golf on that weekend. And the planning can be put off for a few days so you can nourish your soul. I guarantee that if your soul is cared for, all those other important activities will have deeper meaning and you will do them with more peace and a greater sense of purpose. I can’t assure you your husband’s golf game will get better, though.

If you have never taken a retreat or it has been a long time since you had one, I strongly encourage you to attend this first All Saints Emmaus Retreat from June 26-28 at Prior Lake. More details can be found at the parish website. It begins Friday evening and is done by midday on Sunday. Registrations are currently being taken, so please block out the time now. Call Mary Asp at the parish office to register. You may also register after Masses beginning the end of May. You will not regret it. It will strengthen your relationship with the Lord, give you a chance to build relationships with others, and most importantly, to tend to the matters of your heart. When the heart is cared for, all else will fall into place, and individuals, families and communities are transformed.

For those of you serving in the vocation of motherhood, we thank you for your gift of life. Have a blessed and Happy Mother’s Day.

Fr. Tom Wilson, Pastor