**Catholic Watchmen- Build Fraternity and Evangelize Men in Monthly Parish Gatherings**

* As human beings, we are made for relationship as we are created in the image of God, who is 1 God in 3 Persons
* Jesus called men together to be supported and share his ministry
* He invited Peter, James and John to be in a closer friendship
* The enemy works by dividing and conquering
* We need support, there is strength in numbers
* Need fellowship with people who are rooted in Christ, may not be natural at first
* See in the early Church that they supported each other
* “They were all together in one place” in Acts 2
* What are the benefits?
  + **Support**- it is good to know that we are not alone
  + **Reflection**- take time to process through things, grow in self-awareness and realize where God is in the situation
  + **Encouragement**- both to continue on the path to grow in holiness, and to avoid the near occasion of sin
  + **Accountability**- need to be held accountable to living lives rooted in Christ
* It does have requirements:
  + **Commitment**- to the group and to confidentially
  + **Patience and Mercy**- as fallen creatures we sin, and we need mercy, we need to give mercy and share patience with each other
  + **Openness and Trust**- built over time, but important to work on in order to have real brotherhood, if you have a hard time with certain people, pray for a change in yourself rather than the other guy
* **We are a team and our end Goal is Heaven**
* Faith is meant to be shared- the Easter Candle- GO. MAKE. TEACH.
* Invite men to Watchmen as a way to share the treasures of our faith with them
* St. Paul’s Guidelines for Fraternity in Romans 12- “Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” Rather, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” **Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.**”
* In summary, meet your brother where he is at, and strive to help him on the road to holiness , he needs you and you need him, remember the Goal is Heaven!

Questions for reflection:

1. How has the last month been?
2. How are you supported in the road to holiness?
3. How do you support others on the road to holiness?