



JOHN PAUL II HEALING CENTER

Transformation in the Heart of the Church

Equipping for Pastoral Ministry - Priest Retreat Tallahassee, FL October 12-16, 2015

Following one of the deepest priorities in our mission, the Fall Priest Retreat: Equipping for Pastoral Ministry, in Tallahassee, came with great excitement and expectation. Bishop Sam Jacobs joined Bob, Bart and Ken for the week. Nine priests attended the weeklong event, coming from all over the country, including priests from as far away as Washington State, California and Arizona. Continuing a recent trend, the largest single state representation came from Texas!



The purpose of the week was to provide the priests an opportunity to rest, receive healing and restoration, and equip them for their ministry once they returned home. As the week progressed, Bob and Bishop Sam spent the mornings with the priests. Bart and Ken led the afternoon sessions, with ample ministry opportunities along the way.

The attending priests covered an entire spectrum, from recently ordained to nearing retirement, religious and diocesan. Despite their diversity, they quickly developed in their kinship and brotherhood with each other.

The Holy Spirit moved with a grace and strength that was evident from early on. As a ministry, we take great joy in ministering to priests and religious, and we are always careful to honor their hearts and ministries as we share the joy of the week. It was a powerful week, with many of the men receiving deep healing and growing in the depth of their relationship with the Father. One priest, plagued since his ordination by physical ailments, received healing that continued to unfold during the entire week. The healing was more evident as each day passed, and he was in awe as God continued to bring him into deeper healing, both physically and within his person. Another priest received a deep affirmation of himself from God the Father, igniting a new vitality within his priesthood. Every priest shared with us how deeply they were touched during the week, and we continue to hear from them how their parishes are being impacted as they are able to "Father" in new ways.

Each of these retreats brings us closer to the Father's heart for the men and women who have (and will) lay down their lives for the Church in such a tangible and profound way. Ministering to them is a call within the ministry that continues to be on the Father's heart. We have inquiries to work with priests and/or seminarians in diocese around the country, including Austin, Seattle, Spokane and Atlanta. We envision adding additional programming as well, to augment the existing efforts.

On behalf of the priests, seminarians and religious who serve the Church, we ask you to pray for all of them. Pray for their vocations, and pray for their hearts. If you have a chance, speak a word of affirmation and love. Support them in any way that you can. And most importantly, love them.

May God bless each and every one of you!

JPII Healing Center Team