

ESUME
SLIDE
SLIDE

Holden - THE GREAT FAYE HATHOR
NOLA - over 100 Mardi gras parades
Between Jan 6 + Feb TUESDAY
IN SE LA

- I. Welcome - NOVENA - PRAYERS - MDM
- II. LOVE RCIA - you are here because you want God, you are hungry, thirsty - ASK, SEEK, KNOCK

tree of JOBS - MEANING
HOPE
PEACE
ASK you why?
BELOW SURFACE
3 questions
where
where
how

your psalm

i. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

REMEMBER
SLIDE

III. This retreat is to help you prepare for the approaching Great And Awesome Vigil of the Lord, the Vigil of Vigils, the night when Christ rises from the dead and destroys death

Vigil - DARKNESS, CANDLES, INCENSE WORD, SONG, WATER, OIL, PRAYER + WINE - YOUR GOTTEN THOSE + SEE goodness NEW WAY

a. Night you will get drawn more deeply into this CRAZY mystery of a God who comes and dies a brutal death and rises for us - so passionately in love with us! "Pazzo d'amore!" - NO DOMESTICATION OF THIS MYSTERY - SAINTS

I REMEMBER

b. Patti my wife in 2002: water broke during Vigil!

Relief John Paul II - (SM) what's wrong?

IV. Retreat!

a. Signals what?

AMP POSITION - LOOSEN UP

OK SD ->

BATTLE

you converts
reverts
Neophytes
can HELP
US
LOOSEN UP

- i. Not going well, losing ground, morale dropping, fear, exhaustion, etc.
- ii. So we pull back, regroup our scattered lives, rejuvenate our wearry lives by coming to feed on God
- iii. Refocus-essentials, matters of substance, why you exist, the original mission you were sent on by God

b. My Father's Russian Orthodox Church: Leave behind here all worldly cares; pick up here again all worldly cares

- i. Watches in a basket
- ii. Let go, let God - pause

KAROS

c. Making space to think and pray, gain perspective, listen, receive, etc - try preserve quiet thought + Adoration

d. Every Catholic should make occasional big retreats (weekend), periodic days of recollection (today), frequent micro-retreats with God (Adoration, early morning).

once a year morning 100!

e. Today offer you thoughts on your work at MCA, how faith in the God of Jesus Christ can help inspire, shape, transform, the way you go about your work

Thought → Just what opposite + call God's blessing on you!!!

SLIDE

V. Are you not aware?

a. **St Paul, in his letter to Corinthian Christians, asks this question:** "Are you not aware that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

- i. **ARE YOU AWARE?**



ii. Our Catholic faith reveals to us extraordinary truths about who we are, where we (and everything else) came from and where we're going

1. The word Apocalypse applies:

a. UNVEILS! WHAT IS REALLY GOING ON HERE?? - scripture - story of how pulling back VEILS

b. Catherine's mud pile

iii. Faith expands what is often our narrow tunnel vision, our tendency to be shallow, petty, superficial --- we sell ourselves short every day by not being aware of the MIND BLOWING MYSTERY OF EXISTENCE!

1. I studied physics @ U of Hartford in 1989, taught by a devout Orthodox Jew, who blurted out in the middle of his science lecture to young and bored college students:

a. "How can you all be bored, when all around you is a world that didn't have to exist at all, but does? Something rather than nothing - that's enough to get me stuck on 'wow' for a thousand years!"

① (let me share just a few of your perspectives)

Faith REVEALS

iv. Mind-blowing mystery

- 1. Size of universe
- 2. Sacrament of divine immensity, lavish "over the top" generosity

(3 min VIDEO) - Macro + Micro

v. All is gift "Tou est grace"

1. Your existence, at every moment (Creation ex nihilo)

what do you have that you have not received? "Catherine"

2 SLIDES

SLIDE

not ten years

DIVINE REVELATION
story of how pulling back VEILS
gradually UNVEIL ON
+ Ripped open
ON
+ we see AMAZING LOVE
+ Beyond mystery

Cultural
Justifying your existence by performance
USEFULNESS
Smiling home

2. Human being before do-ing – we begin life helpless and often end helpless to REMIND THE IN-BETWEEN US THAT ALL of it is gift, it is fragile and we will one day be called to account for how we used the gift, ~~received~~ ~~and~~ ~~gave~~ ~~it~~ ~~away~~

M?
TWO
John Wance
- seemed so
- joyful -
- why?
"even Jan
is a
gift of
don't
deserve"

3rd grade

3. LIFE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT when you begin with this premise, and gratitude fills every moment

a. Jews have a prayer they say: "It would have been enough if you, O God, had created us to enjoy even a moment of existence, but you are never satisfied with enough; and you have made us for eternity..."

b. What??

vi. You are fearfully, wonderfully made:

1. God of the Details: hairs on head

a. Attention to detail is a sign of love

2. Everything you see happening in that video is a mundane occurrence from your cells' perspective, and each is happening at least hundreds of billions of times over in your body at this moment. And some are happening over ten sextillion times at once, like the walking thing, called a kinesin. And, somehow, arising through all of this madness, my standing here and talking to you, my beating heart, my hunger, my tiredness, eyes looking at you and turning that vision into human consciousness—All of these things are somehow

wonderfully nuanced properties of one giant machine built out of an incomprehensible number of these weird tiny machines.

3. The interior life of one microscopic cell!

vii. Another Truth: You are known and loved, by name

Survive
By name

1. B16: "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Think about it

2. What ~~do~~ ^{might} we say when someone remembers something important to us: "You remembered."

why does that touch us?

a. Home for sex trafficked teens - one of the girls told me she loved sunsets, so when I returned another time I gave her a photograph of sunset I had seen that made me think of her. She cried and said, "You thought of me? No one thinks of me."

Vicki Frank

y. man's search for meaning

3. Your infinite dignity was given to you by God and can never been taken away, only denied and rejected. But never taken away.

- is inalienable

4. The whole world is shifting sand that can never ground us in this awareness - only in God can we discover this indestructible truth

Those who died first had no sense of ultimate meaning, purpose

Dignity that could not be taken away by Gestapo

Anchor in rock
Hope

a. Cardinal Kung: "I knew that even if I had been forgotten by the whole world, and was hated by my captors, I knew I was loved by God who held me in the palm of His hand. When you see the world that way, nothing can shake you."

viii. You are redeemed, all is redeemable

Side

1. No matter what the darkness, what the failure, what the betrayal, what the sin or evil, Jesus Christ has already overcome it; as He already entered pain, sadness, death and hell and filled them with life and mercy and goodness and beauty and peace and joy and justice and love. + RE SURECHIN TRIUMPHED
2. We need only permit Him entrance, daily, hourly, minutely, secondly. - in OD on lines (our TOWERED REVIS
3. Handing over to Him every broken, weak, painful, dark part of your life so He can drench it in healing mercy - NOTHING IS WASTED GIVEN TO HIM
4. Solitary confinement - rejected, later shared with priest he believed he was beyond redemption and so was filled with hate and self-loathing.

ix. You are the pinnacle of creation

1. The whole universe was created to give birth to you; 15 billion years of cosmic laboring, birthing and dying stars, all to prepare material for God's image to be stamped in earth.

In you

2. Gerald Schroeder, physicist, said: "The extremely unlikely appearance of man in cosmic history seems to be the universe's attempt to gain self-awareness in search for an ultimate source, creation's Creator, in order to say: 'Thank you.'"

x. God has a plan for you, you are a thought, a word of God

1. You have a vocation, mission

a. That begins with your call to be, to exist, to live and be loved BY GOD and BE HIS IMAGE ~~in the world - of a particular kind~~

b. Ends with your call to love and be loved - to be human is to love, synonymous.

2. God has gifted you to speak to the world, to those around you, a word that is just yours.

Handwritten notes:
Blessed to you my BE
So DON'T let
GIVE it ALL over
TO HIM. EVERYBODY
JESUS...
Blessed to you my BE
Blessed to you my BE
Blessed to you my BE

Handwritten notes:
I AM OR BECOME. I can never be known away IF I AM IN SICKNESS, MY SICKNESS may serve HIM - PERPLEXITY - SORROW. HE DOES NOTHING IN VAIN. HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT. HE MAY TAKE AWAY MY FRIENDS, THUS MAKE ME AMONG STRANGERS, MAKE ME FEEL DESOLATE, MAKE MY SPIRITS SINK, HIDE MY FUTURE FROM ME. STILL HE KNOWS WHAT HE IS ABOUT. WE WILL NOT ABANDON ME.