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FR. MARK T OUPS, PRESENTER

Notes

Morning Session, Part I: “Where are you?”

❶ You know what you want:

* “We desire to be at our best”

➋ You know what you need:

* “We need to grow spiritually as a presbyterate”
* “We need fraternity among priests”
* “We need to trust one another”
* “We need dialogue among ourselves”

➌ You know what you must overcome:

* You know that there is division within the presbyterate
* You know that there is emotion about the division: grief, anger, resentment, etc.
* You know that there is sin (evil) amongst the brothers: judgment, gossip, calumny, etc.

❹ There are four “faces” within your presbyterate:

* The “older” men: Ages 56+; 107 of you are this age; 66% of the presbyterate\*
* The “younger” men: Ages under 35; 9 of you are this age; 6% of the presbyterate\*
* The men in between: Ages 36-55; 46 of you are this age; 29% of the presbyterate\*
* The men ordained abroad or Religious: 42 of you; 26% of the presbyterate\*
* “Older” or “younger” or “in between” not necessarily “age” as much as it is values, attitudes

\* Attending 2022 Fall Convocation

➎ What you all share in common, part 1:

* Values that shape how you define: priesthood, the mission of the church, priorities of the day
* Your own insecurities, need for conversion, and resistance to piercing sanctification and unbridled holiness
* Judgments of those different from you, both good and bad
* The keys to the future of this Archdiocese

❻ All four “faces” within your presbyterate are influenced by the following statements:

1. “Every beginning begins when something ending ends”
2. “To love as God loves we have to see as God sees”
3. “Life is a lot less about what you’re facing and a lot more about where you’re looking”
   * These are not meant to be exhaustive, but they are essential
   * These three statements, as we will unpack them, do not say everything, nor should they; but, you can’t start a conversation without mentioning them

❼ THE “OLDER” PRIESTS

* Ages 56+; 107 of you are this age; 66% of the presbyterate

1. “Every beginning begins when something ending ends”
   * What ended?
     + The America you grew up in has changed, perhaps good or bad, but different for sure
     + The Church you grew up in has changed, perhaps good or bad, but different for sure
     + The Priesthood (both in culture and function) you grew up with has changed
   * How did it end?
   * What was your opinion or emotion regarding the ending?
   * Did you trust the “new” or the reason things were changing?
   * What were your hopes and expectations because of the beginning?
   * What were your fears and insecurities because of the beginning?
2. “To love as God loves we have to see as God sees”
   * What you see about you that others see:
   * What you see about you that others often don’t see:
   * What you see in other priests that you think they should see:
   * What you don’t see in other priests that you need to see:
3. “Life is a lot less about what you’re facing and a lot more about where you’re looking”
   * The temptation to look at the past and how things look to be
   * The temptation to look to retirement
   * The temptation to vice and/or escape
   * The temptation to look to the Archbishop or the Archdiocese to fix all the problems
   * The temptation to look at the problems and what isn’t instead of at the Lord who’s in it
4. “Every beginning begins when something ending ends”
   * What ended?
     + Security, certainty, objective truth, something “to hold on to”
     + Experience of sacred: family, marriage, life, sex, the body, anthropology ... Church
     + The influence of Christendom, as with it a solution to the collapse
   * How or why did it end?
   * What is your opinion or emotion regarding the ending?
   * Should it have ended? If not, who’s to blame?
   * What are your fears and insecurities because of the ending and new beginning?
   * How far are you willing to go to in your search for security?
5. “To love as God loves we have to see as God sees”
   * What you see about you that others see:
   * What you see about you that others often don’t see:
   * What you see in other priests that you think they should see:
   * What you don’t see in other priests that you need to see:
6. “Life is a lot less about what you’re facing and a lot more about where you’re looking”
   * The temptation to look at the past and a perception of how things used to be
   * The temptation to not face the complexity of the reality of what is
   * The temptation to look to answers rather than solutions
   * The temptation to look to the Archbishop or the Archdiocese to fix all the problems
   * The temptation to look at the problems and what isn’t instead of at the Lord who’s in it
7. “Every beginning begins when something ending ends”
   * What ended?
     + All that was woven into being one of the “younger priests” (hope, idealism, etc.)
     + The “stage” being “the hero”
     + Life without the mantle of leadership
   * How is it that you have traditionally, yet unconsciously, defined your identity?
   * Who or what brings you hope?
   * It is a “what” or “who” that gets you out of bed in the morning?
   * Do you seen any signs within you of you becoming that guy that said you’d never be?
8. “To love as God loves we have to see as God sees”
   * What you see about you that others see:
   * What you see about you that others often don’t see:
   * What you see in other priests that you think they should see:
   * What you don’t see in other priests that you need to see:
9. “Life is a lot less about what you’re facing and a lot more about where you’re looking”
   * The temptation to look at priesthood through the lens of work
   * The temptation to become a lone ranger
   * The temptation to look down instead of looking up
   * The temptation to look to the Archbishop or the Archdiocese to fix all the problems
   * The temptation to look at the problems and what isn’t instead of at the Lord who’s in it

* Priests born abroad
* Religious priests
* 42 of you; 26% of the presbyterate

1. “Every beginning begins when something ending ends”
   * What ended?
     + Being part of the majority rather than the minority
     + The accessibility to the “culture” you were accustomed to within *this* presbyterate
     + Being seen
   * How is it that you have traditionally, yet unconsciously, defined your identity?
   * Are you aware of grief, and, if so, “where” do you go with the grief?
   * Are you aware of how it feels to not be seen, and, if so, “where” do you go with the grief?
2. “To love as God loves we have to see as God sees”
   * What you see about you that others see:
   * What you see about you that others often don’t see:
   * What you see in other priests that you think they should see:
   * What you don’t see in other priests that you need to see:
3. “Life is a lot less about what you’re facing and a lot more about where you’re looking”
   * The temptation to look at what you miss rather than where you are
   * The temptation to become settle into a role that may not be the Lord’s
   * The temptation to look down instead of looking up
   * The temptation to look to the Archbishop or the Archdiocese to fix all the problems
   * The temptation to look at the problems and what isn’t instead of at the Lord who’s in it

✪ What you all share in common, part 2:

* The impact of the scandals on the laity
* The Church and your priesthood during the next 10-25 years will look like nothing our country has seen to date
* There is no one single thing that will fix what is broken, except the singularity of God himself
* Holiness has never not been the answer
* You have to make a decision whether you are going to fight each or the Enemy

Morning Session, Part II: Group discussion

❶ What resonated about you?

➋ What resonated about others?

➌ What do you think God is saying to you as a presbyterate?