



Northern Maine Catholic Men's Retreat: 31 March – 02 April 2017



Held at the Christian Life Center in Frenchville each year (the only diocesan retreat center in Maine), our 20th anniversary theme for the 2017 Northern Maine Catholic Men's Retreat is "Let Me Be Me as a True Disciple". Thanks to everyone that brought non-perishable food items that were donated to the Our Lady of the Valley Parish Food Pantry that cares for the communities of Frenchville, St. Agatha and Sinclair.



This logo was used on our registration form, name tags and other materials distributed to our participants.



When you enter the chapel on the first floor this 8 foot high by 4 foot wide painting hangs behind the altar. It was painted by a young woman from the St. John Valley over 20 years ago.

All 31 attendees arrived safely and enjoyed a "welcoming meal" of baked white fish with rice pilaf and broccoli. (Thanks to Carlos and his crew for preparing all of the meals for the weekend.)

Father Joel Cyr provided an awesome "Teaching Mass" where he explained "the divine presence" of Our Lord on the altar. For without His presence as body and blood, we do not exist and neither does the Catholic Church. Everything we do is because of Jesus Christ sacrificing his life for us. Following the Mass, Father Joel provided the Sacrament of Reconciliation to those that wished to receive it.

Saturday morning started out with a meditation on the "Call to Holiness" given by Deacon Michael Whalen of Bangor/Brewer. This was followed by presentations on "Truth becomes the Word" by Vernon Potvin and "Learning & Living Our Faith" by Deacon Danny Watson of Benedicta. Father James Albert also assisted with reconciliation for a couple of hours during the presentations.



NOTE: Each year the Team dedicates the weekend to someone who has made a significant impact on the retreats in their own special way. For 2017, Vernon Potvin of Fort Kent was selected. He has been on "team" off and on since its inception in 1997. Vernon was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and the names of all the Team Members were listed on it. Congratulations again Vernon.



After the group photo and lunch, we embarked on our Disciple Journey in the community. Teams of several brothers each went to the following: one team to sing at a Frenchville Nursing Home, one team each to sing at two Fort Kent Nursing Homes, one team cleaned a handicapped woman's house and the last team helped paint a handicapped couple's home.

Once everyone returned we listened to Deacon John Guerin of Greenville provide a talk on "Integrity". Following dinner, Paul Ouellette of Fort Kent conducted "Way of the Cross". The Saturday evening social gave the brothers an opportunity to share their afternoon experiences, play cribbage, socialize, etc.

Deacon Al Burleigh of Houlton opened with a meditation for Sunday morning on "Discipleship". Prayer partners were revealed at the closing ceremony & then Mass 10:30 Mass at St. Luce Church. Following Mass everyone headed home and we look forward to seeing them again next year: already scheduled for 16 – 18 March 2018.

As a parting gift, everyone received this cross which bears the scripture verse of our weekend.

