

SMART News

Saint Mary's Active Religious Teens

<https://www.icstmary.org/youth>

December 2023

Dear Friends,

A group of graduates, well established in their careers, were discussing their lives at a class reunion. They decided to go visit an old university professor, now retired, who was always an inspiration to them.

During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work, lives, and relationships.

Offering his guests something warm to drink, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups. Some cups were porcelain, glass, and crystal exquisite and expensive - and some cups were plain-looking. He invited each of the graduates to help themselves to hot chocolate.

When they all had a cup of hot chocolate in hand, the professor shared his thoughts.

"Well, my friends, I want you to notice that all the nice-looking, expensive cups were taken - leaving the plain, cheap ones behind. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup that you are drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the hot chocolate. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even HIDES what we drink. What each of you really wanted was hot chocolate. You did not want the cup... but you consciously went for the best cups...and soon you began to eye one another's cup."

Please consider this: Life is the hot chocolate. Your job, your money, your position in society are the cups. The cups are just tools to hold and contain LIFE. The cup you have does not define, nor does it change, the quality of life you are living. The happiest people don't have the best of everything...they just make the best of everything they HAVE."

As we celebrate this Advent season and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior, let's spend less time concentrating only on our "cups" and more time enjoying the "hot chocolate" God has brewed for each of us... ↓

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Written by Patti McTaggart

Prepare the way of the Lord...
Isaiah 40:3



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 3rd: Advent Evening Prayer 5:00PM in church

Dec. 8th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Holy Day of Obligation Masses at 12:10PM & 7:00PM

Dec. 10th: CONFIRMATION SESSION 5:00-6:15PM in the parish hall

Dec. 10th: Advent Evening Prayer 5:00PM in church

Dec. 14th: Casserole-making in the parish hall 3:30-4:30PM in the parish hall

Dec. 16th: Advent Communal Penance Service 10:00AM

Dec. 16th: Cookie-baking for the Homebound 8:00AM-11:00AM

Dec. 17th: Advent Evening Prayer 5:00PM in church