

Brief notes by F. Cox about Upcoming Men's Retreat at El Retiro, used in extemporaneous commentator announcements at the end of Mass:

Comments July 8, 2007:

Next month, the men of St. Isabella's will be attending our annual men's retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center, El Retiro, in Los Gatos, the weekend of August 10th to 12th.

If you haven't given it much thought, let me suggest a few excuses – reasons why you shouldn't go to this year's retreat:

- I'm really busy – all the time, at work, on weekends. All the time. Everything I do is important, especially on weekends. I'm the man in charge.
- I went on a retreat when I was in High School, so I know everything I need to know to have a fulfilling and meaningful life as a man.
- Problems? Who's got problems? Not me!
- Hey – a whole weekend for \$220 bucks? I could use the money for something important – like a couple rounds of Golf, or maybe see the Giants play.

So – take a look at the guy in the mirror when you get home.

Are you too busy to stop, and smell the roses?

- to hear, really hear, what your wife, your kids, your God is saying to you?

This weekend is not about what you've got to achieve, or do, or say.

This weekend is about slowing down, and laying down, your hurries, your worries, and your problems, and– returning home the whole man God wants you to become.

The Jesuit Retreat Center is over 40 acres of gardens woodland trails. The brief talks, good food, and silence between the notes of our lives offer us time - to hear who it is we are, - and who God wants us to become.

Take a look at this week's Bulletin for more information, or pick up a flier posted at the Church entrances. Hope to see you there - this year -

Comments 8-5-07:

Our first reading today, from the book of Ecclesiastes, warns us:

Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! ...
For what profit comes to man from all the toil
and anxiety of heart - with which he has labored under the sun?

Whether we are like the Rich Man in today's Gospel,
who built ever larger barns to hoard things for himself,
or
we simply hoard troubles and "anxiety of heart" like the prophet in the book
of Ecclesiastes – there is one thing we all have in common.

We grasp tightly what we have
when Jesus asks us to open our hands to receive
what we do not yet have.

This year's men's retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos starts this
coming Friday evening, and continues through next Sunday at Noon.
It is a silent retreat – for only about a day and a half.

Something very personal, even profound, happens when we

- Stop speaking
- Stop working and
- Stop telling Jesus what He must do for us.

We hear – answers

We receive – what we do not yet have.

The Center has over 40 acres of beautiful gardens and woodland walks.
The talks given by the Jesuits are all thought and soul nourishing.
The bookstore is excellent, the food is good, and the Chapel is holy ground.

Take a look in today's Bulletin,
or pick up a blue application blank on the bulletin board,
or call the Retreat Center directly,
or go online and get frequent flier credit card miles for registering.

This weekend has a gift - for you - and everyone you care about.