The Acolyte

Millennial Catholic Gentlemen, Inc.

Millennial Catholic Gentlemen
JP2 Men's Group
EST. 2018

Mobile Sacristy Mission

— Events —

- Catholic Schools Dinner: March 11
- WI Catholic Youth Rally: March 14-15
- Men of Christ Conference: March 29
- Stewardship Appeal: March 29
- KoC State Convention: May 16-18

— Family Events —

May Crowning: May 24
Hike to Mary: June 9

— Men's Group Meetings —

January 20
February 14
March 17

— Board of Directors —

Robin Roxas, President
Dan Axt, Vice President
Ron Gamache, Treasurer
Doug Miller, Secretary

www.mobilesacristy.org
jp2mensgroup@gmail.com

A Men's Group, a Mobile Sacristy, and a Mission.

By Michael Tennies
Founder, Executive Director

In the 15th chapter of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the apostle gives a stern warning to the faithful: "Bad company ruins good morals."

While Millennials tend to be a punchline for jokes when it comes to morals, a few young men kept "good company" since 2018. They forged a Christ-centered brotherhood, meeting regularly as a men's group.

Those men saw a need, combined their God-given talents, and constructed a mobile sacristy. Today, thousands encounter their mission as they serve our Lord in the Eucharist through this liturgical ministry. As of May, 2024 we are now a non-profit organization!

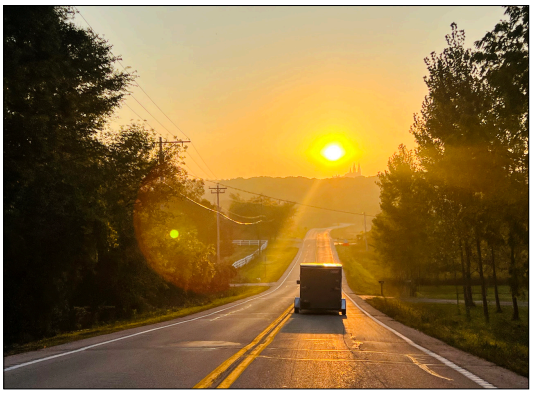
"Good company" inspires young men to service. In its unique and specialized mission, the men of **MCG** continue to serve our Lord reverently in the Eucharist. These are my brothers, and our mission has just begun.

They Call Us "Mass Roadies"

By Matthew Schmitz, Operations Director

So, we're the "Mass roadies." As our slogan states "Mass roadies", you may ask yourself, what does that mean? Well, I can tell you! It means getting up super early, the sun in our faces, cruising down the road to your next event hauling a trailer in tow!

We get to the event location, unload, then begin the setup process. "Flags to the altar with a seat for the boss" as I like to say, set up just in time before Mass begins. Teardown can even be quicker utilizing our three black cases to hold our most precious of liturgical items. We can be out of an event location in a matter of minutes. So yes, just like all the greatest singers and their roadies, we put our talent in proper showmanship to serve our Lord!



Right now we're working on creating a Mass kit so we can provide for two events simultaneously. We are also making improvements on our new larger storage unit. This is vital to our mission, we now have enough space to store extra men's group supplies for monthly meetings and to store the Mobile Sacristy trailer.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to check out our website for updates, monetary donations, and applications for us to come to your event. www.mobilesacristy.org

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. — 1 Peter 4:10-11

A Refuge of Hope

By Dan Axt, Vice President

I've been an active part of the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen's Group since 2018, and the traveling sacristy since 2023. Although a native to Wisconsin, I have found myself answering the call from the Lord to move across state lines for work, yet, I am still within driving distance to help out where and when I can. This move inevitably led to a small detachment from our group because of the distance, but I still keep in contact with the group because of their upstanding support and unwavering brotherhood they demonstrate. I am happy to now serve on the Board of Directors as Vice President. For me, when I return to assist the men's group in my capacity as VP, or helping setup the altar on the road, or simply being around these fine men, my love and appreciation for the group grows because of how much of a refuge it has become when I return home. It's been a little difficult to find that same type of brotherhood elsewhere, so I cherish it much more when I can reconnect with the men and the service in this group again. The level of care they have, not only extends to me, but to all men that enter this group. They truly want the best for men, to be the men God is calling them to be. I'm proud of all the work we have put in, especially furthering this group to a nonprofit and reconstructing our website to reach and serve more men now, and in the future. Thank you, MCG, for always being there for me!

Men's Group Acquires 'Beautiful' Monstrance

By Kathleen McGillis Drayna, July 21, 2024 | Around the Archdiocese, Local, News/Catholic Herald Newspaper

Hello, beautiful – that's what Michael Tennies thought when he saw something at the National Eucharistic Congress that he'd never seen in person before that moment. It was an ornate monstrance that the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen/JP2 Men's Group has had its eye on for years and hoped to buy someday for its mobile sacristy. The group uses the sacristy — an enclosed trailer that carries an altar, candles, hosts, chalices and other liturgical items needed for Catholic worship or Mass outside of a church building — to assist at events such as Mexican Fiesta, Ballpark Day of Faith and St. John Bosco Youth Day. But whenever the group was asked if the mobile sacristy had its own monstrance to hold a consecrated host during adoration, it had to say no.

"Now we have one," Tennies said Saturday, after Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki blessed the monstrance at the congress. After the Congress began on Wednesday, July 17, Tennies and others from the group were looking at liturgical items on display in a vendor area of the Indiana Convention Center, where part of the Congress that has attracted 50,000 people is being held.

Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki blesses a monstrance Saturday, July 20, that was purchased at the National Eucharistic Congress by the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen/JP2 Men's Group. The local group maintains a traveling sacristy — which did not have a monstrance — that is used for Masses and other worship at events outside of church walls, such as the Ballpark Day of Faith.
Photo by Colleen Jurkiewicz

"We were looking at the articles, and, 'Hello, beautiful,'" he recalled. "This is one we have kept our eye on for some time."

The men's group that Tennies directs began in 2018 as a simple monthly gathering. Until last May, it was not organized as a nonprofit. This made it difficult to accept large donations, such as the money needed to purchase a monstrance. So, the time was right, with the ideal monstrance right in front of them at the congress. The seller was willing to drop the price, so a call was made back to a potential donor in the archdiocese, who agreed to fund the purchase.

Tennies is very happy that the monstrance has some decorative elements that point to Mary. The Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage that traveled through the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for nine days in mid-June met up at the congress with the three other routes from other parts of the country.

The monstrance will serve as a relic of the congress, he said. "God had this planned all along."

With a newly established non-profit status, we continue our services with appreciation to our supporters and donors!

Thank you for making it possible!

- KoC Council #1964, West Bend
- KoC Council #1709, South MKE
- KoC Council #2487, Oconomowoc
- KoC Council #4648, Brookfield
- KoC Council #3562, Hartland
- KoC Council #6448, Muskego
- Diocese Of Madison
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Ballpark Day of Faith
- Women of Christ

▼ Fr. Chris Klussman, Chaplin of MCG, in a John Paul II vestment acquired by MCG

Firsts (1st)

By Father Chris Klussman

"I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). I echo St. Paul's utmost gratitude for his faithful community in Philippi as I do for you all!

After the closure of the Christmas season, we return to Ordinary Time. The word "ordinary" in this context does not mean a return to the "bland" and "ordinary." "Ordinary" in this context, refers to the word, ordinal, which means 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and on… — *(continued on next page)*

Whatever You Do, Do It for the Lord

By Mike Uchytil, IT Director

Floor mosaic of fish and bread in Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes in Tabgha, an area on the shore of Sea of Galilee, Israel

The start of a new year evokes both reminiscence and resolutions. It marks the closing of one chapter of life and the starting of a fresh one. A new year is an opportunity to begin anew, resolving to grow in particular areas - it's another chance to become the person the Lord is calling us to be. Even with the opportunity of a fresh start, questions remain: who is the Lord calling us to become? What sort of resolutions should we make to ourselves and Him which won't simply fizzle out after going to the gym for a couple months? Which areas of growth should we focus on in order to most please Him? These were the sort of questions I wrestled with exactly five years ago after discerning out of the seminary. To my surprise, I found answers in the little Israeli village of Tabgha.

Despite its small geographical footprint, Tabgha is home to two significant biblical events: The Supremacy of Peter, when upon Tabgha's shores Peter reaffirmed his love for the Lord three times after the Resurrection, and the Miracle of The Feeding of the Five Thousand. Small churches were erected commemorating both events, but I found myself gravitating towards the Church of the Multiplication. Enamored by the mosaics representing the five loaves and two fish, I began praying with John 6:1-14, reflecting upon the young boy who offered what seemed like a measly gift to the Lord. By most standards, he didn't give much - just five loaves and two fish. But this was everything he had - and he gave it totally to the Lord. With this total gift, the Lord multiplied its quantity until it was more than enough for everyone to have their fill with some left over.

Considering this perspective, I realized that it didn't really matter which occupation I chose after seminary. What mattered was that I would resolve to give Him the little that I did have – myself and the talents he gave me – in dedication to His service. How that has manifested has changed through the years: returning to work in Information Technology, sharing life with my beautiful wife, serving as part of this men's group, and more. This is the resolution I made then and strive to make each year: That whatever I do, I do for the Lord and His Glory. I'm by no means perfect in following this resolution, but it is the goal. Because the Lord doesn't want much, He just wants it all. And more than anything, He wants You.

Client Testimony: ***Our leadership team at Ballpark Day of Faith is extraordinarily grateful to have Millennial Catholic Gentlemen and their mobile sacristy support our event for years as we have celebrated Mass in the parking lot of American Family Field before the Milwaukee Brewer's game. Their attention to detail, professionalism and commitment to The Church and Her liturgy has been of great service to our annual event of over 1,000 attendees. They are one of key strategic partners in our mission. I would enthusiastically recommend them to any Catholic entity in need of a devout liturgical service in unique setting such as Ballpark Day of Faith.*** — Robert Simi, Founder, Ballpark Day of Faith

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— *(continued from pg. 3)*

I'd like for us to give thanks to God together upon reflection of our 1st beginnings, for when the 1st item in the mobile sacristy grew to a second item and then third and more, how our service at all the Masses brought such beauty and reverence that changed many lukewarm attendees in whom Christ was previously ranked low in their lives to 1st, and many more on our list including this new 1st newsletter! The impact of this wonderful ministry is manifold and may it continue God's work.

▲ **Outdoor altar set-up by MCG**

"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6:24-26).