The Acolyte

Millennial Catholic Gentlemen, Inc.

Millennial Catholic Gentlemen
JP2 Men's Group
EST. 2018

Mobile Sacristy Mission

— Events —

October 17 - Stewardship Appeal, Wauwatosa
November 21 - Women of Christ, Brookfield
February 6 - Chesterton Academy Gala
February 13 - Life's Connection Gala, Waukesha
March 12 - Students of Christ, Milwaukee
March 13 - Men of Christ, Milwaukee

— JP2 Monstrance —

March 12 - Students of Christ
March 13 - Men of Christ

— Family Events, 2026 —

October 22 - JP2 Feast Day Celebration, Slinger
December 19- MCG "It's Almost Christmas" Party

— Men's Group Meetings —

November 16, January 18 and February 15

— Board of Directors —

Russ Koth, President
Dan Axt, Vice President
Ron Gamache, Treasurer
Doug Miller, Secretary

Design & Editor, Sheila Axt

A Commitment to Communion

By Michael Tennies, Founder and Executive Director
MCG — Home of the Mobile Sacristy

MCG recently celebrated a milestone! This September, we marked our 100th continual monthly men's group! The JP2 men's group is the genesis of our mission here at MCG. Since May of 2018, we remained committed to meet at least once a month whether in person or virtually even through trying times. Snow storms, changes of location, even through covid 19 lockdowns.

We assemble eight months of the year to receive the Sacraments, socialize, and have group discussion on various faith related topics. The other four months of the year we open our doors to friends, family, and donors when we host events to celebrate MCG's anniversary, JP2's feast day, Christmas, and have a late fall grill-out. The Men's group also serves as an invitation to men to become more active in our overall mission in MCG, such as staffing the mobile sacristy.

I see this recent milestone as a commitment to communion. A vertical communion with our Lord in reception of the Eucharist and through our liturgical ministry, accompanied by the horizontal communion of fraternal brotherhood. How appropriate that this analogy forms the shape of a cross, as maintaining it does take commitment.



With many more milestones to come, I remain grateful for this service-driven brotherhood, and our supporters who have kept our mission rolling. JP2, Pray for us!

Testimonial

by Bridget Schoemaker

The Mobile Sacristy and the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen are such a blessing and wonderful resource for Wisconsin! I have worked with them for several years for an annual conference, and they have reduced the workload to prepare the Mass and Eucharistic Procession by at least 15 hours. Before the mobile sacristy, I would have to take several days off of work to collect, clean, and organize all the items required for the conference's Mass from several different parishes and businesses around Southeast Wisconsin. Now it's one simple call to confirm the date and times, and the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen do the rest!

The largest and most important blessing though is the reverence that they bring with them. Both to the liturgy of the Mass and the handling of the sacred vessels and items. One of the concerns I had previously, before the mobile sacristy, was how the sacred vessels were going to be handled by those trying to help, especially during breakdown. At times, people forget what the items were used for, and how they should be treated. With the mobile sacristy and the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen, I never have any concerns! They always have such a reverence and everything has its specific place! It's truly wonderful how they have everything packed and organized! They set up and break down with great precision and efficiency.

I pray God continues to bless the Millennial Catholic Gentlemen as they seek to serve Him by providing the ability to celebrate Mass with reverence wherever they go with their mobile sacristy. They are such a vital and beautiful resource to the Catholic Church in Wisconsin!

Knowledge in Motion

By Tim Graham



L-R: Tim Graham, Andrew Jordan and Matthew Schmitz at Leap of Faith

Since becoming Catholic I have been on a journey to put my faith into motion. I have thought about what it looks like to serve God, what my role is in serving him and what greater purposes out in the world truly meets the people where they are and brings the Living God to them. These are no small works. God moves in us to enact his will. I have searched for what God's will is in my life. I have searched for a calling, something that God says, "this is it," "this is what I want you to do" and I truly believe I came face to face with that calling at the Men of Christ Conference last spring when I met Michael and found out about Millennial Catholic Gentlemen and the Mobile Sacristy.

I converted to Catholicism just a few short years ago. I have been a believer all my life as a protestant and devout anti-Catholic. I blindly followed what I had been taught and never thought twice about it, until I did. I started to notice that my beliefs had no grounding in any type of authority. There was no one I could ask for clarification on doctrine because everyone believed something a little different. I found myself spiritually homeless and in a period of desolation. I knew that I believed in God, but I did not believe in the institution of Christianity as I knew it. Through some extraordinary grace from God, I started to set my prejudice of Catholicism aside and started researching. I learned a lot quickly. I have to credit the patience of my brother in a lot of guidance towards the truth, I know God used him in an extraordinary way. So now that I had found my spiritual home and reassured myself to an exhausting level that this was the true church, now what? What do I do with my life now that God has brought me home? I needed an outlet for my new found love of the faith and reigniting of zeal! This is where MCG and Mobile Sacristy came into play.

When I first talked to Michael at Men of Christ, I could see the excitement in him when talking about the group. I could tell that this was important to him and that he felt called to do this work. What I was unaware of at the time was just how big this group was. I don't mean membership size or anything of that nature, I mean how big the work was. I was only able to join my first meeting through zoom and my work schedule ended up getting in the way of attending any more meetings for a few months. Once I was able to get my work schedule under control and attend a meeting again, I found myself drawn to the Mobile Sacristy. I thought this was a great idea and was ready to step in and help where needed. On my first event I started to see how big the mission of the Mobile Sacristy is. As Michael explained the challenges of having Mass on location, he also explained how he was able to meet those challenges. Providing all the necessary elements to make the Mass as liturgically sound and reverent as possible on location. He explained that he has mobile boxes set up that he can send out to help when the Mobile Sacristy is already in motion. I could not believe how well put together the whole project is. One thing I knew for certain from that first trip was that this mission is bigger than us and I want to do everything I can to serve Our Lord through this mission. The mission has been so successful that there are talks of getting a second trailer and more mobile boxes to be able to serve even more! We get to meet people where they are. We get to bring Mass out into the world and serve God in a unique way! We get to bring the most Holy Sacrament to people out in the world. We get to remind people the importance of showing up for God. I have been on another setup since my first one and it has only deepened my commitment to helping this organization grow. The Holy Spirit is moving through Michael and the Mobile Sacristy, and I am thrilled to be apart of it!







Remembering All the Apostles' Names

By Fr. Chris Klusman - MCG Chaplain



Years ago when I was a seminarian, I remembered when I first came across this [below] which was so cool! It was so amazing that I didn't want you to miss it too. God really has an amazing way that He can do with words. Did you know that you can list all the names of the 12 Apostles (including St. Matthias who replaced Judas) under each letter in "BAPTISM"?

** Note, in Latin, letters I and J are shown as "I". See this:*

B	A	P	T	I	S	M
Bartholomew	Andrew	Peter	Thomas	James	Simon	Matthew
		Philip	Thaddeus	John		Matthias
				James the Less		
				~~Judas~~		



Reverence in a Distracted World

By Doug Miller, MCG Board of Directors - Secretary

We live in a world that constantly demands our attention. Our phones buzz, work follows us home, and there always seems to be something else that needs to get done. Then, we come to Mass and are asked to slow down, be quiet, listen, and pray. That can be hard, but maybe that's exactly why we need it. As Catholic men, husbands, and fathers, we have a responsibility to lead our families toward Christ. That leadership doesn't always come from what we say. A lot of the time, it comes from what our families see us do.

Reverence at Mass can start with simple things: getting there a few minutes early, putting the phone away, genuflecting, paying attention to the readings, kneeling in prayer, and being fully present. When our children see us treat the Eucharist with reverence, they learn that Mass isn't just another obligation on the Sunday schedule. It's an encounter with Jesus.

Reverence shouldn't end when we walk out the church doors. It should affect how we speak to our wives, how patient we are with our children, how we treat our co-workers, and how we respond when someone gets on our nerves. Our worship should change the way we live. So, the next time you're at Mass, put everything else aside for that hour. Be present. Pay attention. Give God your time. Our families are watching – and in a distracted world, that example matters.



We will be celebrating the ***feast day of St. John Paul II, on Thursday, October 22*** with a 6:00pm Mass followed by dinner and brief presentations on supporting our mission. Then! Catholic Jeopardy Game with host, Dan Axt, at St. Peter's Church in Slinger, WI.

Thank you, to these donors, for making the Mobile Sacristy possible!

- *Ballpark Day of Faith*
- *St. Patrick Preservation Fund, Inc.*
- *Chesterton Academy*
- *Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- *Boyle Fredrickson, Intellectual Property Law Firm*
- *KofC Council 1964, West Bend*
- *Cookies by Kathy*

+ *In Loving Memory of Jeany Oswald 1955–2026* +

MCG morns the loss of a dear friend, Jeany, who had generously donated her talent of embroidery work to us over the years. May her soul rest in the peace of Christ.



Congratulations to Andrew Wurster, our new Director of the JP2 Men's Group!

The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world.
– St. John Paul II

✝ ✝ ✝



Over the past four years, what happens during the Mass has changed not only what I know occurs intellectually, but also how I apply that knowledge personally: through my daily work and activities, especially before and after special moments. A few months ago, the John Paul II Men's Group finished reading *The Biblical Walk Through the Mass* by Dr. Edward Siri. The Lord Jesus continues to invite each of us into the major events and mysteries of His life made present in the Mass: His Birth when we sing the Gloria, His Passion and Death at the Consecration, and His Resurrection immediately before the Lamb of God. Through these moments, Jesus shows us that He wants to meet us both in ordinary things and in special moments. He cares deeply for each person and desires to unite us with Himself.

The biblical readings given to us at Mass also teach us how to seek God and speak with Him when we feel small or unrecognized, especially during the hidden daily work others may not see. The entire Bible gives us relatable people, whose weaknesses and strengths often reflect our own. God sometimes calls them to extraordinary things they never imagined possible. When they humbly acknowledge their strengths or difficulties before God or a trusted person, they often hear that quiet invitation: "Watch me use this" or "Wait and see." They then respond by following God sometimes immediately, while more often, much later in life. For many years, the Cherubic Hymn from the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom comes to my mind during the offertory of Mass: "Let us who mystically represent the Cherubim … put away from us all worldly cares." When I first heard the phrase, I didn't understand what that meant. Ten years later, the phrase 'putting away earthly cares' could mean recognizing a distraction in prayer or while working on a task, which we ask God to take it from us because it is not needed right now.

Beginning the day by offering God our prayers, thoughts, and work allows Him to enter our lives gradually, giving us the grace to accomplish our tasks better than expected. I invite you to imagine an overgrown garden: some weeds are easy to pull, some have painful spines, and others have deep roots. We prepare the ground with water, use gloves for the prickly weeds, and a hoe for those with stubborn roots. Prayer can be approached in the same way. Finding a few minutes before work or a difficult task may initially feel challenging, but consistently praying for just 3–5 minutes can make prayer part of our daily rhythm. Over time, we can increase that time through the Rosary, a Holy Hour, or other devotions. A simple way to begin building this prayer habit through: praying before eating a meal, thanking God for something we have or do well at, or making a morning offering that gives Him 'our work, joys, and sufferings for our relatives, friends, (and others as needed), in union with the Mass and for our Holy Father, Pope Leo and his intentions.'

In Christ Our Lord,
Robert Pauly,
MCG Member