

ARE YOU MADE FOR MORE?

This past December 30, 2009 through January 3, 2010 I had a very unique opportunity to reflect upon the simple statement, Made For More. The message was to over 4,000 Catholic college students from around the United States who gathered together for four days.

During the four days these college students had opportunity to choose between many different speakers and topics such as; Being Single, Fighting for Manliness, A Spiritual Workout, Six Proven Principles for Finding True Love, Five Steps to Transforming Your Prayer Life, How does a Catholic Woman “Have it All”, Trusting God Through the Good and Bad, Finding God’s Will in Times of Transition, Being Made for More, The New Sexual Revolution, Life after Graduation, Second Chances, Not counting the Cost, Friendship at the Heart of the Christian Vocation, The Greatest Problem of Our time – Relativism, Building a Culture of Life and many, many other topics.

Some of the speakers who presented were; Curtis Martin the founder of FOCUS, Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR, Dr. J. Reyes, the President and CEO of Catholic Charities in Denver Colorado, Dr. Edward SRI who teaches at Belmont Abbey University, Msgr. Swetland who teaches at MT. St. Mary College and University in Emmitsburg Maryland, Archbishop Chaput from Denver, Cardinal O’Malley from Boston and many other great speakers.

What was most amazing about these four and a half days was having the opportunity to pray with these young college students from around the country. Imagine four thousand students attending daily Mass and participating in perpetual adoration throughout the four days. In addition there were nearly 100 priests present during the week. I personally heard over 9 hours of confession in less than two days time. Three of those hours were on the night of New Years day when the students together spent over two hours in adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ, and it was estimated that over 2500 of them went to confession during that time! Awesome is the Mercy of God!

Throughout the four days there was a perpetual adoration chapel set up which was continuously filled with 75 to 100 students, priests, consecrated religious and visiting adults. Every day there were lines for confession at lunchtime and dinner, during which a minimum of 15 priests were hearing confessions. There were approximately twenty five religious orders represented at booth displays, which was a great opportunity for all the students who attended who may be discerning a call to consecrated religious life or diocesan priesthood.

I personally travelled with the first ever group from UCONN to attend this particular convention, a group of ten students plus the four members of the FOCUS team that started working on campus this past Fall. During this National Convention I was able to enjoy praying the rosary with them, sharing meals with them and listening to their reactions to the many speakers they chose to listen to. What exactly was being accomplished? These adult students were searching for truth, the truth to whom it is God created them to be and they found out that they are Made for More, much more than the world or society is willing to offer them and they embraced their faith in a whole new way.