

Living the Faith in a Self-Focused Culture

The schedule will be:

rosary 5 pm,

gather for dinner 530, dinner 545 or 6 pm,

you speak about 630 to 715 or so with time for questions afterward.

I. Introduction

1. Introduce myself

2. Story of my family

3. Overworked American, Juliet Schor

II. Self Focus and its consequences

III. Sacrificial Love and Meaning

4. Self love in the end leads to hating oneself

5. Sacrificial love in all true vocation

6. Add creation, fall, recreation

7. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

8. Uncle Buc

9. Rise of the Novel by Ian Watt

- 10. Novel to tell the story of a person with lots of individual characteristics**
- 11. The wrist watch, individual time vs. communal**
- 12. Fascination with Genius**
- 13. What makes me stand out and different**
- 14. View of life as competition**
- 15. Part of our culture**
- 16. If they are thought of highly I must be less important**
- 17. Speech, leveling the playing field**
- 18. That's not to say we should be mediocre**
- 19. Discovery, learning, growth is great**
- 20. The question is why am I doing it**
- 21. Is it giving glory to God, following His will**

22. This moves in the psychological age to put me at the center
23. Rogers and Maslow, I am at the top of the pyramid
24. Maslow's hierarchy of needs
25. Problem with this
26. To be in relationship with God is my greatest need and fulfillment
27. To live for myself apart from God is Hell...literally
28. Paul Vitz, Psychology as Religion, the Cult of Self-Worship
29. Peter Abelard from Scholasticism by Josef Pieper
pp 80-81

“Wherever Abelard went strife was bound to follow. There was not a single one of his teachers with whom he had not quarreled, and whom he did not ridicule with mockery as spiteful as it was witty. ‘His fire filled the house with

**smoke but gave no light. A tree with an ample crown,
amazing to behold at a distance; but from close up not
even the sharpest eye could detect any fruit on it.”**

30. An culture of consumption

31. I get things I want

32. Can approach the spiritual life this way

33. God’s way vs. mine

**34. In prayer it is important to share our hearts and
minds with the Lord**

35. So that we can encounter Him

**36. But when I get mad at Him and refuse to talk to
Him when He doesn’t give me what I want**

**37. I noticed in myself then that my prayer is really
focused on trying to get God to want what I want**

38. Actually this will make me miserable

39. **What freedom is found in is my prayer and desire
encounter the Lord**
40. **It is formed and purified**
41. **Then I grow in desiring what the Lord wants**
42. **30 Day retreat and person asked I'm not sure even
what to pray for**
43. **Great response by old priest**
44. **If I am asking for something that will make me
need God less, probably not from God**
45. **God doesn't mind that we are bratty and messy**
46. **Encounter Him there**
47. **Things that make me self-sufficient and not
needing God....**
48. **Approaching Life as a consumer, picking out ones I
want**
49. **Administration, service**

- 50. Foundation Pieces**
- 51. Humility, Obedience, Detachment Are key**
- 52. Then there also seems to be this ordinary Catholic
life**
- 53. Go to mass, every week**
- 54. Pray daily etc.**
- 55. How do the two of those relate with one another**
- 56. How are they connected**
- 57. How do they flow back and forth**
- 58. Do you graduate to the extraordinary and get to
leave the ordinary?**
- 59. Ordinary means of Grace**
- 60. Sacraments**
- 61. Prayer**
- 62. Virtue**
- 63. Catechesis, spiritual reading, knowing the faith**

- 64. This is the Base**
- 65. Ordinary means of Grace**
- 66. From this base God can do things that are
extraordinary**
- 67. Mystical Gifts that can flow out of this**
- 68. But they are not more important than the ordinary**
- 69. They flow out of that**
- 70. Pursuit of the Eclectic**
- 71. There is a shift from focus in the way Scripture
talks about gifts for the building up of the Body to be
about myself as an individual**
- 72. Why am I so afraid of this gift?**
- 73. Why do I need this gift so badly?**
- 74. Wounded, to be seen, to be noticed**
- 75. Am I content to let the Lord work in the way of His
choosing?**

- 76. Am I open to being totally known Mother Theresa?**
- 77. Am I open to being totally hidden for my lifetime St. Catherine Laboure?**
- 78. Desiring to want what God wants**
- 79. vs. wanting God to want what I want**
- 80. In the Eucharist I encounter the Living God**
- 81. This is where I am grounded**
- 82. A simple prayer "Lord help me to desire what you desire and let go of what you do not desire for me."**
- 83. Extraordinary is very real and very powerful**
- 84. It has to be rooted in the ordinary means of grace in the life of the Church**
- 85. Do a visual prayer with them**