

"Walking with Christ"

14th Annual Men's Conference...



As you may have heard me advertise; the 14th Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference was held on Saturday, September 25th, 2021, at New Britain Stadium, New Britain, Connecticut. It was a beautiful Autumn day, sunny, and warm. Well over 500 men and some women were in attendance. There were various vendors selling their products as well as many Catholic organizations eager to spread the word about their respective missions. Our guest speakers included: Dr. Ralph Martin, Dr. Blythe Kaufman, Mr. Gary Zimak, Father Elias Mills and my personal favorite who in my opinion stole the show... Father Donald Calloway, MIC! The Holy Spirit was alive and well and those in attendance could not help but feel the presence of God. There was Eucharistic Adoration, twelve priests were in the stands hearing many, many confessions and at the end of the day the conference closed with Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Leonard Blair, The Archbishop of Hartford. Who by the way is a very nice guy!

As a member of the committee, I was very busy for most of the day. However, I did make time to allow the Holy Spirit to enter my heart to move me and guide me. Specifically, there was a young family of three, a husband and wife and their very sick 12-year-old son who was confined to a wheelchair. They were lost and they needed some assistance in finding a good location that would accommodate them, their son and his wheelchair. As I walked with them, I got to know them and learned about their tragic situation. Their son was once a healthy little boy, who at the age of seven got sick. His name is Christopher, and he is expected to die soon. My short encounter with this beautiful, yet devastated family was a gift from God himself. I believe that anytime one is moved by the Holy Spirit to act or to do something, regardless of how difficult or sad it was predestined by God, it was the will of God. Each of us are called to walk with one another on this difficult journey, even if only for a short while. On this day I had the opportunity to walk with many men, some women and one special child, and it was a day I shall never forget. I would even venture to say I learned a new way to pray this day... I learned how to pray for a miracle, I learned how to pray with a stranger, and I learned how to pray with my brothers and sisters.

When I left the conference later that evening, I was physically exhausted, for it was a very long day. And although I was tired, I had a beautiful joy and love in my heart that is very hard to explain and reduce to words. The Men's Conference allowed me to see the face of God and the faces of my children and family. It allowed me time to count the blessings in my life and time to thank God for my vocation as a Deacon. It was truly a great day!

Please pray for Christopher and his family and May Almighty God Bless you today and always.

