

Diocese of San Joaquin

19 January 2012



Last week in the Bishop's Note we examined the first of the duties of the Laity is to worship God in church every Sunday because our corporate relationship with God is very important. So too is our personal relationship with God. That leads to the second of the Duties of the Laity: ***"To engage regularly in the reading and study of Holy Scripture and the Doctrine of the Church as found in Article I of the Constitution of this Church;"***

Why is it that daily bible study so important? Here are six reasons why

1. *Because we want to know God better.* If I want to draw closer to my wife, Florence, I need to spend time with her. Well the same is true for us and our relationship with God. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 God reveals Himself and His Will for His creation!

2. *Because we want to life life better.* Because the Bible speaks to every aspect of Life the Lord directs through his Word. The truth is, the more we read and study the Word of God the less "lost" we feel and the more grounded we are. As King David wrote : ***"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*** (Psalm 119:105 ESV) If you are tired of feeling lost and alone, spend 30 minutes a day with the Lord and I promise you will be blessed.

3. *Because we want to grow in closer in our relationship with God.* Jesus responded to temptation by telling the Devil that ***"Man can not live on bread alone but by every workd that comes from the mouth of God."*** (Matthew 4:4 ESV)

4. *To reveal false teachings.* The Bible tells us that in the last days (the time we now live in!) there will be lots of false teachings and false prophets. (Mt24:3-5; Mk 13:3-6; Mk13:21-22). That's why it's so important to know what the Bible says, so we can compoare all teachings with the Word of God. The fact is that every teaching that doesn't agree with what the Word of God says is a false teaching! Therefore, compare every teaching with what the Bible says. If you aren't aware of what the Bible says, you can

get cheated into almost anything.

5. *To know what you believe in.* The more of God's Word you know and act upon the stronger your faith will be (Rom 10:17).

6. *To always keep your Sword sharp!* The Bible is the sword that God has given us, so we can conquer all the temptations we meet (Eph. 6:17). A sword that isn't sharp does no good. Therefore, we need to keep it in good condition and sharpen it (improve our Bible knowledge) every day so it's always sharp and ready to be used!

Bishop Eric

Diocesan Calendar

January 21st - Diocesan Council

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January 22nd - Bishop @ St. Paul's Bakersfield

January 29th - Bishop @ Trinity Lone Pine

February 5th - Bishop @ St. Paul's Visalia

February 12th - Bishop @ Jesus Our Saviour, Modesto

February 18th - Diocesan Council

February 26th - Bishop @ Jesus the Good Shepherd, Henderson

March 11th - Bishop @ San Pedro y Pablo, Arvin

March 13th - Rural Deans

March 17th - Diocesan Council

March 18th - Bishop @ St. Clement's, Woodlake

March 25th - Bishop @ St. James, Sonora

March 29th - Mass of Chrism, 11 am

April 1st - Palm Sunday - Bishop at the Cathedral

April 8th - Easter Sunday - Bishop at the Cathedral

August 9-10 - Provincial Hispanic Ministry Conference. at the Cathedral, "Caminemos Juntos"