

Dear Good Men,

As Bob Furgala informed you last month, at a meeting of the past Presidents of the Men's Club I was invited to take on the role of your President. It is indeed an honor and a privilege. I'm stepping into some big shoes. Right from our founding President Greg Taylor, down the line to Bob Furgala, we have been blessed with very competent leadership and they have successfully guided us through the first two decades of this century with much to show by way of accomplishments. Thanks to each of them for the immense contributions they have made to St. Max and our Men's Club. If I can do even a fraction of what they have done it will still be worth something, I guess!

For those who are new to the club the lineup is impressive: Past Presidents 1. Greg Taylor, 2. Frank Blum, 3. Jim Delaney, 4. Rick Bianchi, 5. Larry Healey, 6. Andy Rickelmann, 7. Bob Furgala
Supported by Scott Perrotty – Treasurer; Larry Turner – who magically provides a speaker for every dinner; Pat Lynch – always at the 50/50 desk; Bill Martinet – Golfing everything; Bill Cole – keeps the bar in order, Jimmy Tedjasaputra, always at hand to help cleanup, Paul Weir – brains and brawn behind the Word on Fire project, Michael Houser – our Serra Retreat champion, the stalwarts who prepare dinner and many, many more.

Please join me in acknowledging and thanking them. They provide quite the inspiration we need at this time.

Today as we brace ourselves for the start of a new decade and face a whole new world reality, as a ministry of St. Max we are challenged to reimagine our approach to fulfilling our Men's Club mission. The "we" means each and every one of us without exception. Why? Because Catholic men are by definition required to be thoughtful, prayerful men of action. This starts with connecting, getting involved and contributing to various initiatives of the Men's Club.

Our very first challenge is figuring out how we can reinvent a beloved and always enjoyable 20 year old Men's Club fixture – our monthly dinner meeting. As Bob mentioned in his note, we have customarily gone on hiatus through the summer. This year we started the hiatus prematurely and now that fall has snuck up on us (heaven knows where the intervening months disappeared) it is time to come out of hibernation and meet. Given the continued requirements to be socially distanced, an in-person event is obviously not practical.

We are therefore left with little choice. We need to meet online. Unsatisfying as it is to see a screen plastered with dozens of thumbnails of fellow members peering at each other it is still a meeting of sorts and at least gets us into in a single place and time, albeit virtually, to exchange real pleasantries, ideas, opinions and experience some form of fellowship. A preferred beverage at your side always helps.

Please therefore save the date. As always, the first Monday in the month at 6:30 in the evening i.e. November 2nd, 2020.

For the record it also happens to be a Solemnity: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls). An auspicious enough day for us to begin as we honor those who have passed before us.

Details of the how to get on the Zoom call will follow.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you and of course all the illustrious leaders named earlier.

May God continue to Bless your journeys,

Noel Heredia

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