

The Vine

June 2019

A Newsletter for St. Bruno's Young Adult Fellowship

This Month

June 5th & 19th, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM – **“Why We’re Catholic”** discussion group; contact Kathleen or Kevin for location information

June 12th & 26th, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Parish Hall – Discussion on **“The Pill & Sexual Chaos”**; Chick-fil-A to follow

June 9th & 23rd, Sundays 2:00 – 3:30 PM, **Pick Up Basketball** on Parish outdoor courts – open to all

June 30th **Sunday YAF Dinner** after 5:30 Mass – meet on patio outside church for directions to restaurant; each person pays their own way

Next Month

July 13th, Saturday **YAF Barbeque** for all Young Adults, single and married - children welcome. Watch St. Bruno Bulletin and St. Bruno YAF Website for more

@stbrunoyaf



St. Bruno Catholic Church

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The Vine Re- launch

The Vine – the newsletter of St. Bruno YAF – has been on hiatus for a few months but now it’s back. This newsletter will provide news of recent events and information on upcoming events. The Vine will also give suggestions on music, on books and videos, opportunities for service or social justice activities, and more. The Vine will be available in hardcopy at YAF activities, electronically on the St. Bruno website, and can be sent to you if you’re on the YAF email and text alerts lists. Good reading!

YAF Teams Up with Habitat



Habitat for Humanity, the faith based organization that builds homes for the homeless, is working in Whittier with a number of churches, including St. Bruno, to repair homes. Habitat will make repairs on the homes of 25 families in need who meet income requirements. On Saturday, May 18th five YAF members with volunteers from other churches and Habitat staff made repairs on the exterior of a local home. Members had a fun and rewarding experience of helping others while learning to use power tools. Thanks Christina, Ingrid, Ryan, Adriana and Ana for representing St. Bruno YAF on this project!



If you'd like to participate in a YAF-Habitat repair project, please sign up at a YAF Wednesday Get Together, and watch for Habitat project information in The Vine, on the St. Bruno YAF webpage, and in the St. Bruno Sunday Bulletin.



Singalong 4

Reviewed by Greg Perea

Phil Wickham, a contemporary Christian Worship Leader, just released Singalong 4 (LIVE). His Singalong albums have been my favorite albums since 2010. His latest album features Christian music icons Matt Redman and Brian and Jenn Johnson. The Singalong concept is simple; Phil Wickham leads worship with his guitar, and the audience in attendance prays with him. No drums, no backup singers, no other guitars or bass, just an acoustic guitar and the voices of the people of God.

“The idea of these ‘singalong’ records started one night several years ago in Portland, Oregon. It was just me, my guitar, and a few thousand college students singing out songs of worship together. That night we pressed ‘record’ and captured something truly special. It was simple, raw, and honest. That recording became the first ‘singalong’ record,” shared Wickham. “Ever since that first recording it has been a dream of mine for these ‘singalong’ projects to become something more than just records tied to my name.”

The “singalong” album series has become a highly anticipated favorite of Phil Wickham fans, showcasing the true talent of the worship leader where he shines most. It includes the standout tracks “Living Hope” and “Till I Found You” which have racked up nearly 50 million streams since their release and continue to impact the church and Christian radio.

You'll have this album on REPEAT as you Singalong with Phil Wickham. Check it out!

YAF April 24, 2019 Get-Together

What Do Catholics Really Believe?

By Tania Lopez

Our first YAF get-together after Lent was centered on the theme of what Catholics really believe. Coming together after the University Series, we wanted to hear what our Young Adult community questioned, what they wanted clarified, and what they wanted to learn more on concerning Catholicism. The theme of the night proved to be one with which the 25 Young Adults gathered in fellowship engaged!

We began with song and prayer led by our musical praise and worship leader, Greg, followed by a fun game of Catholic trivia, led by Matt, which ignited laughter and friendly competition. After answering a series of questions in small teams, we had a large group discussion on those questions led by a panel composed of Blaise, Matt and myself. Topics raised included questions on why we confess to a priest, on the Communion of Saints, on what is authentic Love, on the connection between politics and morality, and on sociocultural views regarding morality and religion. Some great dialogue and conversation by fellow YA's made gathering feel like a community. Following the large group discussion, Greg led us once more in praise and worship (thank you, Greg!)

Lastly, YAF introduced a new interactive tool to generate more questions from YA's about our Catholic faith. The **Young Adult Fellowship Question Box** is a creatively designed wooden box with a notepad and pen that allows YA's to anonymously submit questions they may have on Catholic teaching, theology, etc. Once we gather a substantial number of questions, we will organize another get-together and answer the submitted questions. Check out our YAF Question Box at our next YAF get-together!

Small Group Discussion on “Why We’re Catholic”



The Young Adult Fellowship calls its members to be Leaders for Christ. Kathleen and Kevin, members of YAF, have accepted the Holy Spirit’s divine call and began hosting a small group discussion based on the book “Why We’re Catholic” by Trent Horn. The book was offered to Kevin and Kathleen by fellow YAF Team Leader Blaise Mikkelson who encouraged them to grow and seek more knowledge about the Catholic faith. The book has inspired Kathleen and Kevin to bring other young adults together through a fun, interactive, and insightful discussion in their home. The small group starts off with a delicious dinner followed by group discussion and prayer. The group meets every other Wednesday for a total of 6 meetings from 7:00pm-8:30pm in Kevin and Kathleen’s home. If you are a young adult interested in attending, please contact Kathleen via email pineda.kathleen@gmail.com.

Have questions about YAF?

Call St. Bruno Parish Center which will put you in touch with someone who can answer your questions.

How Did You Become Catholic?

By Matthew Wingert

I was recently asked, “So, how did you become Catholic?” Typically I respond to this question with something along the lines of “I basically read my way into the Church”. As I was getting ready to blurt out my usual response, the person posing the question followed up with a “...because I am interested in your story since I haven’t seen too many converts as involved as you are.”

This question reminded me of how important listening to other people telling their story was to my conversion. Whenever I hear that someone is going to “give their testimony,” my ears immediately perk up. I’ve read many books and watched numerous episodes of EWTN’s The Journey Home series (<http://ewtn.org/tv/live/journeyhome.asp>), both before and after my conversion. Every time I am left in awe about how God calls each one of us in a unique way to the fullness of His truth.

One day my wife came across a woman’s YouTube channel called LizziesAnswers. When my wife started watching her videos, this woman sounded pretty Catholic to me. However, she made it very clear to her viewers that she was NOT Catholic and didn’t plan on becoming one. As we watched her videos over the coming months, she continued to post about the errors in Protestant theology and what she was taught when she was going to a Protestant college.

The more videos she posted, the more my wife and I were convinced it was just a matter of time before she stopped kidding herself. Every time a new video went up I was more convinced because the same topics she was discussing were the same issues I faced during my conversion. Her story touched my heart because it was so similar to mine, but her own unique experience. Her continual denial that she was “never becoming Catholic” were words I told myself often (since then I’ve learned to “never say never” ... I think). Much to this not so surprised viewer, she joined the Church at the Easter Vigil in 2018.

Stories like mine, Lizzie’s, and the thousands of others are what encouraged me (and I hope you as well) to believe Christ’s promise to send the Holy Spirit to lead us to “all truth” (John 16:13). Go check out Lizzie’s story at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PscwvMDR-t0>. In the coming months I hope you will take the time to come out and listen to me tell my story, and I hope you find the courage to tell someone yours. Whether you’re a revert, a cradle Catholic, an ex-Protestant, a former agnostic, atheist, Buddhist or something else, you never know whose heart your story will touch.

“Tell others about the truth that sets you free.”

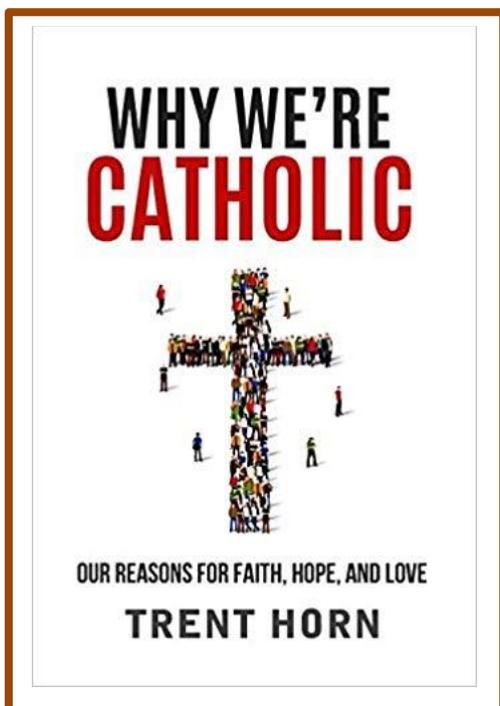
– Pope Benedict XVI

“Why We’re Catholic”

Reviewed by Blaise Mikkelson

<https://shop.catholic.com/why-were-catholic-our-reasons-for-faith-hope-and-love/>

Have you ever been asked a question about your Catholic faith that you did not know how to answer? Maybe you’ve been Catholic your whole life but don’t know why we do certain things. Or maybe you’re not Catholic and want to know why Catholics believe all these things. If so Trent Horn’s book “Why We’re Catholic” is for you. It answers common questions people have about the Faith. Other books that have tried to do this but this one is really special. I read the book for the first time last year and since then I’ve bought 4 cases to share with anyone willing to read it because I think it can change people’s lives. So many people leave the Church because they don’t really know what the Church believes or why. There are 3 reasons I think this book is so amazing in answering questions on the Faith.



1.) **This book is simply written.** Some books on theology are written at a level that you must take a college course to understand. This book does a great job of communicating difficult concepts clearly without a watered down answers. The chapters are short, interesting, and informative.

2.) **This book touches almost every question you might have about the Faith.** Perhaps Trent knows what people want to know because he was an Agnostic and a Protestant before becoming a Catholic. It starts with the foundational questions such as “Why do we believe in God?” and progresses to more nuanced topics that explain things we do as Catholics (e.g.: why do we have a pope, why we baptize babies or why we have to go to mass). It clarifies the questions on morality and Catholic social teaching that confuse and upset a lot of people (e.g., why we cherish life

and we defend marriage) and delves into the questions like why we believe in purgatory, pray to Saints and honor Mary. Its question-answer format makes sifting through the book easy and there are bullet points at the end of each chapter that summarize it. You don’t have to read it from start to finish - you can use it as a reference book whenever a question comes up.

3.) **This book will strengthen your faith in the Church and will embolden you to evangelize.** If you knew everything about medicine, you’d probably want to share your knowledge with as many people as you could. This book will fill in gaps in your knowledge and make you more confident about your faith. Before I learned more about the Church, I didn’t want to engage with others because I was scared of looking silly because I really didn’t have a lot of reasons for what I believed. Books like “Why We’re Catholic” really helped me give informed answers to my friends, co-workers and others. It helped me see how beautiful and reasonable being Catholic is. Who knew?! I definitely recommend you read this book.

Check out our new Young Adult Fellowship Library for your spiritual enrichment at the next YAF get-together.