

Abp. Borders asks renewed commitment to spirituality

September 22, 1978

Dear Friends in Christ,

The importance of prayer in the life of the Christian cannot be underestimated. Prayer that is reflective, dealing with fundamental issues in our relationship with God and to each other, is the foundation or grounding we each need if we are to fulfill the call which Jesus Christ has given us through our Baptism, to "Come, follow Me!"

This call to "Come, follow Me!" is directed to each one. It asks us to reflect seriously on its implications, to change our lives; to commit ourselves generously to His service, and to deal with each other in such a way that we convey the message of the Gospel and offer support in making that message real.

I am pleased that, under the patronage of Our Lady, we can dedicate the month of October to the deepening of the spiritual life of the People of God in the archdiocese. Each Catholic ought to be concerned to convey the Gospel message to others, but to do so each one must be confronted with the full challenge of that Gospel and undergo periodically a conversion experience in one's own life. I see no better way to address this than the rich resources available in the retreat and spiritual centers existing in the archdiocese:

SSND Spiritual Center, Baltimore, sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame;

Christian Brothers Spiritual Center in Adamstown;

CYO Retreat House at Sparks, primarily for youth retreats;

Manresa-on-Severn, in Annapolis, sponsored by the Jesuits;

Marriottsville Spiritual Center, sponsored by the Sisters of Bon Secours;

St. Mary Spiritual Center, Baltimore, sponsored by the Sulpician Fathers;

St. Joseph Spiritual Center, sponsored by the Passionist Fathers;

Archdiocesan Consultation Center, which sponsors special programs from time to time;

Each of these Centers will welcome a visit from you during this month, and have scheduled open-house days. I would urge as many persons as possible to take advantage of the opportunity and make a visit to them.

It is my hope that parish and diocesan organization will see in the retreat movement an opportunity to deepen the faith dimension of their activity and will arrange to make retreats as groups, getting to know each other, not just socially, but as persons sharing an ever-deepening Christian commitment. I am grateful to the Sisters Council and the Clergy Education Committee for their continuing interest in the promotion of programs of spiritual development. I am grateful also to the religious committee and laity who are staffing the centers listed above.

May this be a new beginning, and may we find in prayer the strength that undergirds our faith, renews our hope, and makes us sensitive to the call of justice and charity in our daily lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William D. Borders

Archbishop of Baltimore

Catholic Review
9.22.78
p. B2