

## 2024 CMC PEARLS OF WISDOM

- The Bible was written *FOR* us and not *TO* us. \*
- Matthew depicts Jesus as the New Moses, because He shares with people the Heart, Love, and Will of the Father.
- Matthew is the most cited Gospel in our Liturgy.
- Probably Matthew's favorite word is "Kingdom". It occurs 50 times. "Kingdom of Heaven" occurs 32 times.
- Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ. \*
- Prayers should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and Man may talk together...We speak to Him when we pray. We hear Him when we read the Divine Sayings. \*
- The Word of God is powerful and ***effective***. \*
- Matthew wrote in Aramaic that was translated into Greek, and that's what survived.
- The practice of Lent comes from Matthew
- Matthew's Main Themes are *Christology* (Who Jesus Is?), *Ecclesiology* (What is the Church?), and *Discipleship* (Who you are in relation to Jesus?).
- When sharing Lectio Divina; Speak in the First Person, Be Concrete, Be Brief, Be Cordial. \*
- Seek God first and *Trust* in His Providence. \*
- Don't let there be anything between you and the Lord.

- From Jesus - Are you gonna follow Me through this door or do you want Me to close it behind Me?
- Luke has Jesus' **Maternal genealogy** - through Mary (76 names beginning with Adam). Matthew has Jesus' **Paternal ancestry** – through Joseph (42 names beginning with Abraham).
- Jesus is the New David – That's the point of the whole genealogy in Matthew.
- History doesn't repeat itself – but it often rhymes. (Mark Twain)
- Favorite St. Joseph quote, “ ”. (He says nothing.)
- Be OK with things being **un**resolved. \*
- 3 Theories in Matthew; Suspicion Theory, Perplexity Theory, Reverence Theory.
- There are 17 fulfillment phrases in Matthew.
- God is not afraid of our **mess**. \*
- But for ALL of Herod's power, he was **never** in control.
- In their narratives, Luke shows *shepherds* worship Jesus, Matthew has *Kings* worship Jesus.
- We bend the knee before Jesus in Adoration of the small Host- Just as the Magi bent the knee before the small child Jesus.
- Let your heart be worn out with prayer. \*
- My purpose in life is simply to usher people to God.
- How do I improve my prayer life?

- Do you pay attention to Him?
- Prayer is *simple*...Prayer is *not easy*...It is the *best* thing you will ever do.\*
- There is a discipline to prayer – It takes discipline to have a prayer life.
- God has a desire for us to respond to Him.
- Our goal of The Cornerstone is to engage, interact, and study with God.
- Prayer is relationship with God!
- A Basic step to dating Jesus is spending time with Jesus...Just Do It !
- Prayer – Just get it done and do it!
- By spending time and communicating with Jesus, we build our muscles with Him.
- Silent prayer is a very intimate space with Jesus.
- Be attentive. Ask Jesus, What do You want me to know today? And wait for a response.
- In dating Jesus, think of Him as a person. He loves you.
- In relationship with others, we help each other in our blind spots.
- In the Beatitudes (5:3-11), “Blessed” = “Happy” = “Lucky”.
- “Father” is said 17 times in 3 short chapters of the Sermon on the Mount.
- When others interact with us, they should be able to see that we are Christians. (See how much we love each other!)

- What it means to be Christian is to be living FOR others. \*
- Not only does salt season and enhance, it also purifies and protects.
- Fulfill not Abolish the law (5:17-20).  
Fulfill means Jesus will bring about the purpose intended for Heaven.
- Don't kill (5:21-22). Don't call each other names (rapa=numskull).  
Don't swear at all (5:33-34). Just be honest with each other.  
Don't retaliate. Limit retribution – inside your heart, just stop.
- Love your enemies (5:43-47) – Not just sit and take it, rather, an act of charity – DO MORE!
- The Our Father (6:7-14) rightly puts *order* in our prayer. \*
- There is imagery as *Children of God* – 12 times in Chapter 6.
- The name of Jesus evokes the whole of God's Presence.
- We are called NOT to remain complacent and stationary, but to ***change***, so we might grow and get closer to God.
- Christianity is not resting on your laurels, but is a continual battle to love your fellow man and to grow closer and closer to God. This means ***change, not*** stagnation. \*
- If the Pharisees had spent as much time pondering Jesus' words as they did trying to thwart them, they would have seen the Truth. \*
- The deepest part of the human problem of sin is it doesn't have a human solution.
- Only by God's Grace and Jesus' Sacrifice will I be saved. \*

- The Cornerstone is 40 years old this year.
- We need to stay true to who we are – but be more relevant.
- Focus on things that matter. Let go of things that don't matter. \*
- The Shepherding Board is high impact and Spiritually rewarding work.
- Lead us Lord...Lead us!
- The Cornerstone is Community and our community provides a sense of belonging.
- Our 4-Part study is proven to add richness that other studies lack.
- Group dynamics is joint responsibility.
- The “Cone of Silence” is alive and well at The Cornerstone.
- If you tell someone you'll pray for them – then pray for them. \*
- We have a wonderful culture that everyone is responsible for supporting.
- Mark the questions that may generate rich sharing.
- Try to protect the shared prayer time.
- With difficult questions, keep it light and positive.
- Dear Jesus, open our hearts that we will hear Your Word. Nourish us to receive Your Grace. \*
- Approach God with a Holy Boldness! (St. Catherine of Siena) \*
- The outstretched arm is a symbol of God's Divine POWER.

- Layered Irk.
- Name change symbolizes new roles.  
Whenever a name was changed, a mission was given.
- The Church will never fail because it is assured to Peter by Jesus.
- The Power of the Papacy we see the most is in the Confessional.
- When preparing Reflections, look at the Big Picture.
- Most people don't know their gifts until we point them out.
- Trust in the Holy Spirit and Just pray about it.
- What talents have I buried within me?
- It's the last one, but the best one.
- Try our worst, we can't do better than God can...He is always in control\*
- Last Supper – It's all about Sacrifice...a Present act of God's Mercy and Sacrifice.
- The Mass is a Sacrifice.
- In His Divinity Jesus didn't suffer, but in His Humanity – You Bet He did!
- Misunderstanding follows Jesus everywhere He goes in the Gospels.
- Don't *fear* your doubt, use your doubt to grow in your faith.

( “ \* ” following a Pearl identifies it as one of those shared in person at the CMC.)