

ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Signs of Life* by Dr. Scott Hahn
- Section IV: "Life Lessons" (with Morning Offering)
- Session Six: June 22, 2017

1. **MORNING OFFERING:** Dr. Hahn writes: "We are called to make an offering of our life, as Jesus did, succeeding where Adam had failed..." (page 85)

- In what Biblical Ritual does Dr. Hahn find the "seeds" for what we now call "the Morning Offering?"

- "Our altar is our desktop, our workstation, the row we hoe, the ditch we dig, the diaper we change, the pot we share, the bed we share with our spouse." (page 85) What does all this have to do with a "Morning Offering"?

- When did you first hear about the "Morning Offering Prayer"?

2. **BIBLE STUDY:** Dr. Scott Hahn writes: "In the Church, we have all we need for understanding the Scriptures – and making our own way to sainthood." (page 122)

- On your own spiritual journey, how has your love for/understanding of the Word of God deepened? Grown? Become less simple?

- In studying the Bible, why do we need a "study group" and a "guide"? (page 112)

- Hahn insists that we read the Bible "within the heart of the Church". "If we read the Bible as they wrote it, we'll read it from the heart of the Church, and that heart is Eucharistic. It is the heart of Jesus." What does Hahn mean by this?

- What opportunities are available for us to grow in our knowledge and love of the Bible here at St. Aloysius Gonzaga? What other opportunities would you like to see offered here?

3. **SPIRITUAL READING:** Dr. Scott Hahn writes: "Spiritual reading, especially, is a discipline...It's not reading for entertainment, really, or even for education. It should lead to prayer, and it is a form of prayer." (pages 118-119)

- What does Dr. Hahn mean by “It is not good to consume spiritual books in a gluttonous way, gorging on large portions at a single sitting. It is better for us to treat today’s reading like a meal.”? (page 120)

- Hahn quotes the spiritual writer, Father Eugene Boylan on page 121: “there is no possibility of advancing in the spiritual life: even perseverance therein is rendered very doubtful.” Why is spiritual reading so important?

- We are encouraged to read those books recommended by our Spiritual Director. In the absence of such a person in your life, how – if at all – do you choose books for your own spiritual reading?

- How helpful is the Trautenberg Library to you as you choose spiritual books to read?

4. **RETREAT:** Dr. Scott Hahn writes: “So we can say this with certainty: if we want to advance in the spiritual life, we should first retreat.” (page 124)

1. Is it realistic to call making a retreat – time apart in a place part, with ample hours, silence, catching up on what is happening in our lives – a “goal” for our spiritual journeys? (page 126)

2. What other opportunities come our way to address our “need to adjust ourselves to a radically different way of thinking.”? (page 127)

5. **BONUS QUESTION:** Have you found yourself acting upon any of the “Catholic Customs” we have been reflecting upon over the past 6 months? Which customs? How?