

## ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Signs of Life* by Dr. Scott Hahn
- Chapters 23 thru 27
- Session Eight: September 28, 2017

1. **INCENSE:** Numbers 3 thru 5 – August 24, 2017 (attached)
2. **CANDLES:** Numbers 6 thru 8 – August 24, 2017 (attached)
3. **SACRED IMAGES:** What does Dr. Hahn mean by a “Sacred Image”? Why does he say that for him, a convert to Catholicism, to kneel before a sacred image is “thrilling, nevertheless, as only a Catholic can thrill before a sacred image.”? (page 167)
4. The *iconodules*” argued that “since God had condescended to take on flesh, the common people had the right to contemplate him enfleshed.” (page 168) How does this statement help you understand the “importance” of sacred images in our Catholic tradition?
5. Explain what Hahn means by: “What the face of the human Jesus revealed during his life on earth during the first century, sacred images reveal nowadays.”? (page 169) Does this observation apply equally to images of Mary and the Saints?
6. **RELICS:** Why do you think the early Christians took such great care to preserve the bodies of St. Peter and St. Paul? (confer – page 174) Why do you think they built the catacombs as burial places for the early martyrs?
7. How do the “bodies of the saints now convey his (Christ’s) life to the world”? (page 174)

8. Dr. Hahn finishes the chapter on Relics with these words: "But as it was in the ancient Church, so it remains today: to venerate relics is something distinctly and characteristically Christian." (page 175) How is this ancient practice "distinctively and characteristically" a Christian practice?
  
9. **FASTING AND MORTIFICATION:** From your knowledge of the Scriptures and the history of the Church, where do you find the biblical/historical roots for fasting and mortification?
  
10. Dr. Hahn makes the rather bold statement: "As long as we follow Christ, we will have to deny our bodies the things they want." (page 177) Why does Hahn say this? Do you agree or disagree?
  
11. According to Hahn, we are called to constant fidelity "to that daily self-denial that Jesus demands of us." (page 179) And, again: "Jesus' advice on daily self-denial indeed makes good sense." (page 180) What kind of *daily* self-denial is Jesus calling us to? Give some examples.
  
12. Final comments, insights, questions, observations...
  
13. **BONUS QUESTION:** What effect has reading, reflecting upon, and discussing Dr. Hahn's book, *Signs of Life*, had on your own personal spiritual journey?
  
14. Any suggestions for our next book?

## ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA PARISH

- Catholic Book Discussion Group: *Signs of Life* by Dr. Scott Hahn
- Chapters 21 thru 24
- Session Seven: August 24, 2017

1. **PRIESTHOOD:** Numbers 7 thru 9 – July 27, 2017 (attached)
2. **ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Numbers 10 thru 13 – July 27, 2017 (attached)
3. **INCENSE:** Dr. Scott Hahn writes at the very beginning of Chapter 23: “Catholicism is sometimes called the religion of ‘bells and smells’”. He goes on to say: “Thus, the Church’s worship engages all that we are, including our bodily and spiritual senses.” How does the Church “engage all that we are” in her worship? Give some examples.
4. “To burn incense was to offer a richly symbolic act of worship.” (page 159) “It’s meant to be an outward sign of the inner mystery that is true prayer.” (page 159) On what occasions and during which Celebrations does the Church use incense? What is its meaning? Symbolism? on these various occasions.
5. Why does Dr. Hahn quote St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians: “we are the aroma of Christ”? (page 160)
6. **CANDLES:** In the Book of Revelation, “the lights shine as a symbol of the life of the Church.” (page 163) What are the meaning and symbolism of these candles traditionally found in our Catholic Community: the Paschal Candle, the Sanctuary Lamp, the Altar Candles, devotional candles, Family Prayer Candles, Baptismal Candle?
7. What is the relationship between the Candles and Jesus who calls Himself “the Light of the World”? How are these words connected to these words of Jesus: “You are the light of the world”?

8. Dr. Hahn writes: "That light is Christ. And by grace it is his saints too. It's you, and it's me...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine." (page 165) How do YOU let your light shine?
  
9. **EXTRA CREDIT:** What effect has reading, reflecting upon and discussing Dr. Hahn's book, *Signs of Life*, had on your spiritual journey?
  
10. Final comments, insights, questions, observations.....

**NEXT DISCUSSION – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017  
7:00PM – ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA RECTORY**