



ST. AUGUSTINE'S
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



The Men's Retreat - A Testimonial

Why I'm going to **The Men's Retreat** – AND WHY YOU SHOULD COME WITH ME!

I often wonder what my role is in the church. Is there even a place for a 20-something in the parish community? Can I really be a positive influence? Do I have what it takes to become a leader?

These were a few of the many questions I carried with me as I was preparing for last September's **The Men's Retreat**. I had a positive experience attending the previous retreat in 2016 that I jumped on the opportunity to grab one of the coveted spots for that second one.

Yeah, it took a lot out of me to be there: money, time away from my regular commitment, and it challenged me to be vulnerable with men twice, or even three times my age. Will they be open with me? What can I offer them?

The Lord blew me out of the water that weekend. I revisited what it meant to be a Prodigal Son – to understand my need for God and the Father's Love and Mercy. I learned as a man in today's world that I'm hard to please, often hesitant to believe what I can't directly see or touch, and I am always my biggest critic.

Through my 'yes' to God in attending that retreat and committing to being as open as I possibly can be for just 36 hours, He showed me how to surrender my pride and give Him the weight of the world that I had been carrying.



In meeting and getting to share stories and laughs with other men that weekend, I learned that I am never truly alone in my struggles, questions, doubts, and trials. God has shown me that to become the leader I desire to be, I must be willing to be led by those who have gone before me.

The journey since has been one full of adventure, new opportunities, and joy.

If you are a 19+ male with any curiosity or desire to grow as a Christian Man, I'd love to see you this coming September for the third **The Men's Retreat!**

Hope to see you there and to build a future of Christ-like men for His kingdom and our future.

God bless!

Jarren Bato

Info: www.staugustineschurch.ca
www.liferestoration.ca/mensretreat