



Moving Towards God

With the pressures of the work environment, seeking to walk with Christ and let the Holy Spirit guide all one's work decisions can often be challenging. How can one seek to be a Business Executive Leading with Integrity, Entrusted Values, and Expectancy (BELIEVES) in the work environment?

“How do we continuously invite God into _____ and find real joy – even if it’s messy?”

The 2024 BELIEVES season maintained its focus on this overarching question on Tuesday, Feb. 13th with a discussion focused on “Moving Towards God,” sparked by thoughts shared by Matt Beringer, Go-to-Market Strategy Manager at Smarsh; and Josh Harris, Writer, Producer, & Founder of MadUp Media.



Beringer, who likens his work at Smarsh to being internal consulting, gets to work with and meet all kinds of people.

“What I enjoy coming out of the work are the one-on-one conversations that can move beyond work,” said Beringer. “It’s amazing how many people have the same questions – we all have them – but we never ask them.”

Beringer said he believes the internal dialogue that we may have that keeps the questions from being asked may include things like, “I’m scared to ask,” “I don’t know what they’ll say,” or “I don’t want to make them uncomfortable.”

“However, Jesus so often asked questions of people,” Beringer stated afterwards.

What does the session’s theme around “Moving Towards God” mean to Beringer?

“Embracing the sacraments,” he responded. “I was raised Catholic, fell away, and then came back. The Eucharist is what brought me back. It is something more than just a symbol, but believing that God is fully real.”

Harris, who has been doing stand-up comedy for 15 years, and writes and produces faith-based music – some of which has hit the charts as a part of Harris’s music project called Joshua’s Giants, said what comes to mind for him when thinking about the theme of “Moving Towards God” is something someone once told him that’s stuck with him ever since.

“If I do the sewing, He’ll do the growing,” Harris told everyone. “I’ve got to be focused on letting God plant His seed in my heart.”

Harris goes about doing this on a weekly and daily basis by going to daily Mass, keeping a Holy Hour, and taking part in different service ministries.

“I have been sober for over 15 years,” he shared. “As I get closer to God in the Eucharist, opportunities to serve surface. Then the next step is, ‘Do I say yes?’ Engaging sacramentally allows me to reflect how He opened up doors. The mistake we often make is believing it has to be big, but it really happens one-on-one.”

Hearing how Harris does comedy, Maureen Becker, CTK Parishioner, then asked, “You’re doing comedy and music, does God have a sense of humor?”

“Sometimes I use music in my comedy,” Harris responded. “Regarding God having a sense of humor, there are moments in scripture where God says or shows humor can be part of healing, such as Luke: 6:21 (‘Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh’).”

He added that there are certain types of humor and music that bring him closer or farther away from God.

Harris was then asked by another attendee if he intends to have people move toward God in his comedy routines.

“I try to find bite-sized opportunities to share and then be heard,” he replied. “One time I was doing a comedy routine on a cruise when one of the attendees later came up to me and said, ‘Before this cruise I was diagnosed with cancer, but I told them I’m not going to do that until after so I could enjoy this experience.’ By the time we left, she, me, and a few others were praying outside the show. The lady came to every one of my shows the rest of the cruise.”

What does Moving Toward God look like professionally?

Beringer answered first.

“When I go to adoration in the morning and then go to work, I try to see the Eucharist in each person,” he said. “If I have conversations about faith trying to prove a point or because I want Matthew to be right, it is a pretty good recipe that it’ll crash and burn, but if it comes from a place of wanting to know the other person and their story, it tends to go better...How can we give what we don’t receive? We need to receive the love of God first before we can give it.”

Following Beringer’s thoughts, there was time for one final question ... “How do you know when you’re discerning correctly or doing it right?”

Harris responded with an answer that might not come to mind for everyone at first.

“Showing up – with the Eucharist first,” he told everyone. “We are who we hang out with. If we hang out with Jesus, we can be more like Jesus.”

He went on to add, “Jesus is the way. So, what is the way? Seeking a path forward with Christ.”

The other key thing Harris noted was to have a spiritual advisor that is farther along than you are to see things more objectively.

“Typically, just having one person is best,” he commented. “For me it’s my 12-step sponsor.”

Beringer followed by saying, “If we’re following God, faith generally moves the opposite direction of fear. If it is fear, it is not the right answer typically. Think about Peter ... when he’s afraid, things go wrong and he stops discerning God’s will.”