

## **DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL**

Many have said that they would do God's Will if they could only become aware of it.

Although we live in one of the most secular societies in the world, Americans generally believe in the existence of God and not just a remote impersonal one but one who is interested in them and vaguely accessible. Catholic Americans have the gift of believing in a more clearly defined God – One who is committed to their welfare on the personal level and who is within reach in private prayer. He is also accessible through the magnificent array of seasonal liturgies that remind us of God's love through the awe inspiring stories on the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Still, even with the multiple spread of opportunities to get to know the Lord through the Church, many of us feel that it is difficult to decipher what the Lord expects. Aside from a few dramatic biblical exceptions, the Lord does not speak audibly to us. Few of us will have the experience of Abraham at the Burning Bush or St. Paul on the road to Damascus. Yet, we believe that God is as concerned about the fate and course of each and everyone of His creation as he was of Abraham and St. Paul. Over the years many wonderful practices of Catholic devotion and prayer have developed to bring people closer to God's love and to come to know His will for us. The Catholic Men's Fellowship, founded some 20 years ago in Cincinnati, believes that men can come to a deeper knowledge of God's will through fellowship meetings. Through fellowship one has a much greater chance of uncovering something if we explore together.

## **Fellowship**

We in the Catholic Men's Fellowship, like all Catholics, have come to knowledge of God through the Scriptures and the Magisterium of the Church. We also believe that we get to know about God and His goodness through life's experience. We live at the pleasure of God. It is His pleasure that we come know and love Him through the events of our lives, be they critical life-changing moments or the routine events that fill our daily existence. In the Fellowship we believe that there are no coincidences. On the contrary, everything has significance and meaning if we could only discover it.

The purpose of the fellowship meeting is to discern the meaning hidden in the pattern of daily existence – to uncover what God is telling us in the seemingly casual encounter with family members, co-workers and neighbors. This intensifies and instructs one's life experience!

The late Pope John Paul II told us to look for the *Truth About Man* in the way that we experience life. This in no way diminishes the importance of Scripture or the primary role of the Church in revealing God's goodness and glory to us. But the Pope points out that modern man is not paying attention to those sources of Revelation. He said that contemporary man is paying attention only to himself and the emotions he feels as he seemingly bounces off one unconnected incident after another. We believe we can supplement and reinforce our belief in the Transcendent by inquiring into and studying the unfolding events of our lives in fellowship groups. We believe that fellowship is the unique setting in which modern Catholic men can see more fully the presence of a loving God through sharing and story telling.