

ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT PARISH
HOSTS MAJOR ADULT FORMATION EVENT

On Monday-Tuesday, and Wednesday night, Nov. 26-28, 2007, St. Louis parishioners, and people from all over crammed into the church which can hold close to 800 people to listen to Matthew Kelly, a 36 yr old Australian who has authored many books, which have been translated into several languages and has traveled to 50 countries speaking to, mostly, Catholic audiences, but his talks have attracted many individuals not of our faith.

We began advertising this event back at the end of September, and now we have a "sell out" crowd!!! We have pre-sold 750 tickets for each of the 3 nights, and are telling people to come at 6:45 and we will sell another 70-100 on a first-come-first-served basis! We were still getting phone calls on the first day of the event. People are coming from AZ, UT, NV, Tennessee!!!!!! (Tennessee is in the middle of the USA over 1500 miles from Santa Maria, CA), and all over CA.

The local priests came for dinner with Matthew Kelly in the parish rectory on the first night and stayed for the talk. Our Regional Bishop, Thomas Curry, attended the final Wednesday night talk.

On Tuesday, Mr. Kelly went to Bishop Diego H.S. in Santa Barbara and not only spoke to all 306 students but gave each student one of his autographed books; he did the same thing at St. Joseph H.S. on Wednesday.

This was the most exciting thing to see this many people - obviously, they are searching - giving their time to come and hear this young man - single, and one of 6 brothers. He now lives in Ohio, and in addition to his books, and speaking engagements, conducts pilgrimages to Lourdes and Rome each year; gives retreats for Youth Ministers at their facility in Ohio.

Let us pray that his words will inspire the people and help them to "become better versions of themselves," Mr. Kelly's frequently used phrase.