

GOD WITH US STORY 46: MSGR. BILLIAN | FR. BROWN "The Difference" | RADIO: John Michael Talbot

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# THE DIFFERENCE

MSGR. MICHAEL BILLIAN | FR. JAMES BROWN

We asked priests to share significant moments that made a difference in their priesthood. Here are a few.

[ PRIESTS, PLEASE SHARE YOURS: [Alive@MassImpact.us](mailto:Alive@MassImpact.us) ]

## MSGR. MICHAEL BILLIAN

"A turning point in my 37-year priestly ministry came while I was on a pilgrimage to Rome. I was visiting the Patriarchal Basilica of Saint Paul outside the walls kneeling before the tomb of Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. I had been praying for help in my preaching ministry for some time and I realized while I was kneeling there how impactful Saint Paul was to all those who heard him. So, in asking him to intercede for me in this ministry what came to my mind is the invitation from Saint Augustine to pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you. It was then that I realized that I needed to make more room for the Holy Spirit in my preaching. I pray that I never forget this when I am bringing the Good News to God's People."

## FR. JIM BROWN

"Most of my ministry has been truly a blessing that I didn't/don't deserve. Yet God is so very, very good! I can share two really growth moments. The first was when I was first called to become a pastor. I did not feel qualified and almost panicked at the thought of the financial responsibilities and the bookkeeping details that role would incur. But that was immediately relieved when I found that both parishes had bookkeepers and secretaries. Wheh! The Holy Spirit was very present for me then and assured me that I was up to the task.

"My second episode was a number of years later when I discerned that it was time to leave a parish because of a variety of negative experiences that I just didn't handle well. I went to Manrissa, the Jesuit Retreat Center in Detroit for a private retreat. I learned a lot about myself and learned that it was okay to let go and move on. That decision ultimately brought me back here to Marblehead. The Holy Spirit has always had my back and gotten me through some serious situations. He is my breath of life. May our Lord Jesus be praised."

**“This is my body given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.”**

Luke 22:19

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Thank you in advance!

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**Greg and Stephanie Schlueter**  
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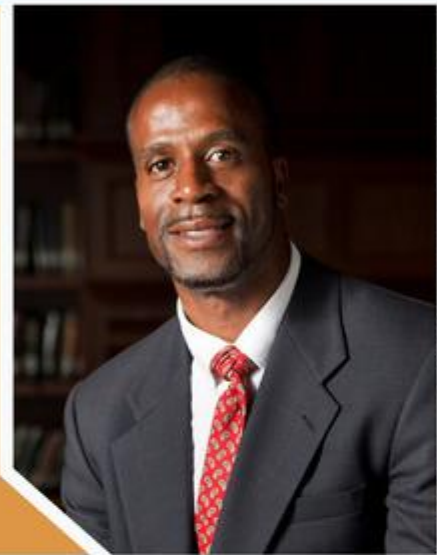
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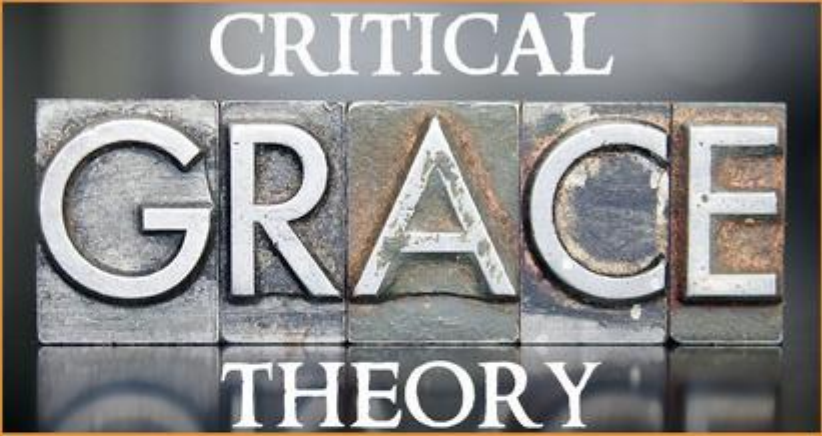
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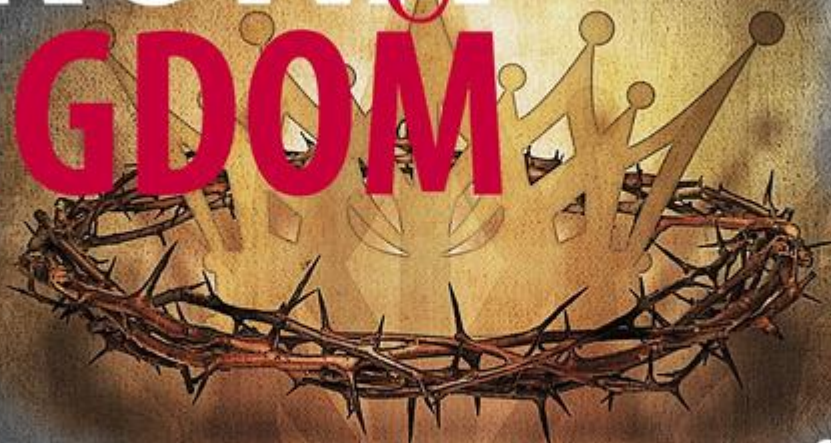


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