

4.10.2021

## **INTO THE BREACH**

### **Call For Authentic Masculinity**

St. Augustine's prayer to the Holy Spirit:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

What does it mean to be a Christian man? How does a Catholic man love? Why is fatherhood, fully understood, so crucial for every man? In the first quarter of your life, what was a significant event that impacted you either positively or negatively? During that time, what was your perception of God?

Authentic masculinity pursues virtue. The strength of a man's character is dependent upon the virtues he has acquired. A man has the respect of others when they perceive strength in him. Who is a man that you respect and why? What characteristics or virtues (such as courage, honesty and loyalty) define a "great" man? Think of a few men from history, from contemporary culture or from your own life who exemplify these virtues.

The video we will watch says that to be masculine is to embrace responsibility. How is embracing responsibility related to living for excellence? What are specific ways many men in today's culture fail to embrace responsibility?

The episode discusses how the challenge of living as a man of God can be intimidating for men who feel unqualified or unprepared for the task. However, we "were made for this fight" by God. Why might a man feel unqualified or unprepared to fully embrace authentically masculine roles, particularly those of husband and father?

In life, have you ever experienced a moment where you thought, "I'm in over my head here"? How did you get from there to "I've got this"?

What tools are available to help men better prepare to grow in their faith and fulfill their roles as men, Catholics, husbands, fathers and leaders?



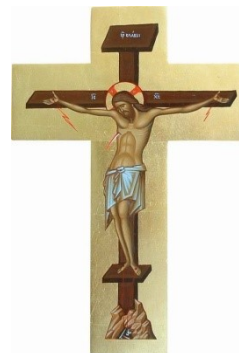
**ManUp**  
"Be strong and be courageous like a man, and keep your obligation to the Lord your God to walk in His ways..." 1 Kings 2:2-3

Let us pay close attention to Holy Scripture and Catechism. May God bless us with His Wisdom and His Work and the wherewithal to complete the mission he's given us. Amen.

## Holy Scripture

### **Deuteronomy 6:1-2 – God's Orders**

Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.



### **Ephesians 6:13-17 – Put on the Armor of God**

Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground. So stand fast with your loins girded in truth, clothed with righteousness as a breastplate, and your feet shod in readiness for the gospel of peace. In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

The Word of the Lord

## Catechism

### **CCC 1776 – Moral Conscience**

Deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment. . . . For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God. . . . His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths.

## **Modern Comment**

### **This Is What Authentic Masculinity Looks Like Into the Breach**

YouTube Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xT2L1DJ0z4>

Into the Breach is a call to battle for Catholic Men which urges them to embrace wholeheartedly masculine virtues in a world in crisis. This hard-hitting video illustrates the gravity of our duty as men of Christ and offers an inspiring invitation to renew authentic masculinity.



Why are you here? To know God. To love God. To serve God. If you are a man, you are called to share the faith. You are called to live the faith. Step into the breach this Lent and discover your role as a Catholic man in today's world.

Call to Battle - Fast one day a week for a month. St. Paul writes, "Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." (1 Corinthians 9:25-27).



Exercising self-control over the body builds self-control over the will, and therefore resistance to bad habits and temptations.

Read about the life of one of the saints who exemplified manliness.

St. Joseph, St. George, St. Thomas More, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Isaac Jogues, St. Maximilian Kolbe and Pope St. John Paul II come to mind, but there are many others. Identify how this saint exhibited manliness and write down specific, concrete resolutions on how you can emulate him.

Imitate Christ! Jesus Christ shows us the fullness of what it means to be a man. Pick one of the Gospels and read a short portion, at least a few verses, each day. Meditate on these passages to discover the ways in which Christ exhibits true manliness and better understand how to true be a man.

**Questions to Focus on:**

1. What is masculinity to you based on the video? What does Christ teach us about masculinity?

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2. Is there someone you have looked up to that presents an authentic masculinity? Why?

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3. What are some challenges that men face today in identifying their masculinity? If something is important to the father, how does it affect the son?

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**Men's Group Calendar**

**A Man who never quits is Never Defeated. We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.**

4/23/2020	Leadership Meeting	9:30 AM Meet Rooms 1 & 2
<b>5/8/2021</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
5/21/2020	Leadership Meeting	9:30 AM Meet Rooms 1 & 2
<b>6/12/2021</b>	<b>Men's Group</b>	<b>7 AM Mass</b>
<b>SUMMER VACATION UNTIL 9/11/2021</b>		



## **Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



**Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing. Come dwell in my heart.**

**Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.**

**Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to Bless my family, friends and those who I meet on this path. Give them your Joy, Peace and Mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them renewed confidence in the Holy Spirit. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.**

**You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen. And AMEN.**



Church of the Nativity Bethlehem, Israel February, 2017

Jesus wants us to make choices that reflect His presence in our hearts. Life constantly presents us with opportunities to choose to love & serve one another. It is not about us. It is about reaching out in love. Go to the Author of Life often. Go to Communion.