



*FORWARD!*  
INTO THE BREACH

A DISCUSSION OF  
*“INTO THE BREACH”*

AN APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION FOR MEN  
WRITTEN BY +THOMAS J. OLMSTED, BISHOP OF PHOENIX

MAY 16, 2017  
ANTHONY J. CASTELLANO

# A call to battle

ARE YOU READY TO GO INTO THE BREACH?

REGISTER

NEW - STUDY GUIDE

"YOU WERE NOT MADE FOR COMFORT; YOU WERE MADE FOR GREATNESS"  
- POPE BENEDICT



[www.IntoTheBreach.org](http://www.IntoTheBreach.org)

# Forward! Into the Breach

A Compendium Workbook to Bishop Olmsted's Apostolic Exhortation

► Step Into the Breach

Read - The Workbook

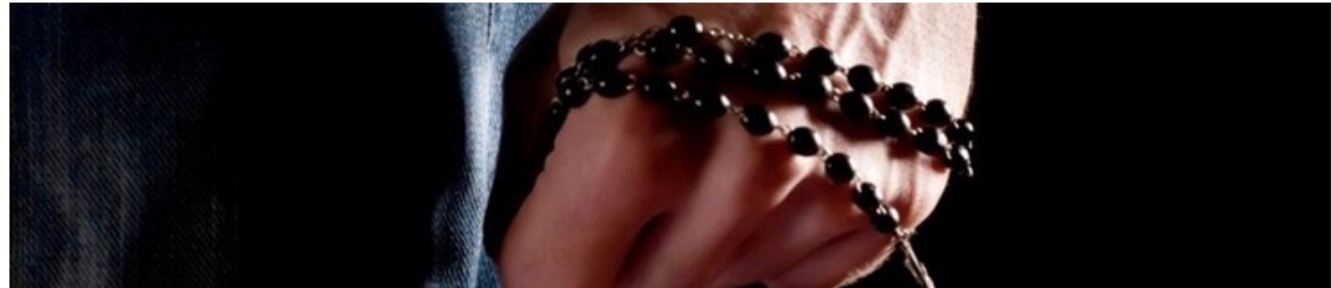
Read - Seminar Guide

Why Chi-Rho?

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## A Vital Tool for Catholic Men

*"I am grateful to Anthony for providing a high-quality guide ... I encourage those of you in leadership roles to use the Forward! Into the Breach compendium workbook for men's groups and to pray for a renewal of virtuous masculinity and lively commitment to Christ in Catholic men. When we live this commitment, we realize that no greater adventure exists."*

*- Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, May 2016*

### Men, Do You Want to:

- >> Be part of something big? A great cause?
- >> Take on a challenge, work towards an achievement, in a fraternity and fellowship?
- >> Go on journey that has meaning and purpose?
- >> Protect your family, wife, sons, daughters, and grandchildren?

### **Then go Forward in faith, and Into the Breach!**

**Forward! - Into the Breach**, written by Anthony J. Castellano, is the Compendium Workbook to "Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men, my Spiritual Sons in the Diocese of Phoenix" an important testimony of faith written by Bishop Thomas Olmsted.

### Contact Form

Any and All Questions & Comments are Welcome!

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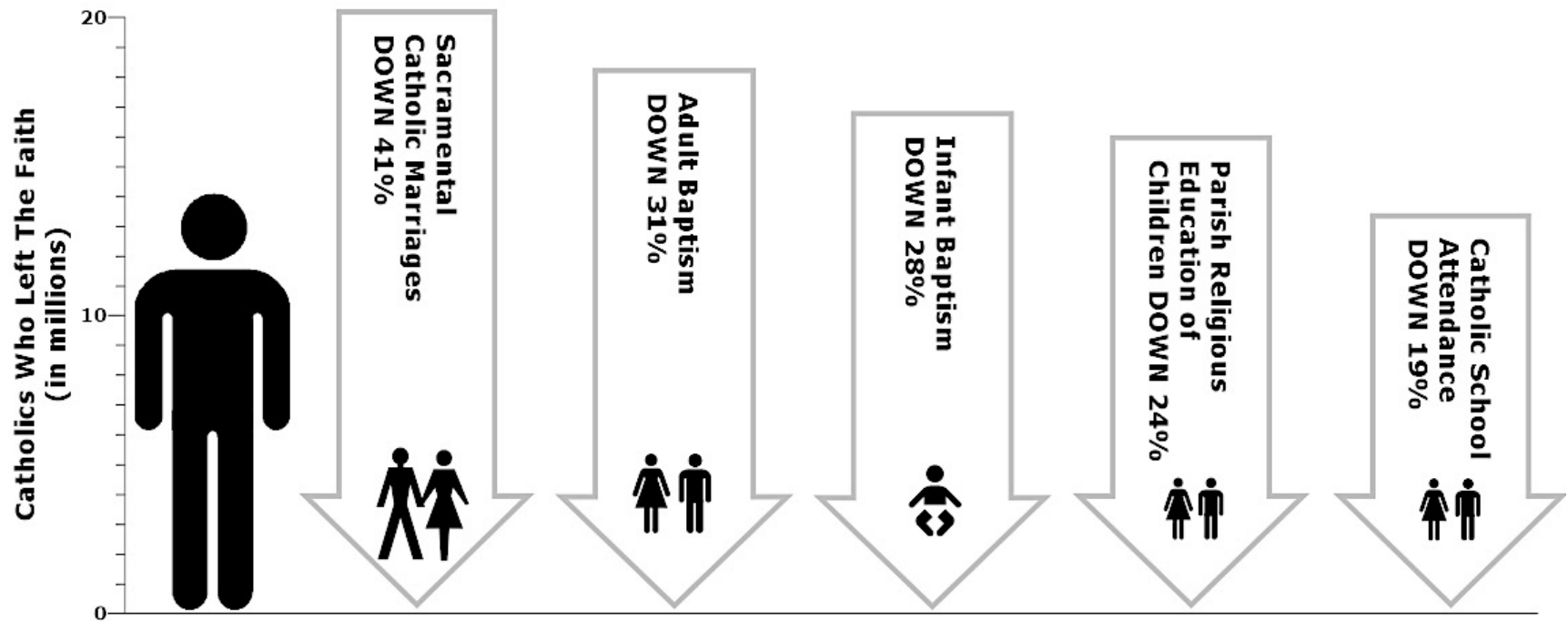
[www.ForwardIntoTheBreach.com](http://www.ForwardIntoTheBreach.com)

# “INTO THE BREACH” - EMBRACED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore cited *Into the Breach*, as being “*perfectly suited to the mission of the Knights of Columbus*” as seen by Father McGivney.
- It is a guide for men “*who are willing to engage the spiritual warfare necessary to be a good husband and father and a good disciple spreads the gospel by word and example.*”

# WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

## STATISTICS FOR THE CHURCH



2000 statistics quoted from 'Into The Breach'



*Into The Breach official trailer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Sv4NP\\_aJaA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Sv4NP_aJaA)*

# A CALL TO BATTLE – SIN, SATAN, AND THE WORLD

- “...**COMBAT** yet remains with the **FLESH** (our sin), with the **WORLD**, with the **DEVIL**, wherein we cannot be victorious, unless we have God's grace...” - *Council of Trent (1545-1563)*
- Original Sin – “Adam sought to be like God in the knowledge of good and evil, so that he might be his own director and attain to perfect happiness by his own enlightenment and unaided effort.” - *Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine, Archbishop Michael Sheehan*
- ‘Concupiscence’ (strong desire, especially sexual desire):
  - “Without the preternatural privilege of perfect control of appetite, there remains in human nature the effects of Adam's sin, the chief of which are weakness of will and unrestrained desires of soul.” - *Encyclical of Pius XI on Christian Education*

# GENESIS 3:1-5

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (ESV)*



# THE THREE LIES OF SATAN

- **The First Lie: Falsify reality.** Distorting the truth that God reveals to us and that the Church presents to us is a primary tactic of Satan.
- **The Second Lie: God is not telling you the truth.** Satan presents God's command as a limit to our freedom.
- **The Third Lie: In reality, truth is how you define it.** Each person gets to decide for himself what is good and what is evil. There is no objective truth.

“MEN, DO NOT HESITATE TO  
ENGAGE IN THE BATTLE THAT IS  
RAGING AROUND YOU.”

“The battle that is wounding our children and families, the battle that is distorting the dignity of both women and men. This battle is often hidden, but the battle is real. It is primarily spiritual, but it is progressively killing the remaining Christian ethos in our society and culture, and even in our own homes.”

*- Bishop Thomas Olmsted*



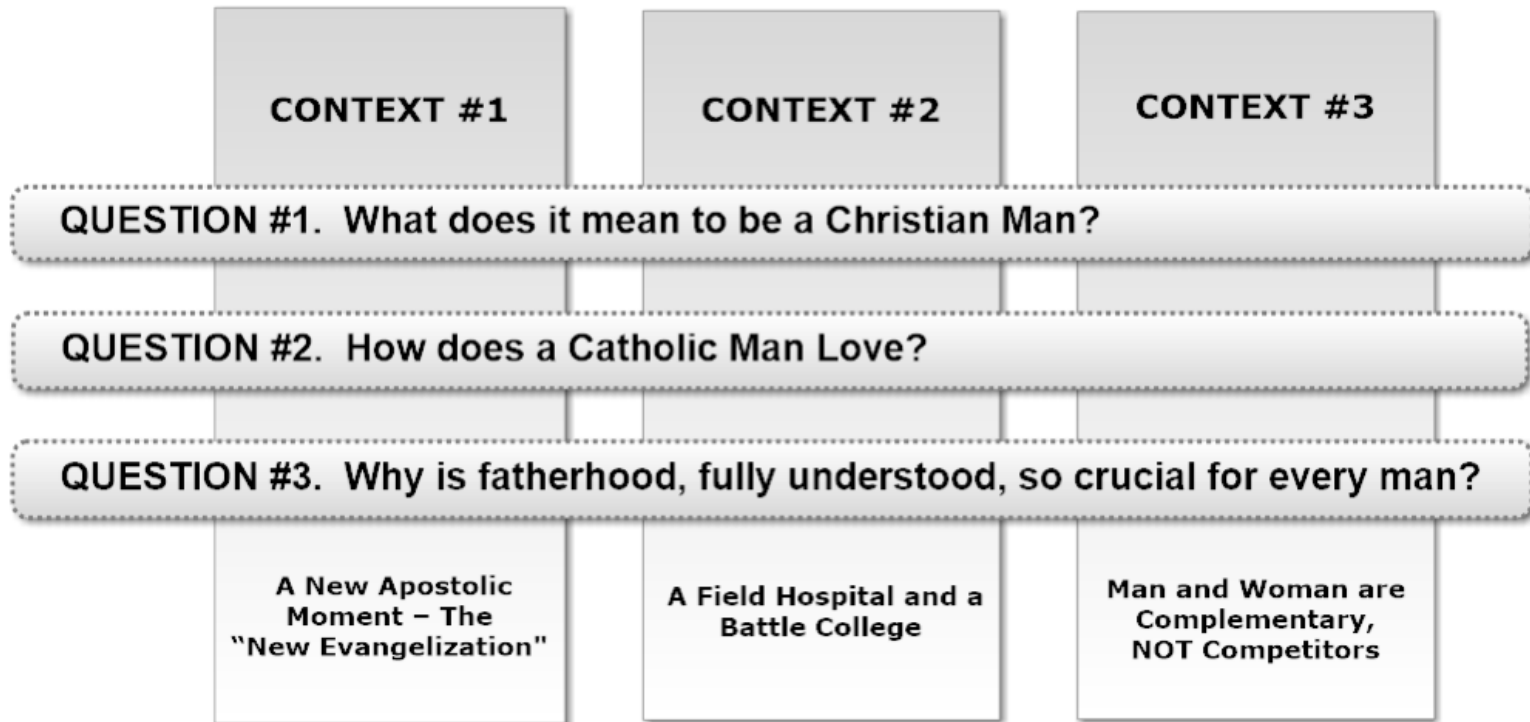
*“And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land...”*

Ezekiel 22:30

# PURPOSE OF THE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION

- To clarify the nature of the Mission from Christ to all men.
  - To provide encouragement; To present a challenge; And to call forth men to **Mission** [*the act or an instance of sending to accomplish a specific task with which a person or a group is charged*].
  - It is because the battle is occurring in the Church herself, and the devastation is all too evident that men are called forth to mission.
- One of the key reasons that the Church is faltering under the attacks of Satan is that many Catholic men have not been willing to “*step into the breach*” – to fill this gap that lies open that makes us all vulnerable to further attack.
- WHY? Because men acquiesce [*accept something reluctantly but without protest*].
  - Men who do nothing are buying into the deception.
  - They may not agree with what they see is going on, but yet they do nothing.

### Three Questions in Three Contexts



Each question needs to be understood in the contexts of:  
1) our present societal environment, 2) the life-long purpose of the Church, and 3) the truth and meaning of human sexuality.

# CONTEXT 1 - THE NEW EVANGELIZATION A WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL IN YOUR LIFE

- “There is no solution to our cultural decline apart from the Gospel of Jesus.”
- “*Behold, I make all things new*” (Rev 21:5) – all things old and tired, sinful and broken, are renewed in his Incarnation, death, and Resurrection
- “A true Catholic man stakes his whole life on this proposition – ***that all is made new in Jesus Christ.***”
- “Our Lord has promised that He is and will always be with us. Thus, Catholic men across the centuries have responded to the call to enter the battle.”

# CONTEXT 2 - A FIELD HOSPITAL AND A BATTLE COLLEGE

- The Church is a constant source of mercy, to endure and to overcome wounds.
  - Forgiveness and repentance
  - Confession
  - Mass
- It is Christ's mercy and truth...given to us to become strong and courageous.
  - Fellowship with other Catholic men
- So that we may be formed by Christ, for being sent.

# CONTEXT 3 - MAN AND WOMAN ARE COMPLEMENTARY, NOT COMPETITORS

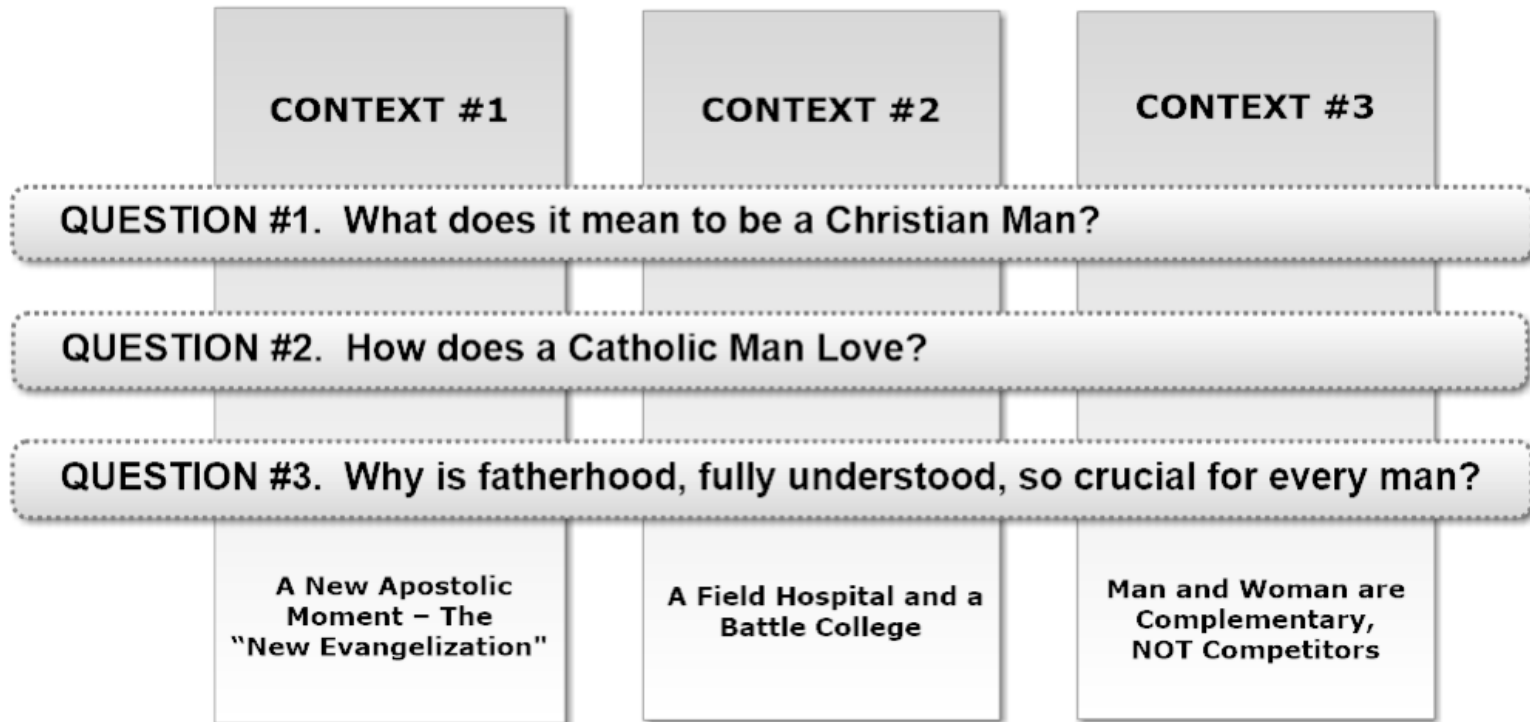
- “The complementarity of masculinity and femininity is key to understanding how human persons image God. Without knowing and appreciating this, we cannot know ourselves or our mission as men, nor can women embrace their own vocations, confident in the Father’s love.”
- “This may seem obvious, but in our world, there are many distorted images and much evidence of confusion regarding what is true masculinity.”
- “We can say that for the first time in history, people have become either so confused or so arrogant as to attempt to dictate their masculinity or femininity according to their own definitions.”



# CONTEXT 3 - MAN AND WOMAN ARE COMPLEMENTARY, NOT COMPETITORS

- “Herein lies the fullness of masculinity; each Catholic man must be prepared to give himself completely, to charge into the breach, to engage in spiritual combat, to defend women, children, and others against the wickedness and snares of the devil!”
- “Every man, particularly today, must come to a mature acceptance and understanding of what it means to be a man.”
- “Yet we do not merely look to Jesus. We truly encounter Christ at Mass when we receive the very gift of Himself in the Eucharist.”

### Three Questions in Three Contexts



Each question needs to be understood in the contexts of:  
1) our present societal environment, 2) the life-long purpose of the Church, and 3) the truth and meaning of human sexuality.

# Q1) ECCE HOMO – BEHOLD THE MAN

- “The Father sent his Son to reveal what it means to be a man, and the fullness of this revelation becomes evident on the Cross.”
- “He tells us that it was for this reason that He came into the world, that it is his earnest desire to give himself totally to us.”
- “Herein lies the fullness of masculinity; each Catholic man must be prepared to give himself completely, to charge into the breach, to engage in spiritual combat, to defend women, children, and others against the wickedness and snares of the devil!”

# Q1) THE CATHOLIC MAN'S IDENTITY

- Our identity is in the identity of the eternal Son of God. It is received at our baptism
- When we speak of conversion, we are speaking about an acceptance of and growth into this identity.
- When we speak about sin, we are speaking of all that takes us away from our identity as beloved sons of the Father.
- Since our identity is being beloved sons of God the Father – is it surprising that the devil is waging a fierce battle on masculinity and fatherhood in our day?
- The process of Christian conversion includes coming to know God's love and experiencing brotherhood with Christ who deepens our identity as sons of the Father in the Holy Spirit.
- This is our lifelong goal and our spiritual battle.

# Q1) THE PRACTICES OF A COMMITTED CATHOLIC MAN

## DAILY

1. Pray every day.
2. Examine your conscience before going to sleep.
3. Go to Mass.
4. Read the Bible.

- Live an Ascetic Life.
- Have a Devotion to a Particular Male Saint.

## WEEKLY

5. Keep the Sabbath.

## MONTHLY

6. Go to Confession.
7. Build fraternity with other Catholic men.

# Q2) HOW DOES A CATHOLIC MAN LOVE?

- Christ's mission is love.
  - “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)
  - All of our Lord's teachings boil down to this command.
- We can only love as we are created, as men.
- Jesus Christ is our male role model.



# Q2) HOW DOES A CATHOLIC MAN LOVE?

- True love of Christ
  - Willing the good of the other.
  - Pouring oneself out in charity for others.
- In Christ, we see that sacrifice is at the heart of love.
  - Only the man who has fought the interior battle of self-mastery can lay down his life for others (avoiding: sterility, stagnancy, self-absorption, and self-aggrandizement).
- Never doubt that this sacrifice is worth the suffering!
- Our Lord encourages men in saying:
  - “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

## Q2) MAN AS HUSBAND – THE PURPOSE OF MASCULINE EROTIC LOVE

- “God assigns the dignity of every woman, as a task to every man.” *Pope St. John Paul II*
- Everyman has a call to live as husband and father in some way.
- To commit and give himself to others (marriage, Holy Orders, or single life).
- This is the direct opposite of a limit to our freedom or a threat to love.



## Q2) MAN AS HUSBAND – THE PURPOSE OF MASCULINE EROTIC LOVE

- Chastity: Self-mastery in virtue and strength.
  - A rejection of slavery to our passions (athlete training analogy).
  - A true understanding of the capacity and responsibility of love and communion between a man and a woman.
- Conjugal love and the communion of persons.
- The epidemic and destruction of pornography.

# Q3) WHY IS FATHERHOOD ESSENTIAL?

- Fatherhood changes history.
- In revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God (cf. Eph 3:15), man is called upon to ensure the harmonious and united development of all the members of the family:
  - by exercising generous responsibility for the life conceived under the heart of the mother,
  - by a more solicitous commitment to education, a task he shares with his wife,
  - by work which is never a cause of division in the family but promotes its unity and stability, and
  - by means of the witness he gives of an adult Christian life which effectively introduces the children into the living experience of Christ and the Church.

# Q3) WHY IS FATHERHOOD ESSENTIAL?

- All men are called to fatherhood in some way:
- Becoming mothers and fathers really means to be fully realized, because it is to become similar to God. This is not said in the newspapers, but it is the truth of love.
- Becoming dad and mom makes us more like God...you are called to remind everyone that all the baptized, even though in a different way, are called to be a father or mother.
- Like masculinity itself, perhaps fatherhood has never been a widely-pondered topic among the philosophers because it has always been presumed, its meaning fairly obvious. This is no longer true.

## Q3) WHY IS FATHERHOOD ESSENTIAL?

- The attack on fatherhood in modern society:
- “This is truly the key for interpreting reality ... original sin attempts to abolish fatherhood.” *Pope St. John Paul II*
- Through Adam and Eve’s original act of disobedience, we

“It feels as if the culture was designed to attack the family.”

# IN SUM - WHAT IS BISHOP OLMSTED ENCOURAGING MEN TO DO?

- See that, only in Jesus Christ is the highest display of masculine virtue and strength, and this is what we need to live out our personal lives, and to live in society itself.
- Let our mind's and heart's be formed with the light of the Gospel to *step into the breach* – to do the work of Christ's soldiers in the world today.
- Each Catholic man must be prepared to give himself completely to Christ (*the fullness of masculinity*), to charge into the breach, to engage in spiritual combat, to defend women, children, and others against the wickedness and snares of the devil!

# IN SUM - HOW IS THIS ACCOMPLISHED?

- Embrace Jesus Christ as the only true identity of a Catholic man.
- Fight the good fight against sin, Satan, and the world.
- Follow the life of a patron saint of your choice.
- Engage in ascetic practices to train your will.
  - Not “if you fast, but “when you fast.” (Matthew 6:16)
- Understand the truth and meaning of human sexuality and live a chaste life according to your vocation.
- Live the “Practices of a Committed Catholic Man.”

YOU ARE CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE!  
~ONE WHO IS SENT OUT  
IN THE NAME OF JESUS~

- “Jesus has always and continues now to choose and form men through his Church and to send them out to the wounded.”

We are not orphans.  
We are SONS, who have  
been CALLED by name,  
to be SENT.



THANK YOU AND  
MAY GOD BLESS YOU

~ Questions ~