

FORWARD!
INTO THE BREACH

A LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR MEN BASED ON

“INTO THE BREACH”

AN APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION FOR MEN

WRITTEN BY +THOMAS J. OLMSTED, BISHOP OF PHOENIX

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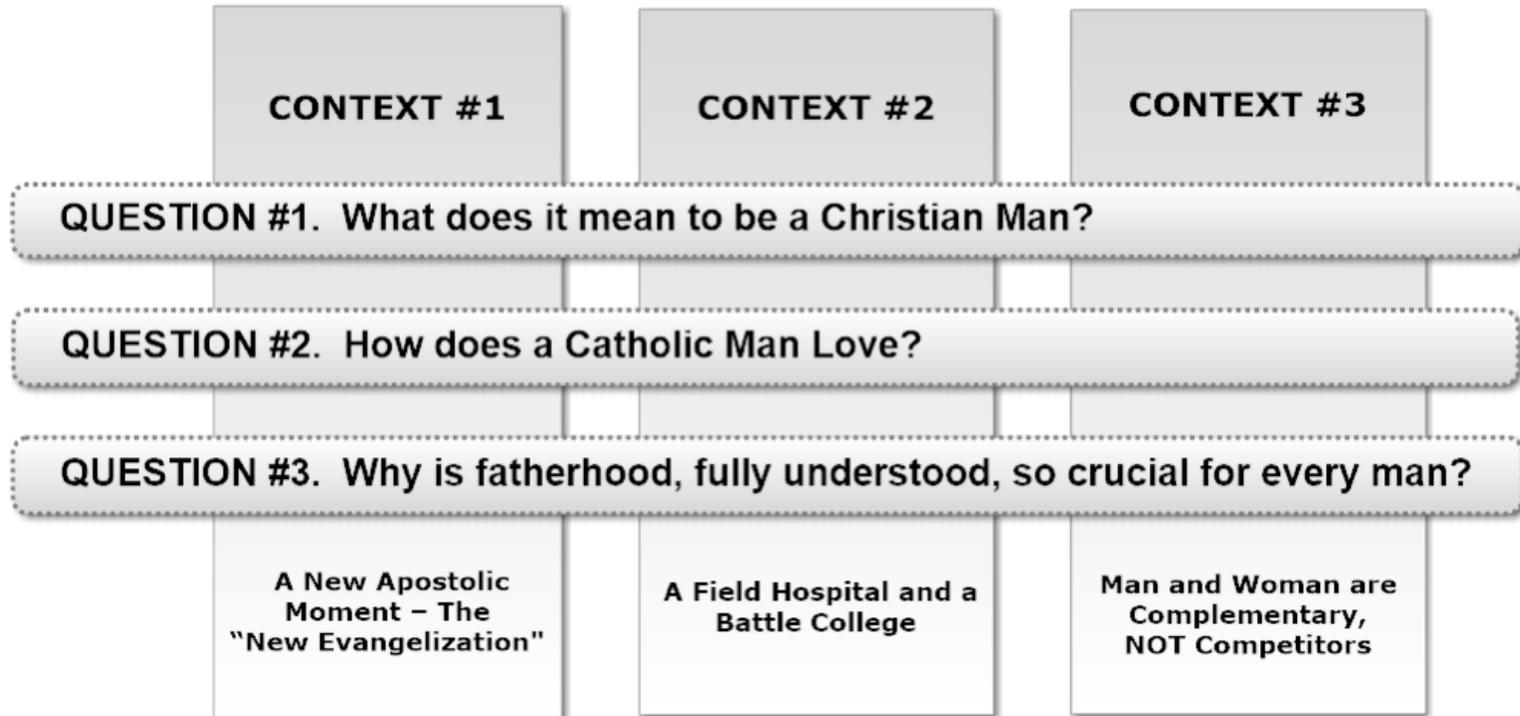
ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
GAITHERSBURG, MD

May 31th – Session 3

- Three Questions in Three Contexts
- Context #1: A New Apostolic Moment – The “New Evangelization”
- Context #2: A Field Hospital and a Battle College



Three Questions in Three Contexts



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

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The New Evangelization – Wanting to See, Hear, and Touch the Risen Lord*

Passion “must be **stirred up again** in the hearts of Christians and in formerly Christian societies that have forgotten the joy that was entrusted to them. **The believer who fails to** pay attention to the thirst in his heart and who stops wanting to **see, hear, and touch** the risen Lord, **allows the Word of Life to die** in him. His heart becomes passionless, sad and old. And the Christian people or society that stops wanting to see, hear, and touch finds itself seeking infinity in ever more contradictory ways, faced eventually with the **terrifying prospect** of the human person **unprotected by any ultimate affirmation of his dignity or worth.**”

*What Is the New Evangelization?, Michelle K. Borrás, 2012, Catholic Information Service, pp. 15-16

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The New Evangelization – Wanting to See, Hear, and Touch the Risen Lord*

“**Both** the **believer** and the **society** whose faith has grown old and stale **need passion**, understood as far **more than** an **emotion** or passing of **enthusiasm**. In Pope St. John Paul II’s words, they **need** the “**ardor**” or “**burning conviction**” ...

The call for a new evangelization is a **call to realize now, in our time and with our lives**, that Christianity is **not** just a piece of **information** or a historical **fact**. It is a **Word addressed to us personally**, and the Word is Life, it is a Love that abides. It is **news so good and necessary** that **no human being** who has **encountered it can keep it to himself.**”

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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) – that 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.”



Confident!
adjective confi-dent \ 'kän-fə-dənt, -,dent\
full of conviction, certain, trustful

Forward!
Into the Breach

Bold!
adjective \ 'böld\
fearless before danger, assured, standing out prominently

How does a man become so confident and bold that it propels him to go *Forward!* Into the Breach?
What are some beliefs and actions that would demonstrate such a confidence and boldness?

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Be Bold! Be Confident!

- Apathy, complacency, desensitization to evil, all these can be overcome by surrounding yourself with brothers in Christ.
- Brothers that provide support to one another, giving each other encouragement to persevere, holding each other accountable, all the while sharing the peace and joy of Christ.
- **And that peace and joy is REAL. It will ENABLE you to be BOLD! It will enable you to be CONFIDENT!**
- Recall the words of Bishop Olmsted:
 - *“The joy of the Gospel is stronger than the sadness wrought by sin! A throw-away culture cannot withstand the new life and light that constantly radiates from Christ. So I call upon you to open your minds and hearts to Him, the Savior who strengthens you to step into the breach!” (p. 2)*

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Leadership in Christ; Being a Servant-Leader

True authority comes from **obedience**. Jesus, the most authoritative man whoever walked on earth was a humble obedient servant. Jesus always obeyed his heavenly Father. If you desire to lead with authority, you need to be **obedient** to **Jesus**.

Leadership is manifested in decision-making. **Decision-making** is manifested in **discernment**. Discernment is manifested from our **prayer life**, our **relationship** with **Jesus**, and others whom the Lord has placed in our lives. In order to lead in Christ to the best of your ability, you have to **pray**, live a **sacramental** life, and **serve** to such an extent that in one way or another, it is a **sacrifice** for others.

This is what Jesus did for us on the cross, and it is He whom we want to follow.

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Leadership in Christ - Sacrificial Love Video Quotes

“From the cross, Christ reveals Himself to man. He shows us how to love. He shows us how to die to ourselves so others may have life.”

“If men can realized that Jesus is the quintessential man, who laid down His life for those He loved, that is inspiring.”

“We have to hold up the vision of heroic sacrifice. Men are called to love concretely by protecting, and concretely by sacrifice.”

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A Field Hospital & Spiritual Battle College

- “The Church is, and has always been, a school that prepares us for spiritual battle, where Christians are called to “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim 6), to “put on the armor of God”, and “to be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil” (Eph 6:11).”
- “The Church is a constant source of mercy, to endure and to overcome wounds...it is Christ’s mercy and truth...given to us to become strong and courageous...to be formed by Christ, for being sent.”

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An Apostle: Sent Out in the Name of Jesus

- “Jesus continues to choose and form men through his Church and to send them out to the wounded.”
- “With this letter, then, I urge you to heed Jesus’ call and to let him form your mind and heart with the light of the Gospel for the purpose of being sent.”
- “That is why this letter is an apostolic exhortation. I am hereby exhorting you to step into the breach – to do the work of Christ’s soldiers in the world today.”

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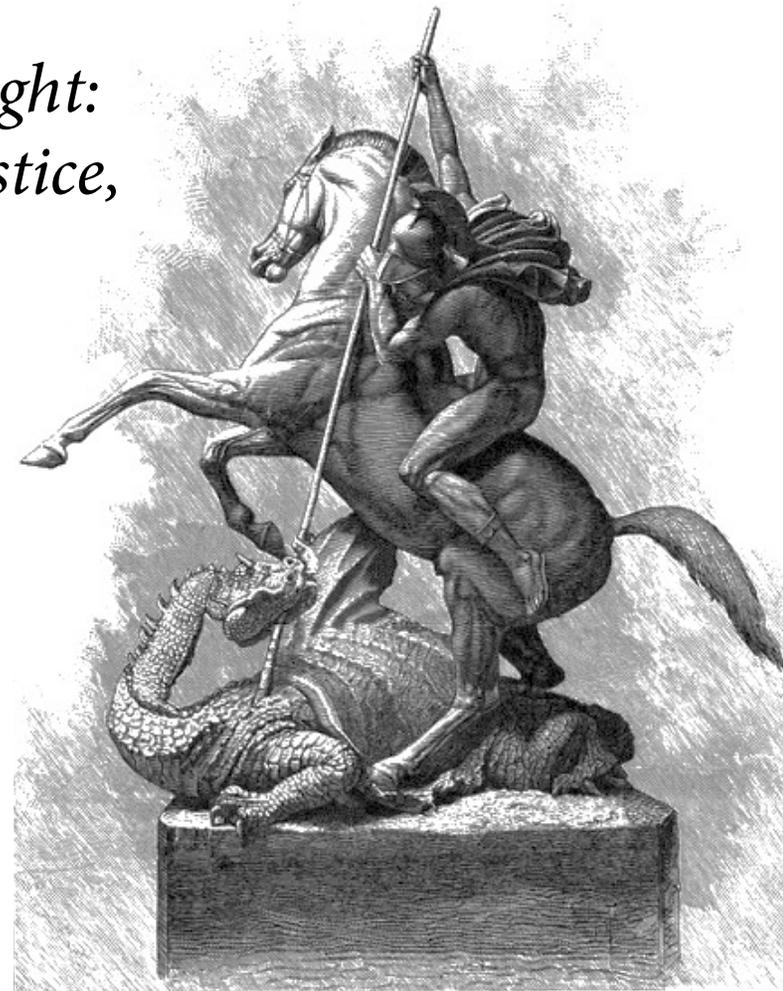
We are not orphans.
We are SONS, who have
been CALLED, by name.

Prayer to St. George

Patron of: Soldiers, and Chivalry

*Chivalry - Qualities of a knight:
courage, honor, courtesy, justice,
readiness to help the weak*

The dragon St. George slays
represent Christ's enemies,
such as evil acts and demons



Prayer to St. George

St. George, Heroic Catholic soldier and defender of your Faith, you dared to criticize a tyrannical Emperor and were subjected to horrible torture. Faithful servant of God and invincible martyr, favored by God with the gift of faith, and inflamed with an ardent love of Christ, thou didst fight valiantly against the dragon of pride, falsehood, and deceit. Neither pain nor torture, sword nor death could part thee from the love of Christ.

I fervently implore thee for the sake of this love to help me by thy intercession to overcome the temptations that surround me, and to bear bravely the trials that oppress me, so that I may patiently carry the cross which is placed upon me; and let neither distress nor difficulties separate me from the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Valiant champion of the Faith, assist me in the combat against evil, that I may win the crown promised. Amen.