FORWARD! INTO THE BREACH

A LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR MEN BASED ON

"INTO THE BREACH"

AN APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION FOR MEN
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SUMMER 2016 St. John Neumann Catholic Church Gaithersburg, MD

June 21th – Session 6

- Action Plan Items Review
- Question 2: How does a Catholic Man Love?
 - Three Masculine Loves: Friend, Husband, Father
 - 1. A Friend in Christ Bands of Brothers
 - Man as Husband The Purpose of Masculine Erotic Love
- But first ... since FITB is an Action Oriented Seminar

Dearest ____:

As part of stepping out into the breach I intend to be the [husband/father/man] God wants me to be.

- - -

...

[signed ____]

June 21st – Session 6 Action Plan Review Items

- What is your "anti-isolation" plan? (page 49, question 35)
- What are the ways that I seek to further understand the nature of the spiritual battle against human sexuality?

June 21st – Session 6 Question 2: How does a Catholic man love?

James Bond

Proposed to be what it means to be "manly"

Never a father

Relationships are shallow

Relationships are purely utilitarian

NO BONDS at all

vs. Jesus Christ

Always centered on the willing of good for others

True masculine love BUILDS BONDS

Sacrifice is the heart of masculine love

By His blood, Father "that they may be one as we are one"

Love is central to His mission

June 21st – Session 6 Question 2: 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.

June 21st – Session 6 Question 2: 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 selfmastery can lay down his life for others (avoiding: sterility, stagnancy, and self-absorption).
- 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).

- "Friend"
 - There is a difference made by Christ-centered friendships
 - Lives are transformed.
 - The renewal of masculinity cannot happen without banding together as brothers and true friends.

- "Brother"
 - Honor
 - Fraternity
 - Love of the brotherhood
 - Fear God

- "A friend is a friend at all times, and a brother is born for the time of adversity" (Proverbs 17:17).
- "I am convinced that if men will seek true brotherhood, the adversities we face today will solidify bands of brothers who will be lauded in Heaven!"

"Do you, my sons, have true brothers in Christ in your life?"

- From the November 23-25 2013, in San Juan de Cuyo, Argentina, feminists and their male peers bellowed noisy and anti-Catholic slogans drawing through the city.
- Radical Church opponents attempt to storm the Cathedral of San Juan Bautista (John the Baptist) in Argentina.
- In retaliation, 1500 young Catholics formed a human shield around the Cathedral to prevent about 7000 antagonists from storming the Archdiocesan Church.

June 21st – Session 6 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's call to live as husband and father in some way.
- To commit and give himself to others (marriage, Holy Orders, or single life)
- The direct opposite of limiting freedom or threatening love

June 21st – Session 6 Man as Husband – The Purpose of Masculine Erotic Love

- Through spousal love, all men live out:
 - a strength that endures,
 - a strength for which the world longs,
 - a committed love that gives life (not just biologically)
 - The seeking of the good of those to whom the man is committed, and indeed it is,
 - a strength that will stabilize a crumbling society.

June 21st – Session 6 Man as Husband – The Purpose of Masculine Erotic Love

- Self-mastery in the virtue and strength of chastity
 - 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
 - Sexuality
- Conjugal love & the communion of persons
- The epidemic and destruction of pornography

June 21st – Session 6 Discussion Questions

- A Friend in Christ Bands of Brothers
 - Page 49 question 34, 35
- Man as Husband The Purpose of Masculine Erotic
 Love
 - Page 58 question 36
 - Page 59 question 38

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."

