



FORWARD!
INTO THE BREACH

A LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR MEN BASED ON

“INTO THE BREACH”

AN APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION FOR MEN

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ST. JOHN NEUMANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
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June 28th – Session 7

Fatherhood is 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.

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- 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.

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The Key for Interpreting Reality



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Fatherhood is 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 find a primordial rebellion against God’s fatherhood. It is a desire to remove fatherhood itself.
- This is our enemy’s underlying plan: to remove our reliance on God, the benevolent Father. To do this, *Satan’s primary strategy is to damage and abolish human fatherhood*, in the man and relationship where each of us first glimpses what God’s fatherhood might be like.

June 28st – Session 7

Lost Fatherhood – Forgiveness & Repentance

- If you have a father or other man in your life to forgive, ask Jesus to help you forgive him. If there is any hard-heartedness on your part because of your father, or another, repent and ask Jesus to forgive you. Freedom is what God our Father offers us through His Son.
- Forgiveness only takes one person and the help of Jesus. The person in need of forgiveness does not have to be involved.
- We as believers have access to the power of forgiveness that Jesus has given us.
- Satan seeks to rob, steal, and destroy. He is the father of lies (cf. John 8:44) and some of his lies may be bound up in unforgiveness.
- **CLAIM THE FORGIVENESS OFFERED TO YOU BY CHRIST** and no longer bound to the shackles of unforgiveness and resentment!

Daily, ask your heavenly Father for continued strength and remember the prayer of St. John Neumann:

“Lord, there is nothing that is going to happen to me today that you and I cannot get through together.”

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.”

