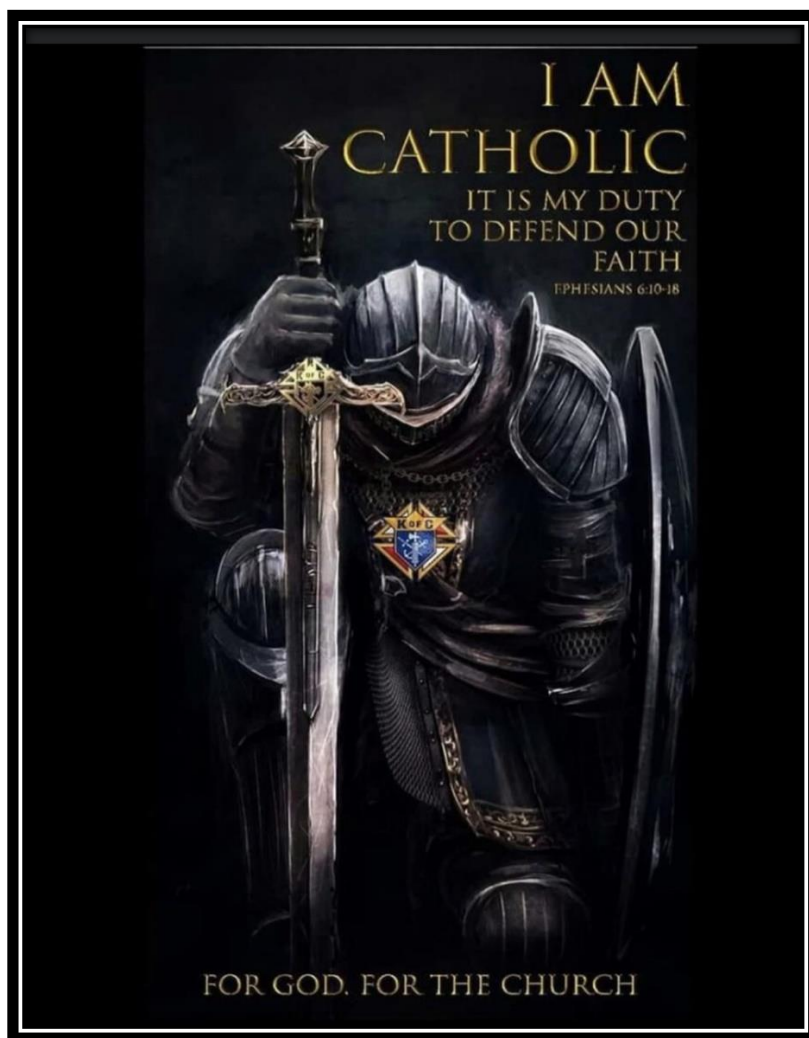




KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS
ST. THOMAS MORE
COUNCIL #17996

CATHOLIC MEN'S TRAINING PROGRAM
FY 2023/2024 (July 1-June 30)



WHERE IRON SHARPENS IRON

Situation: Among former Catholics who are now Protestant, 71% say they left Catholicism because their spiritual needs were not being met, making this the most commonly cited reason for leaving the Catholic Church among this group.

Mission: The St. Thomas More Knight of Columbus (KofC) council will lead and conduct a series of faith-based programs to meet the spiritual needs of Catholic men and to bring men back to the Catholic faith. We will accomplish our mission by providing conferences, small group studies and social events throughout the year.

Vision: To provide a platform for men to increase their faith, to glorify the Kingdom of God and become what God intended men to be; Saints.

Goal: To provide a well-built Faith Based Program that caters to Catholic men and their needs and to continue to earn the KofC Faith award.

It is this council's belief that the building of men's faith and meeting the spiritual needs of Catholic men must be at the forefront of our mission. The KofC council #17996 has created a faith committee that developed a series of conferences and other faith-based events for the fraternal year 2023/2024. These course curriculums are a series of classes/gatherings designed to help Catholic men reach higher levels of faith. These events will be open to ALL men regardless of KofC membership status and are an augmentation to the parishes faith-based programs.

The course topics chosen are believed to be pertinent to man's life and moral issues. The Catholic Basic Training course is our first conference and designed to take us "back to the basics." The following conferences are a continuation that will allow men to grow as we progress through the curriculum; the liturgical calendar was considered as we built this program. Course critiques will be used to evaluate the students experience.

The council would need support for the parish to accomplish our mission and goals. Careful consideration was made when determining what level of support the parish would supply without further tasking an already busy staff. The parish priest and deacons will be encouraged to instruct classes, advertising events via bulletins and verbal announcements at Masses and the meeting spaces reserved within the church would need to be accommodated. The parish will not be asked for any monetary donations but will be encouraged to promote our councils fundraising endeavors.

Any questions, feel free to reach out to any of the below members.

Tom Melton Grand Knight (702) 510-5481

Dominic Salomone Novice, OSB Program Director (702) 279-9668

Stephen Drees Obl., OSB., MT Faith Director (513) 310-4349

CATHOLIC BASIC TRAINING
Back to the Basics Men's Conference
Facilitator Tom Melton
September 16, 2023

In a busy and chaotic world it's easy for men to fall into the trap of "just going through the motions." It's good to slow down and go back to the basics or fundamentals in all areas of our life. In Revelation, we find the church at Ephesus needed returning to the basics. In Rev 2:4-5, they were encouraged to:

- Remember their first love
- Repent, or stop doing what they were doing, and
- Repeat or do their first works again

This advice really does have application in all areas of life. "Do your first works." It is not enough to stop doing harmful things. You must be proactive and believe in the fundamentals. If we find ourselves struggling in any area, the solution is often found by returning to the basics.

Course description: We will go "back to the basics" and review the Four Pillars of Every Relationship; the Creed (holding on to the faith), Sacraments (expressing the faith), the Moral Life (living faith) and Prayer (praying faith).

Instructors: Father Edmund, Dominic Salomone, Stephen Drees

Note: *Instructors may change depending on schedules. Times of class are flexible based on the style of instruction; facilitator will monitor and keep class fluid.*

8:15	Continental Breakfast	Provided
9:00	The Creed: Holding on to the Faith	Laying a firm foundation
10:30	The Sacraments: Expressing the Faith	A review of who, how, when, where and why we worship God through the Sacraments
12:00	Lunch	Provided
1:00	The Moral Life: Living Faith	An examination into the Seven Deadly Sins and how to make a good confession
2:30	Prayer: Praying Faith	The basics of praying, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.
4:00	Mass	Sit together up front
5:00	End	

CATHOLIC TRAINING
Preparing for Advent Men's Conference
Facilitator Tom Melton
November 4, 2023
(Advent Dec 3-24, 2023)

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36).

Advent includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

Course description: We will explore this powerful liturgical season, taking us on the journey that Mary and Joseph endured after being called by God to be the parents of the Messiah.

Instructors: Dominic Salomone and Stephen Drees

Note: *Instructors may change depending on schedules. Times of class are flexible based on the style of instruction; facilitator will monitor and keep class fluid.*

8:15	Continental Breakfast	Provided
9:00	Preparing for Advent	How to Prepare our hearts and minds for the best Advent season
10:30	The Annunciation	We will look at how the Angel Gabriel came to Mary and how Mary stayed humble
12:00	Lunch	Provided
1:00	St. Joseph	A discussion on the mindset of St. Joseph and explore all the wondrous deeds he did as the guardian father
2:30	The Nativity	We will explore the birth of Jesus in a dirty stable
4:00	Mass	Sit together up front
5:00	End	

CATHOLIC TRAINING
Preparing for Lent Men's Conference
Facilitator Tom Melton
February 3, 2024
(Lent February 14- March 28, 2024)

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter.

Course description: Lent is a period of fasting and penance leading to Easter. The course will offer you an opportunity to prepare for Lent and for your personal 40-day journey. You will be provided with a complete package to help make your Lenten journey worthwhile.

Instructors: Dominic Salomone and Stephen Drees

Note: *Instructors may change depending on schedules. Times of class are flexible based on the style of instruction; facilitator will monitor and keep class fluid.*

8:15	Continental Breakfast	Provided
9:00	What is Lent?	We will explore what Lent is and why Lent is the most momentous time in the Catholic calendar
10:30	The 40 Days	We will explore why 40 days, what did Jesus do in those 40 days and what we should be doing in those 40 days
12:00	Lunch	Provided
1:00	The Symbols of the Lenten Season	How we can choose to let our homes be a place of Holy things that help raise our minds and hearts to God during Lent
2:30	The Cross	We will explore the Jesus' journey to the cross and the brutal crucifixion of our Savior
4:00	Mass	Sit together up front
5:00	End	

CATHOLIC TRAINING
Sacrifice for Lent Men's Conference
Into the Breach
March 2, 2024
(Lent Feb 14-March 28, 2024)

This Lenten sacrifice will be a spiritually motivated voluntary renunciation of a pleasure or luxury that most Christians that we Catholic should do. In this conference, there will be no continental breakfast or lunch, only exceptionally light snacks and water. If you have a special need, plan accordingly.

Years ago, the Knights of Columbus produced a 12-episode video series. Each episode runs 10-13 minutes and focuses on a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity, features interviews with well-known Catholic commentators, and follows the personal story of a man whose life illuminates each theme.

This is a call for men to join us in a one-day conference, our LENTEN SACRIFICE. By joining together in brotherhood, men receive the support they need to grow in virtue and to take action to serve Christ and others. We hope that this series helps you and all of us to step 'Into the Breach' and become stronger Catholic men.

This conference will be facilitated by STM Council Grand Knight Tom Melton. This will be a dynamic moving event, with no formal breaks.

TIME:	TOPIC:
9:00	Introduction: Trailer Video
9:15	Segment #1 Video/Discussion: Masculinity
9:45	Segment #2 Video/Discussion: Brotherhood
10:15	Segment #3 Video/Discussion: Leadership
10:45	Segment #4 Video/Discussion: Fatherhood – Rene Robles
11:15	Segment #5 Video/Discussion: Family
11:45	Segment #6 Video/Discussion: Life
12:15	Segment #7 Video/Discussion: Prayer
12:45	Segment #8 Video/Discussion: Suffering
1:15	Segment #9 Video/Discussion: Sacramental Life
1:45	Segment #10 Video/Discussion: Spiritual Warfare
2:15	Segment #11 Video/Discussion: Evangelization
2:45	Segment #12 Video/Discussion: The Cornerstone
3:15	Confession if needed
4:00	Mass/Dismissal

CATHOLIC TRAINING

Group Sessions

All sessions will be conducted at St. Thomas More unless otherwise noted

All sessions 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Room 9

Date/Time	Topic	Instructor (s)
Oct 16, 2023	Faith and Works	Deacon Bill
Oct 24, 2023	Balancing Work Life and Prayer Life	Deacon Bob
Nov 21, 2023	Launch into the Deep	Fr. Edmund
Dec 5, 2023	The Journey to Bethlehem	Stephen Drees
Dec 12, 2023	From Conception to Natural Death	Mark Gilmour
Jan 9, 2024	Book of Isaiah	Jerry Fairweather
Jan 23, 2024	Putting God First	Tom Melton
Feb 6, 2024	A Eucharistic Life of Fr. Kapaun (video)	Tom Melton
Feb 13, 2024	When God Speaks, We Must Listen	Fr. Mark
Mar 5, 2024	The Greatest Commandment	Fr. Edmund
Mar 19, 2024	The Agony in the Garden to Calvary	Dominic Salomone
Apr 3, 2024	How to Give a Good Confession	Father Edmund/Father Mark
Apr 17, 2024	The Rosary	Dominic/Tom
May 7, 2024	Spiritual Warfare	Stephen Drees
May 14, 2024	Why Bad Things Happen to Good People	Dominic Salmone
June 5, 2024	A Call to be Courageous	Tom Melton
June 19, 2024	Battling Demons	Deacon Glenn

Group approach allows us to have a variety of ways to connect men, and allows men to choose their level of involvement and commitment. Below are the course descriptions for the small group classes and are designed to be the “down and dirty” of the topic. Each session is scheduled for 1.5 hours in duration.

Faith and Works

Course description: This course will help give us clarification on what “Good Works” are and gives us a better understanding of the term “Faith without Works is Dead as described in the bible.

Balancing Work Life and Prayer Life

Course description: We will learn how to be available for God and achieving success in our work and family life.

Launch into the Deep

Course description: We will explore why the Eucharist is the source and summit of all its prayers.

The Journey to Bethlehem

Course description: We will explore the long hard excursion from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

From Conception to Natural Death

Course description: We will dive into our Catholic belief that life starts at conception and ends in natural death. We will also discuss the progress of the Life movement.

Book of Isaiah

Course description: The context of Isaiah 41 is about God's help and comfort for the Israelites who followed Him faithfully and the worthless nature of idols. This course will put an emphasis of verses 10-13 focusing on the words "Fear not."

Putting God First

Course description: With so many things that clamor for our attention and devotion: our jobs, our kids, our spouses, our hobbies—the demands and distractions of life we can never let them be more important than our relationship with God. In this course, we will look at ways to make our relationship with God a priority. A simple easy approach.

A Eucharistic Life by Fr. Kapaun

Course description: We explore the life of a Catholic Priest and US Army Chaplain in a documentary made by the KofC.

When God Speaks, We Must Listen

Course description: We will discuss how to hear God speaking to us and the importance of following His instructions.

The Greatest Commandment

Course description: Love is the greatest command. We will discuss how to love as Jesus taught, even how to love our enemies.

The Agony in the Garden to Calvary

Course description: We will explore the events from the Garden to the cross, outlining the highlights and how they affect us every day.

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Course description: Bad things happen to people because sin has pervaded every inch of the earth. Due to the fall of man, we are not good people and are not deserving of God's love. We also have an enemy, Satan, who is trying to destroy our lives because he hates that we are made in the image of God. In this course we will learn how to get through those bad times that we don't deserve.

How to Give a Good Confession

Course description: To make a good confession in the Catholic Church, one should first pray and ask God for the grace to make a good confession. Then, examine your conscience and reflect on all the times you sinned against God since your last confession. Let our priest give us the best guidance for a great meaningful confession.

The Rosary

Course description: We will discuss why the Rosary is a mighty weapon and how to push through the challenges of staying focused while praying the Rosary.

Spiritual Warfare

Course description: Prior to creation, there was a war in the heavens among God's other creatures called angels. They are different than humans. Angels are entirely spiritual beings. Although God is Spirit, nowhere do we read that angels were created in the image and likeness of God. This course will focus on the tactics of the devil to shut you down. We will examine Psalms 23, Job and David's journey and the book of Ephesians.

A Call to be Courageous

Course description: See how God can instill courage in your life. We will explore the life's of the most courageous men in the bible.

Why Bad Things Happen to Good People

Course description: We will discuss why God let's bad things happen to good people and focus on the long road of pain.

Battling Demons

Course description: We will learn tactics to disrupt the devils efforts to destroy us.

CATHOLIC TRAINING

Instructors/Facilitators

Each instructor will be responsible for their own lesson plans and must conform with the teachings of the Catholic Church. The instructions can be of way of lecture, video or a combination of both and are not to last more than 90 minutes.

The council has selected a committee within the faith program to pre-review periods of instruction and to assist each instructor if needed.

For each period of instruction and course critique and student sign-in must be completed and forwarded to the current program director who will then review and forward to the grand knight. The grand knight will note attendees and the attendee with the most attendance record will receive an award.

All training, dates, times and locations are subject to change without notice. It will be the responsibility of each instructor to find a substitute in the event he must cancel.

The committee members are:

- Stephen Dress
- Dominic Salomone
- Jerry Fairweather
- Michael Paul

CATHOLIC TRAINING

Course Critique

Title: _____

Date of Class_____

On a Scale of 1-5 (5 best) Please rate the following questions

The instructor was well prepared for class. ____

The instructor communicated clearly and was easy to understand. ____

The instructor met my spiritual need. ____

I would recommend this course to other people. ____

Comments/Recommendations:

[illegible]

Date_____

Please Print Name Clearly
Use Back Side If Needed

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