

INFO ON FATHERS TEAM AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, HARRISON, OH

When: Friday Mornings, 6am – 7am, September thru May

Where: Community Room, new church

Why:

1. Support structure for fathers
2. Examine relationships with wives, children, peers
3. Get ideas on dealing with “dad” issues
4. What is the Catholic Church teaching on topics
5. Connect with fathers “in the same boat”
6. Flexible attendance policy
7. You are 1 of several dads that attend
8. You can blend in or take charge
9. Great way to get involved in your church/parish
10. Get perspective from fathers who have “been there”

Each week we cover a new topic, discuss, and talk about real life examples. Come join us, show up this Friday!

Or, if you would like more info, send us an email Fathers.team.SJB@gmail.com or contact Nick Vanluit, 513-503-5219 or Bill Sirbu 513-404-9057.

Here is a meeting topic example:

Deeper Dive into our Team Signals

Objective:

We recite the Team Signals at the beginning of every meeting. Do we recite these words like rote prayer, or do we really think about and internalize what they mean, and what they are saying to us that day? It is time to pause and reflect on these words, and how they really can change our lives

Bible and Catechism Readings:

“On my honor, I will do my best to present myself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” (2 Tm 2:15)

“I will love my Wife, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.” (Eph 5:25)

“I will not provoke my Children to anger, but will bring them up in the discipline and discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Eph 6:4)

“I will receive the Word of God in my Heart daily, and will teach it diligently to my children, and shall talk of it when I sit in my house, when I walk by the way, when I lie down, and when I rise.” (Dt 6:6-7)

“As for me and my Household, we will serve the Lord.” (Josh 24:15) “As for me and my fellow Fathers, we will consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, but encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the day drawing near.” (Heb 10:24-25) “I can do all these things through Jesus Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil 4:13)

Catechism 1878 - 1880

1878 All men are called to the same end: God himself. There is a certain resemblance between the unity of the divine persons and the fraternity that men are to establish among themselves in truth and love. Love of neighbor is inseparable from love for God.

1879 The human person needs to live in society. Society is not for him an extraneous addition but a requirement of his nature. Through the exchange with others, mutual service and dialogue with his brethren, man develops his potential; he thus responds to his vocation.

1880 A society is a group of persons bound together organically by a principle of unity that goes beyond each one of them. As an assembly that is at once visible and spiritual, a society endures through time: it gathers up the past and prepares for the future. By means of society, each man is established as an "heir" and receives certain "talents" that enrich his identity and whose fruits he must develop.

Vignette:

Ryan was feeling a little down. He had a good relationship with his wife and kids, and his job was going ok. However, he felt like there was just something missing. He thought there had to be something more to his life. One day, he and his friend Rob were talking about his feelings. Rob had been going to Father's Team for a couple of years, and told Ryan he should give it a try. Rob said it was a great group of men who (like Ryan) sometimes struggled with things in their lives. Rob said that they had these sayings, called "Team Signals", that they say each meeting and really signify the purpose of meeting each week. They address your relationship with your wife and kids, your relationship with God and His Church community, your relationship with your friends, and generally improving yourself. Essentially, making you a better man. Rob told him that since he started, he felt that through the fellowship and the subsequent conversations about God, Church, marriage, kids, and his own personal faith development, he said his life was better. Sometimes just as challenging as before, but he didn't feel as if he was fighting life alone anymore. Whether it was the relationships he now had, or his improved relationship with Jesus. He didn't know - maybe it was both.

Ryan reluctantly decided to give it a try. While at first he seemed like a bit of an outsider, he eventually developed some relationships and found that, in fact, he was not alone in his struggles. His relationship with his wife and kids got even better than it was before. He also found that even though his life was pretty good, these discussions made him see things in new light, and he too started feeling better about life.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

How do you live the key elements of the Team Signals (Children, Wife, God, Church, Community, Jesus) each day?

What "signal" is speaking most to you today?

What barriers do you have in living the signals?

The catechism readings reference "society". How do you make the "society" that is Father's Team part of your life?

What do the signals say about Humility? Fortitude? Courage?

Action Plan:

The team signals truly describe the principles by which the Father's Team seeks to operate. This includes as a group and for each individual member.

1. I will share my Father's Team experience with another guy who is not currently a member.
2. I will vow to consciously focus on 1 of the signals in a big way during this coming week.