

Why should I join the Catholic Men's Spiritual Fellowship at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish?

All across America, men are finding that the daily struggles they try to face alone seem to overwhelm them. In the past, they found their identity in super heroes or other macho images that society told them they should be like. This false image of manhood resulted in broken marriages, pornography, and dysfunctional families. In order to combat this destruction, small groups of men began meeting together in prayer and fellowship. These men soon found out that the battles and the struggles they were fighting against were not unique just to them. They also found that in a small group they could discuss their problems; seek support with full realization that "what is said in the group, stays in the group."

The vision of a Catholic Men's Spiritual Fellowship.

The fellowship is *not* a bible study or service organization. It isn't a prayer group or social club. There is no money involved. It is 4 to 12 Catholic men becoming true spiritual brothers in Christ: men meeting regularly, helping one another to grow as Christian men, supporting each other through prayer, friendship, and most importantly the sharing of their life experiences.

It is all done in a manner comfortable to them as Catholic men. They get to truly know each other, carry each other's burdens and hopes, discover common ground, and journey toward the Lord together.

This vision might come from a prior fellowship, or from some spiritual experience where fellowships were described that has left him hungry for more of God. Sometimes it comes from scripture, where the early believers are referred to as "the brethren." And sometimes the Holy Spirit in His sovereignty implants the vision of spiritual brotherhood in the heart of a man.

Some common misconceptions about a Catholic Men's Spiritual Fellowship Program.

1) The Fellowship is just a "pity party" for men.

Men attending a fellowship are not going to find other men feeling sorry for them. They will find other men who have found a much deeper relationship with God, their families and themselves. They will meet other men who are struggling, just like they are, to become better husbands, fathers and Men of God.

2) The fellowship tends to simply indorse the wrongs of a member for fear of losing them as a member.

One of the major pillars of the fellowship is "accountability". It is because of the great love of God and each other, that support comes from the fellowship to help each member to be faithful to their marriage and family; and most of all to their faith in God.

3) The Fellowship Program is for men who are weak in their Catholic faith

For the most part, from the very beginning the men who join a Catholic Men's Fellowship have a very strong connection with their belief in Our Lord's great mercy. They also believe that their personal strength comes from God and from other men who share their struggle of becoming and growing truly Catholic Men of Faith.

For more information about the Catholic Men's Fellowship

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