

FATHERS' BREAKFAST MEETINGS 2011-2012 SCHEDULE

**IHM Conference Center
St. Aloysius Academy, Bryn Mawr, PA
7:30am-9am**

(Includes mass and an opportunity for confession)

Come hear "local dads" share their faith stories. No matter where you are in your journey, listen as men like you discuss the everyday challenges of being strong, Catholic leaders in today's society.

Start the day with mass, enjoy a casual continental breakfast and join others who want to grow in their faith and become the best fathers and husbands they can be.

SAVE THE DATES

November 17, 2011 – Euse Mita Jr.
January 26, 2012 – Tony Hayden
March 15, 2012 – Chris Murray

Each Breakfast Meeting includes coffee & continental breakfast, and:

7:30: Celebration of Mass
8:00: Reflection and Discussion
9:00: Departure

For more information, contact Tom Cancelmo at
610.254.7437 or tcancelmo@btcmarketing.com

\$20 Donation requested. Space is limited.
Please register on-line.

FLI MISSION: To partner with the Archdiocese and other Church institutions to provide virtues-based tools, information and a community of common purpose that enable men of all faiths to become better Fathers and Leaders of their families.

FLI BACKGROUND: Men from several local parishes, in collaboration with the Philadelphia chapter of the Regnum Christi movement, established the Fatherhood & Leadership Initiative in 2008 in response to their own personal need for virtues based tools that would help them become better fathers and leaders of their families.

IT ISN'T EASY TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL FATHER & FAMILY LEADER

A man's most important mission is to develop his children spiritually, emotionally and socially to enable them to become responsible, fulfilled adults. To successfully fulfill his vocation, a father must be a principle-centered leader, a passionate defender of morality, and a model of honor and integrity.

Today, the institution of Fatherhood is falling far short of this ideal. The nuclear family is disintegrating at an alarming rate, with 50% of American children now living completely apart from their fathers due to divorce and separation. Among fathers of the remaining 50%, many can't find the support, tools, or information they need to teach enduring values like responsibility, fortitude, and integrity that are critical for leading children to responsible adulthood.

The Fatherhood & Leadership Initiative serves to fill that void. Our objective is to provide tools, information, and a community of common purpose that enable men of character to become better fathers, husbands, and leaders of their families.

Our program seeks to help men become better leaders of their families by instructing them about, and assisting them to live 7 core values in their daily lives:

FLI CORE VIRTUES

- 1. FAITH:** Relationship with Christ: To become a true Man of God through prayer and sacraments
- 2. WISDOM:** Relationship with moral truth: To become an expert in right and wrong through knowledge of Church teaching
- 3. LOVE:** Relationship with others: To become an expert in following Christ's example of charity and self-sacrifice
- 4. RESPONSIBILITY:** Relationship to life's opportunities: To become an expert in taking the initiative to build up family, society and other people
- 5. INTEGRITY:** Relationship to life's temptations: To become an expert in self-mastery instead of self-indulgence
- 6. FORTITUDE:** Relationship to life's challenges: To become an expert in overcoming life's difficulties and defending against the attacks of evil

Save the Date!

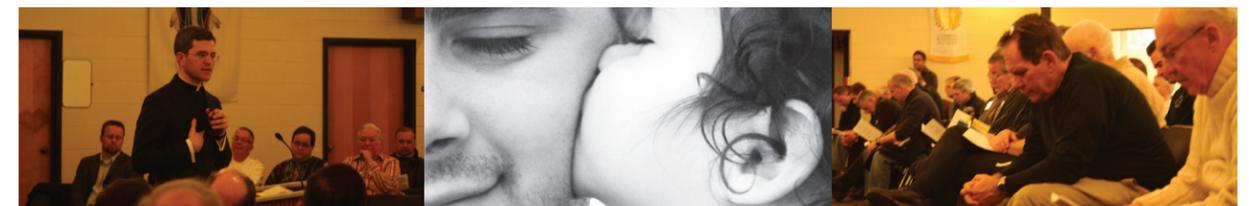
Fatherhood & Leadership Breakfast Series

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In the Name of the Father Small Group Discussion Series

Being the Dad you want to be and the one your family needs

Case Study #1.3: Love

A Christ-like Father involves his children in the good deeds he performs for others.

THE PATH TO KNIGHTHOOD

Medieval Europe had no police force, no regular army, and no unified justice system. The waves of barbarian invasions characteristic of the Dark Ages created a system known as *feudalism*: the strongest warrior in an area ruled as much land and population as he could *intimidate and control by violence and force*. Barely civilized warriors constantly *vied against each other* for power, and the masses of people not wealthy or ruthless enough to buy or steal horses, weapons, and armor suffered the fallout of their private wars. Western society was on the verge of *collapsing into barbaric chaos*. Then the tide began to turn, because of the *knights*.

Barbarian warriors who were new converts to Christianity had a certain, if at times only superstitious, respect for the clergy, and kept chaplains in their castles. Courageous chaplains and monks therefore had the chance to convince these warriors to use their strength and power to build up civilization instead of destroying it. The result? *The chivalric code*. Knights, castellans, barons, and dukes gradually began to envision their mission in terms of defending justice and maintaining peace and prosperity — of becoming for the Lord to whom they pledged fealty *a Christ-centered warrior*: battling against evil and fighting for good, especially through coming to the aid of those (the poor, weak, defenseless, orphans, widows...) who were easily exploitable by *self-centered warriors*.

But to become a knight was a long process. When a boy was eight-years-old, *he would become a page* — basically, an intern in a castle. Educated there in the arts of war, manly virtue, and knightly etiquette, when he turned 15 or 16 he could be *assigned as a squire* to a real knight, and begin accompanying that knight on his missions of war, diplomacy, and justice. Thus he could *see the knight in action, assist him, and learn from him*. Only after five or six years as a faithful squire under the tutelage of a real knight could a young man hope to be knighted, if he showed himself worthy.

Today, barbarism has taken different forms. Today, *every Christian father is a knight at the service of the Lord of heaven and earth*. He is called to put his strength and power, his talents and creativity, at the service of Christ's Kingdom. His good deeds at home, at the parish, at work, and in the world at large constitute *his adventure and his quest*. This knight's children need to go through their stages of training as page and squire, *seeing their father engaged in battle*, engaged in building things, in exercising his expertise, in changing things for the better. The daughters need to see this so that they can recognize and foster the qualities of a true Christian warrior in their future husband; the sons need their experience as a squire to prepare them for their own quest.



Small Group Faith Sharing In the Name of the Father Small Group Discussion Series

Join us for a six-week course created to help everyday dads with practical ideas, resources and a casual discussion forum on helping our kids become the best they can be — and on becoming the best fathers we can. We'll discuss real-world issues, and how to teach our kids through them. In the Name of the Father small group faith sharing groups are taking place at a variety of parishes throughout the Archdiocese.

Each one-hour session includes:

- Real-Life Case Study
- Open Discussion Time
- Fellowship with Other Dads
- Faith Perspectives on Key Issues

**NOW AVAILABLE
FOR DISTRIBUTION
TO PARISHES**

In the Name of the Father Small Group Discussion Series

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. When I was growing up, in what ways did my dad or other father figures allow me to be a squire to their knighthood?
 - How did I feel when my dad took me with him to work or on a business trip?
 - How did I feel when my dad let me help him with his projects around the house?
 - How did I feel when I was finally old enough to go with dad and his friends on their fishing trips?
 - How did I feel when my dad brought me with him to visit a sick and dying relative?
 - What do I wish that my dad would have shared with me that he never did?
2. What cultural influences in today's society militate against dads being true mentors for their children?
3. To what extent can our work and professional lives really be considered "knightly"? To what extent is my attitude towards my work and hobbies "knightly"? Do I seek excellence in them because I see myself as Christ's soldier and ambassador?
4. In my family, to what extent do we value our "family name" and "family reputation"? What can I do to encourage a healthy mystique about our family honor?

QUOTATION

"What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young?"

(St John Chrysostom)

POSSIBLE ACTION POINTS

(This week, how can I put into action what I've learned from this discussion?)

- For children over 13, watch "The Passion of The Christ" with the family.
- As a family, discuss what is wrong with the Catholic congressmen and women that support abortion rights and how they are not representative of Catholic teaching.
- Invite my child to participate with me in my apostolate.
- My idea...

REFERENCES FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- Mark 5:35-43
- Tobit 4:1-5:4
- Catechism #s 2201-2206

The In the Name of the Father Small Group Discussion Series and training for the groups are available to local parishes. Please contact Greg Guerin for more information at g.guerin@voveo.com.