

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!



*Father, you entrusted our
Savior to the care of
St. Joseph. By the help of
his prayers may your
Church continue to serve its
Lord, Jesus Christ, who
lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

“Those (men) who have met Christ cannot shut themselves in their own little world: how sad such a limitation would be! They must open out like a fan in order to reach all souls. Each one has to create — and widen — a circle of friends, whom he can influence with his professional prestige, with his behavior, with his friendship, so that Christ may exercise his influence by means of that professional prestige, that behavior, that friendship.”

St. Josemaria Escriva

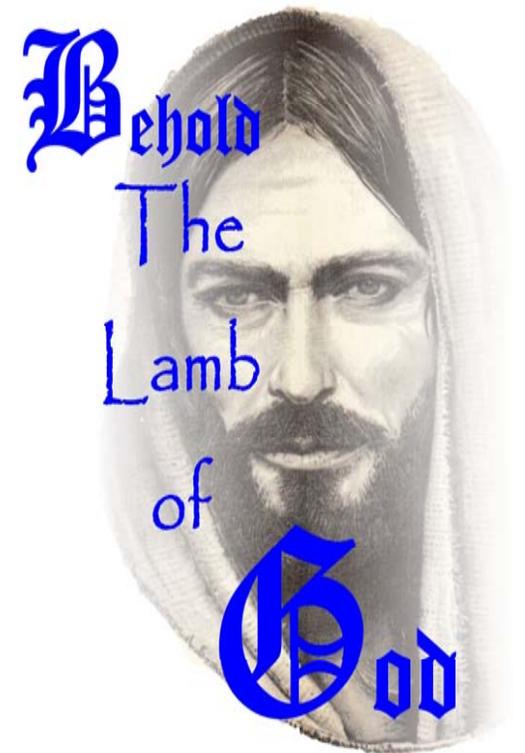


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Men's Ministry

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The Healing of a Paralytic

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" — he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

(Mark 2:1-12)

Finding Christ

The paralyzed man wanted to be brought to Jesus. But how would he get there? Jesus was surrounded by many others. But could this man ever hope of approaching Jesus with so many obstacles confronting him? Finally, some men come by who understand his desire and try to help. One man may have suggested clearing a path to Jesus from the street. Another may have wished to be of help but saw no way to get the paralytic near Jesus. Another thinks of going up to the roof, and maybe another thinks it's all useless! But in the end, they all do all they can to help. The man ends up being lowered through the roof after some tiles are removed (the descent of his own baptism) and then is made to rise again through Jesus' forgiving and healing words (the rising to new life of everyone's baptism).

Why Men's Ministry?

There are many men today similarly looking to have the opportunity of meeting Jesus. There is also the need today to have men assist one another in making this meeting come about. Men's Ministry within the Diocese of Rockville Centre exists to help these meetings and encounters come about. Men's Ministry exists to assist Catholic men in living their vocations as husbands, fathers and single lay persons in the world. It exists to remind men of the call to holiness they have received by virtue of their own baptism. It exists to remind men of their responsibility to be witnesses to Jesus Christ at home, at work, in their neighborhoods and in society.

When Jesus saw (the men's) faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are

forgiven." Christ recognized the faith in those men collectively and responded with forgiveness and love. He responds today as well. While each man needs to have his own relationship with Jesus, it is also important to be in a relationship with other men in order to receive support and guidance. Men's Ministry offers this, along with the opportunity to forge new friendships based in Christ.

How Do I Connect?

Men's Ministry in the Diocese of Rockville Centre is present on two levels. Firstly, there are individual parishes that sponsor communities of men interested in gathering together for shared prayer, discussions and fellowship. Formats and frequency of meetings vary from parish to parish. For a list of such parishes, contact our office.

Secondly, on the diocesan level, support to individual parishes and individual men is offered by way of seasonal meetings throughout the year (alternated between weeknight and weekend meetings) at centrally located sites throughout the Diocese. The format for these meetings usually consists of: praise and worship music, a guest speaker on a topic related to our ministry, group discussions, prayer, and food (for body and soul!).

For more information about Men's Ministry in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, you may contact the Office of New Evangelization.

