



In Mission

Issue 2

September 2015

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Executive Director's Message

God has created us to be. We have grown as well with new chapters in Virginia, California, Rhode Island, and Florida. The Lord continues to expand this ministry to help men take their place as the spiritual leaders of their families and to put the family in the hands of the Father.

Summer is slipping away, students are heading back to school and for most vacation is now a happy memory. Summertime for the Men of St. Joseph has been anything but a vacation. In this edition of **In Mission** you will read about the many events and happenings that have punctuated this summer; from retreats and conferences to communion breakfasts and days of reflection. The Men of St. Joseph have been gathering to pray for, share with, and encourage one another in become everything

The Men of St. Joseph have also been getting some national attention. In less than an hour I am being interviewed by the National Catholic Register for an article they are writing on Men's Ministry, which focuses on what God is doing in and through the Men of St. Joseph. On October 8th I will be a guest on EWTN's At Home with Jim and Joy. Please tune in as we seek to continue spreading the mission and ministry of the Men of St. Joseph.

Lastly, I would like to encourage each of you to share what the Men of St. Joseph has meant to you and your family with other men around you. Reach out to that guy at work or the coach of your child's or grandchild's Little League team. A one on one invitation is the best way to introduce new men to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit that is present and available at a Men of St. Joseph meeting. As Pope Francis has said, "The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization."

May God Bless You,
Kevin

Don't Quit!

By Mark Hadley
Acushnet Chapter of
The Men of Saint Joseph
Saint Francis Xavier Parish
Acushnet Massachusetts



“That weekend changed my life. I met and spent time with 10 guys, 5 turned out to be the formation group for our Men’s Group, my heroes, and my closest friends.”

Over three years ago, our Pastor at Saint Francis Xavier church reached out to ten men of our Parish to go on retreat and discern the formation of a Men’s Group for our parish. I was asked to attend, and immediately the spiritual warfare started placing obstacles and excuses as to why I would not be able to make it. I am just too darn busy, after all, I have so many things I am responsible for, if I am not at my desk, who will be there to be sure that the earth does not spin off it’s Axis? Three days with a bunch of guys I hardly know, in prayer and fellowship, in the hope of coming up with a plan? I will never make it through the retreat. But like most things in my life, my wonderful wife, lucky, lucky Mary, cut away every excuse and left me with the well-known refrain, “I think it would be good for you.” After 33 years of marriage, I know what that means, **“You are going!”**

That weekend changed my life. I met and spent time with 10 guys, 5 turned out to be the formation group for our Men’s Group, my heroes, and my closest friends. We returned home from the retreat with a burning desire to get started, We met a few times but had no blueprint to follow, and no one in the group had any experience in forming a men’s group. Things began to look pretty bleak, I remembered that Don Turbitt had been involved in Men’s Ministry forever. Perhaps he could be a resource? I reached out to Don and within a couple of weeks he came to Acushnet to meet with the five Musketeers. He opened our meeting in prayer and presented the meeting format and structure of the Men of St. Joseph. In addition, he made himself available to answer any questions or problems that might arise. Don still has a role in our group as our elder statesman.

We presented the program to our Pastor, Monsignor O’Connor, to make sure we were on firm ground. He approved it

and we now had a blueprint to build from and a man of experience to guide the work. We got the word out, recruited like crazy in the Parish. We spoke at all of the Sunday Masses, and made personal calls to friends. If someone stood still long enough, one of us had him by the arm. We ordered Bibles, Catechisms and Workbooks, we were ready to face the onslaught of men in the Parish that would be banging on the meeting room door to get into our first meeting. The doors opened at 7PM for our first meeting and the five of us waited, and waited, until finally another 5 guys showed up, two of whom, were looking for Choir practice. We had a great meeting, but I was crushed. After all of that work, the turnout was, you might say, below expectation. For several months, the group limped along until I was ready to give up and

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Pay It Forward!



“I have been asked to be the Lay Leader for the Fall 2015 MOSJ Outback. I am honored to have the opportunity to pay forward for the blessings which I have received.”

The next MOSJ Outback is right around the corner and they need you! If you have gone through Outback in the past, you know what an amazing experience it is for the campers. It can also be a profound experience for those who volunteer.

Whether coaching, praying, or cooking, **Pay It Forward!** Sign up now and be a part of our incredible Team!

If you live in the Gulf Coast Region, just Ctrl and Click below:

[Volunteer](#)

Discovering a Unique Retreat Experience Walking with Jesus through the Outback

By Jack McNichol
Men of St Joseph Outback
Lay Leader Fall 2015

In the Spring and Fall of each year, the Men of St Joseph come together in the Outback to offer a unique retreat experience for camper couples, both husband/wife and parent/teen. During this forty-eight hour retreat (Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon) campers focus not only on their personal relationship with each other but on having Jesus as the center of that relationship.

The Gulf Coast Men of St Joseph Outback weekend takes place at Camp Grace in the West Mobile area. This location is the ideal setting for communing with God and with each other. Daily Mass is available to all as is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Adoration and Prayer Tent. Separate programs are specifically designed for husband/wife and parent/teen couples. Campers are also treated to wonderful food, spirit filled music and outdoor adventure activities. Several years ago, my wife and I learned about the MOSJ Outback and were encouraged to

attend by friends who themselves had been campers. I had recently retired and moved back to Mobile from Texas. While in Texas, my wife and I experienced a greater life in Christ through the programs offered at our parish. The MOSJ Outback would prove to be a natural next step.

A new journey most always has apprehension as a companion, however, that soon vanished as we encountered wonderful fellow campers and friendly, helpful volunteers. The variety of well-presented programs and activities made time fly. Our two days there would be over in a flash, but not without feeling an increased closeness with each other and with our Savior.

Once we were on that high, it just seemed natural for us to find a way to continue the process.

We soon began volunteering which gave us even more joy. For the next several retreats we managed the volunteer registration area and now

I have been asked to be the Lay Leader for the Fall 2015 MOSJ Outback. I am honored to have the opportunity to pay forward for the blessings which I have received.

The next Gulf Coast Men of St Joseph Outback will be held on the weekend of October 30 - November 1, 2015. As Men of St. Joseph, we are encouraged to "Put the family in the hands of the Father". I can think of no better way to do that than to spend time with your spouse or teen in nature with Jesus. I encourage everyone to seriously consider this opportunity. Fees for the weekend are \$295.00 per camper couple; limited sponsorship opportunities are available. Secure your spot now!

Just Ctrl and Click below:

[Sign Me Up!](#)



***"Our two days
there would be
over in a flash,
but not without
feeling an
increased
closeness with
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with our Savior."***

Don't Quit cont'd.

my brothers were thinking the same. Everyone, except Dave and Mike, two great men of faith, who said, let's give it a little more time. My buddy Phil suggested "How about we pray about it together? I have Adoration this week, let's meet during my time slot and ask for help." We did this, and at the next meeting there were the original 5 plus another 12 guys that joined that night. Each of the new guys, bringing new ideas, and varying degrees of

religious and spiritual experience, lifted the rest of us. The Holy Spirit touched us all that night and the meetings started getting bigger and better. We attended Mass together, attended Men's Conferences, continued with our once a month Adoration and the group continued to grow. Then one day I heard Father Santilli speak at a conference saying that he had a dream, a chapter of MOSJ in every Parish in the Diocese, with 12

strong Men of Saint Joseph in each Parish that would stand in support and protection of each Pastor. I heard this and it all clicked. Men of Saint Joseph must stand in strength and unity for our families, our Parishes, our communities and our country. Our job is to protect our families, get them to Heaven, love one another, serve the Lord and carry the message to others. That was three years ago and our group now has 32 members.

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“Today, my relationship with Jesus Christ is very different from the one I brought with me to the first meeting of MOSJ.”

Don't Quit!

So here's what I've learned:

Catholic Men need to take their rightful place in our Church.
 Catholic Men need the support and fellowship of other Catholic Men to stay Spiritually Fit.
 Marriages and families that are not grounded in the Love of Jesus Christ are doomed.
 Our Job is to get our families to Heaven.
 Never underestimate the Power of Prayer.
 The answers to all of our questions are found in our Catholic Faith.
 In order to fulfill the Lords plan for us, we must always strive to be in a State of Grace.
 The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the only way to maintain that Grace.
 MOSJ is a program of action. Don't *tell* me you're grateful, *show* me.
 The Lord will do for us what we have been unable to do on our own.

Here is what I have learned about starting an MOSJ Chapter:

Communicate; men tend to forget and need to be constantly reminded by email, telephone and a handshake.

Pray!

Confidentiality in a group is key. What is said at a meeting, who said it and why, stays in the meeting.

Every Catholic man is welcome who has as desire to improve his relationship with the Lord through prayer, fellowship and the Scriptures.

Every group member is valued and respected.

We do not engage in controversy.

We are self supporting through free will contributions, there are no dues or fees for membership.

Our meetings are grounded in Sacred Scripture, the Catechism and prayer.

Our primary purpose is to love each other and love and serve the Lord.

Today, my relationship with Jesus Christ is very different from the one I brought with me to the first meeting of MOSJ. My relationship with my Brothers in The Men of Saint Joseph is very different. My understanding of God's plan for me is clearer. Situations that would often baffle me have now become routine. I have found a new freedom and outlook on life. I have a new found faith that God will do for me what I was unable to do on my own, if I only ask. I have had a spiritual awakening as a result of this work and I have I burning desire to give to others what's so freely given to me. Most importantly, I have changed and see these same changes fulfilled in the men around me, every day, which gives me great hope and faith that Jesus lives within each of us and our time has come.



**MOSJ
 Mobile
 Summer
 Retreat
 2015**

Pope Francis in America



INDEPENDENCE MALL

Saturday, September 26th

ALL PASSES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED

“How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith!”

***Pope Francis,
July 26, 2015***

As Pope Francis comes to our nation, we ask you to pray for the Lord's Grace, Mercy, and Wisdom to be with him and to inspire him, through the Holy Spirit, to speak to us with a transformative message from God. Pray for his safety as he travels, and for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all who attend the meetings in Washington D.C., New York, and Philadelphia. May our country open its ears to hear the Word of God spoken through His messenger, and may we grow closer and closer to our Lord Jesus with every word.

Welcoming our
Newest Chapters!

Men of St. Joseph in the Media

EWTN

Our Executive Director, Dr. Kevin Ryan, will be the featured guest on EWTN's ***At Home with Jim and Joy*** on Thursday October 8th.

The show will be re-broadcast on October 10th. Tell your friends to check out the program in our effort to spread the word about the ministry of The Men of St. Joseph.

National Catholic Register

Look for an article featuring the Men of St. Joseph in the late September issue of the National Catholic Register. The article is very timely in light of the upcoming World Meeting of Families.

- St. Francis of Assisi
Staunton, VA
- Blessed Sacrament
Tallahassee, FL
- St. Vincent de Paul
Mobile, AL
- St. Mary
Walnut Creek, CA

Men of St. Joseph
Making a Difference
Across the World

United States

United Kingdom

Slovenia

Poland

Papua New Guinea

Lithuania

Latvia

Ireland

Belarus

Australia

World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
You have made us
Your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.

May Your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the
Holy Family,
with the aid of Your Holy Spirit,
guide all families,
especially those most troubled,
to be homes of communion
and prayer
and to always seek Your truth
and live in Your love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Pray for us!

Your Story Belongs Here

Tell us what's happening in your Chapter, in
your Region, in your Life.
Encourage your brothers in Christ and give
Glory to the Lord.

Send your pictures and stories to our
editor at:

natalie.ryan@menofstjoseph.com

THE MEN OF ST. JOSEPH



OUTBACK



A Family Adventure of a Lifetime

The Men of St. Joseph Outback Weekend offers a spirit filled, adventurous weekend retreat. The weekend is a high octane, two-person encounter that incorporates several reflective talks with outdoor activities.

The Men of St. Joseph-Outback Weekend is about building, restoring, and strengthening relationships. The weekend experience is designed to give parents and teens and husbands and wives a practical strategy for daily living, focusing on their relationship with God, their family, friends, The Church and community.

The Men of St. Joseph-Outback Weekend will include the celebration of Mass, Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

WHERE:
Camp Grace
Mobile, Alabama

WHEN:
Fri., Oct. 30 - Sun., Nov. 1, 2015

HOW:
Register online at
www.mosjoutback.com