

Joseph's Workshop – A Lay Apostolate, Serving Fathers of Sons

The extent to which a society practices religion directly affects its culture. Yet fewer and fewer citizens are living a Christian moral life. Our culture and the very society in which we live is falling apart. Survival of a civilization depends on two-parent families led by strong, religious fathers. But our would-be future fathers – our sons – are leaving the Faith and the Church in droves.

What is “Joseph’s Workshop”?

We are starting an apostolate – an organization to better prepare fathers who desire to lead their sons to become the strong, holy and righteous men – the fathers and leaders – we need for a more godly future society.

What is our motivation?

Traditional religious education is insufficient in today’s chaotic culture. Our youth are being overwhelmed and distracted in an environment that older Americans never knew. They call much of today’s religious ed, “boring.”

Who else is doing this?

There is a poverty of efforts to consistently and effectively prepare fathers to catechize their sons. Little is available to address the impact of technology and the constant societal noise that is stealing our children’s minds and souls. *Catholic Canon law states that educating children is the primary responsibility of the parents, in the home.* Not the school teacher; not the priest. The parents.

What are parents up against?

Yet many parents are catechistically unprepared to successfully guide and grow their children in the Faith. Today’s children often have new questions which old answers will not satisfy. Left unanswered, they will drift away. Studies show the median age for leaving is 13. And 80 percent are gone by college age.

Technology is an enormous disruptive distraction that can lead our sons away from the Church. Concerned parents often don’t know how to control what their children see or do with this new technology. Parents are at a loss to comprehend their children’s captivating tech jungle – artificial intelligence ‘advisors’, social media ‘friends’, gaming clubs and texting circles, to name a few.

How we propose to proceed.

There is much work yet to be done. Our initial goal is to build a core group of interested men who, with God's guidance, will work to build something that can fly and make sure it gets off the runway. We can expect this to require a lot of prayer and effort.

Dedicated fathers are essential to this process. Many are extremely busy and will need carefully crafted, no-nonsense, focused guidance and assistance that doesn't waste their time. We believe there are many interested fathers who are overwhelmed and who may not know where to start.

Their questions – and their sons' questions – will need answers and guidance. This can involve advisors and will include personal meetings (one-on-one, groups, remote, etc.). Matching individual needs to existing resources can include online materials and publications and interaction with other fathers who can share personal knowledge and experience.

Joseph's Workshop presents a unifying place where fathers can share problems and practical solutions and success stories. A place where fathers and sons can grow in faith and holiness.

What can you do?

Host a 'get started' meeting in your parish for a formal presentation and discussion. Visit our website, *JosephsWorkshop.org*. Or contact Al O'Hara by e-mail, *al.ohara@ieee.org*.