

# FROM FR. MIKE

July 14, 2024

The Gospel this week says that Jesus sent out the disciples two by two, not alone, as they called people to faith and repentance. We are not meant to go on the journey of life alone and that includes our walk of faith. We are blessed to make use of spiritual direction, confession, the counsel of good family or friends and we're blessed as Catholics with the example and wisdom of the saints. Jesus does not expect or want us to be alone in our discipleship or as we try to give witness to Him in our lives.

As we enter our fifth year of the parish merger, we are starting to increase our activities in terms of formation in the faith and Christ-centered community building, with the goal of evangelization. This past year we ran two sessions of the now well-known Rescue Project featuring Fr. John Riccardo's engaging videos helping us appreciate more what Jesus Christ saves us from and what we are meant for. The sessions involve a time for socializing, prayer, the video, and then meaningful table discussion about what was heard...something you can't get watching alone at home! Jesus wants us to learn, grow and be His disciples together, in pairs and even more, but not alone.

The success of the two sessions of Rescue caused some people to ask what was next, what else do we have that helps us in small groups to grow in our Catholic faith and witness. The Book Club was one outcome of that that has already met and is starting with some C.S. Lewis books. You can join in on that as you are able, and no, it isn't just for women, men can read books and discuss them as well! There is also a new Catholic men's group forming here that you may have heard about that I am personally very excited about. It's called; *That Man is You*.

While our Holy Name men's group has been around for years and provides a necessary social and fundraising component of parish life; who doesn't love the annual golf outing, pig roast or championship Sunday? Still, a number of men have asked if we could do something more directly to help them to be good husbands and fathers and to grow in their relationship with Christ. Fortunately, *That Man is You* is a series that has been around for a few years and meets just that need.

We have already had a few pilot sessions of TMIY and currently have about 15-20 attendees, with enough core leadership to register with the program officially. We will have another trial session this July before rolling it out to the whole parish in September. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Feel free to come and check it out. The meetings last about 60 - 75 minutes, start with an opening prayer, some commentary from the leaders, we watch a video designed for men that lasts about 20 - 25 minutes, and then have small group discussions. The content and discussions are very good and frankly, it's nice for men to get together to learn from each other, encourage one another in faith and virtue, and to deepen friendship in the Lord.

If you'd like to learn more about the parish running *That Man is You*, come on the July 16<sup>th</sup> if you can or contact Nello Selvaggio: [nselvaggio82@gmail.com](mailto:nselvaggio82@gmail.com) These are the types of groups and activities that will help us deepen our faith in Christ and witness to Him, we can't do it alone:

***As iron is sharpened by iron; one person sharpens another***  
(Proverbs 27:17).

God bless,  
Fr. Mike

