

# Men's Group Assessment Tools

## I. Situation: Assisting Men's Groups that are running out of gas

- Where Do We Stand?
- What are the Symptoms?

## II. Diagnosis: Determining the problem?

- Assessment Tools:
  - PRAYER
  - REVIEW the BASICS (see 1B)
    - Why are we here? [Vision / Benefits]
    - Who are we? [Relationships / Commitment]
    - What happens at men's group meetings? (see 3A)

## III. Question & Answer: Applying the tools

# 1B - Review the Basics

- Why are we here?
  - What is the Vision/type of group:
    - Is there a charter/mission statement?
  - Who is the group geared towards?
    - Is it Evangelistic / Open / Large / Parish based...
    - Is it a Support group / Closed / Small / Relationship based...
  - What are the benefits of the men's group? (see 2A)
- Who are we?
  - What are the Membership requirements / Participant Expectations?
  - What is the level of Relationships in the Group? (see 2B)
    - How are they developed?
    - Commitment, accountability, participation level...
  - How is Leadership exercised? (focused, flexible)
- What happens at men's group meetings? (see 3A)
  - Format / Operating principles / Resources

# 2A - Benefits of a Men's Group

- **Build Relationships**
  - Grow in your relationship to Jesus Christ.
  - Make friends among other parishioners
  - Connect with other Catholic men, leaders and groups.
  - Be Encouraged and encourage your brothers. Call them on to holiness.
- **Learn from one another**
  - Become a better family member, husband, father, son, employee, parish member
  - Encourage our wives, children and families to grow spiritually with us.
  - Form stronger, happier families & marriages
- **Grow in Your Faith**
  - Further your understanding of the Catholic faith.
  - Gain tools to cope with the stresses inherent in the workplace
  - Learn to integrate your faith in practical ways
  - Get practical answers as men facing today's challenges
- **Share what you Gain**
  - Be a catalyst in Building up the parish community
  - Evangelize by helping other men get involved in similar groups in their areas.
  - Meet in smaller groups at different times to deepen your relationship with the Lord.

# 2B - Levels of Relationship

## Acquaintances

- Men getting to know one another and learning to listen to one another
- Men coming to see they don't stand alone

## Friends

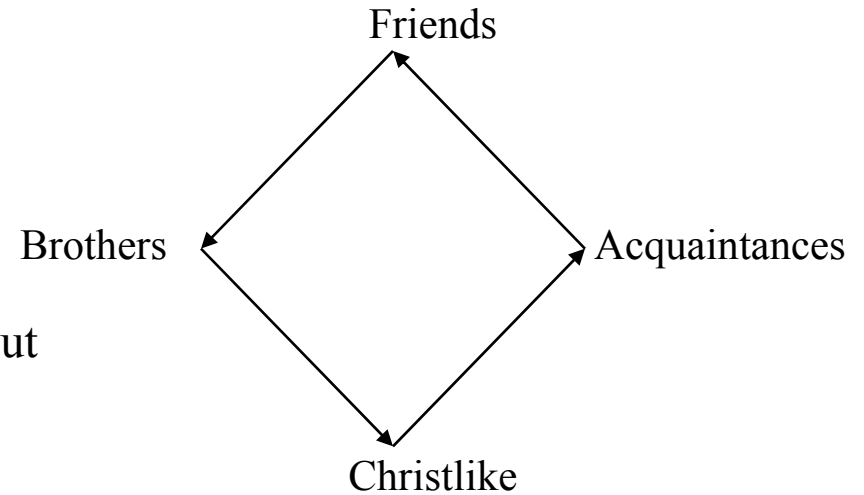
- Men who encourage one another
- Men who build one another up in Christ
- Men who can discuss difficulties and work out conflicts together

## Brothers

- Men committed & accountable to one another
- Men who exhort & challenge one another
- Men who fight side-by-side for the sake of the Gospel

## Christ-like

- Men working together to build God's Kingdom



[Reference: BROTHERS by Geoff Gorsuch, Publ: NavPress]

# 3A - What Happens at Men's Group Meetings

- Format

- Take a regular, specific time to put aside the pace & demands of a hectic life to grow in our relationship with God and each other.
- Join with other men to pray, socialize, discuss our faith, praise God & sing.
- Gather to support, and encourage one another to growth in holiness

- Operating principles:

We desire to:

- further our understanding of the Catholic faith
- Affirm and share insights about difficulties encountered at home and work.
- Learn new ways to love and support each other, our wives, and our children.
- Strive to reinforce Christian Values in our home and learn to encourage our wives and children to grow spiritually with us
- Seek God's help and wisdom in dealing with issues men confront every day.
- Reach out to share those values with others and support those who are struggling to do the same.

- Resources (see 3B)

# 3B - Men's Group Resources

## POSSIBLE EVENT AGENDAS

- Guest Speakers (Local, Diocesan or Regional)
- Scripture Meditation and Discussion
- Contemporary Topics
- Special Themes
- Video Tapes
- Special Mass Celebration
- Annual Reconciliation Service
- Special Family Meeting
- Special Witness or Sharing

## OTHER GROUPS & RESOURCES

- Nat'l Resource Center for Catholic Men NRCCM [www.nrccm.org]
- Catholic Men's Fellowship, Cincinnati – [www.thecall.org]
- Brotherhood of Hope, Boston – [www.brotherhoodofhope.org]
- Men of Saint Joseph, New Hampshire

## BOOKS, etc.,

- BROTHERS: Geoff Gorsuch
- Small Groups for Catholic Men:
  - Mark Nehrbas [www.franuniv.edu]
- Signposts: Bill Bawden + Tim Sullivan
  - [www.wau.org]
- The Word Among Us [www.wau.org]
- Emmaus Journey: Rich Cleveland
  - [www.emmausjourney.org]