

FSJ Pastor's Appeal

The purpose of this appeal is to seek your consent to form a Fraternity of St. Joseph Chapter within your parish family.

The FSJ mission is to build up a band of brothers, journeymen of all ages, in the just model of St. Joseph, who strengthen each other through fellowship, prayer, the Holy Mass, and the sacraments. The vision is that these men, fortified by the practices of their faith, will journey together through life's trials, lead their families toward salvation, and pass on the deposit of faith to future generations, while transforming their parishes and communities in the process.

In God's divine design, raised in the Eucharist at the hands of our ordained priests, salvation starts in the family, has been redeemed through the family, and is handed down throughout the ages in and through the family. As in past generations, our ordained priests, the sacramental Eucharistic face of God, are being persecuted; a similar persecution can be found in the breakdown of the traditional role of laymen as the spiritual heads of their families. One of the key precepts of the Fraternity is to bridge the gap between the pulpit and the pew and to uphold the authority of the priesthood. If we don't place authority back on our altars, then we won't receive it at our kitchen tables. Before we can intentionally lead, we must first humbly follow.

Our generation of men have been given the measure in which to respond to this persecution: consecration to the Holy Family – consecration to Mary first, then to St. Joseph, to ultimately lead us to Jesus. As journeymen of St. Joseph, in his just model, we are mindful to place our wives and families before ourselves in all that we do. Building knowledge of our Catholic faith imparted in the consecration process is a key precept and first step forward.

Another essential work of the Fraternity is to develop "Tools of Reach" – web resources, printable materials, and other aids – that help pastors, priests, deacons, and laity work together to build up strong men in their knowledge of the Catholic faith. These "Tools of Reach" will help these men and future generations gain fortitude in using the fundamentals of their faith to navigate the challenges of reaching salvation for themselves and for the families they are accountable by God to lead. Many examples of these easily accessible resources can be viewed on the website of the FSJ Guiding Council, established under the authority of Fr. Matthew Codd at St. Thomas Aquinas Church (Charlotte, NC) at <https://fsjjourneymen.com/resources/>. As the number of FSJ chapters continues to grow, through the movement of the Holy Spirit, we encourage and anticipate our parish chapters contributing to these ever-expanding "Tools of Reach."

We hope you will take time to review some of these resources and contemplate how our spiritual fathers can use them within parishes at key moments, such as family sacramental celebrations, St. Joseph Feast Days, vocation discernment, pro-life advocacy, and more.

- St. Joseph Devotional Meeting Guide
- St. Joseph Paternal Leader Listing
- St. Joseph Vocation of Fatherhood Pamphlet
- St. Joseph Seven-Day Family Devotional
- Fraternity of St. Joseph Life Defenders

We pray that you find value in taking part in the first steps of this Fraternity and consider signing the appropriate attached FSJ Chapter Pastor Consent Form. Upon your approval, your parish will receive all the resources needed to successfully create an FSJ Chapter in your parish. We look forward to seeing how our Fraternity grows through our spiritual fathers' authority and through the fraternal commitment placed on consecrating men to the Holy Family.

In the authority of your ordination, the Eucharist face of God is revealed throughout salvation history. The Word of God is handed on, in His divine design, at the hands of Jesus Christ Himself, through your chosen vocation. Before any of us can intentionally lead, we must first humbly follow God's divine design for the family. We are raised in and through the sacraments in community, in communion with God. We are praying for you and your parishioners.

Thy will be done.