

FSJ Family Catechism

FSJ suggestions toward creating tools and resources to reach young Catholics and families through our priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful working together. This effort is meant to start with pulpit, bulletin, and Flocknote emails with an end goal of creating a better understanding of vocations and the domestic church at the parish level in the awareness that God allows us all to participate in His own divine life, and that we are all meant to cooperate in his saving work.

Create bulletin and pulpit announcements for the third week of each month, coordinating with a parish event named Donuts and the Domestic Church, in an effort to focus on sharing awareness of the family, and the vocations found within, being our domestic churches. In an effort to reach more parishioners, share that the event is held between two Masses

Start to chip away at sharing awareness of the roles and vocations found within the domestic church, and stress how important single Catholics are in this conversation.

In an effort to place order into the messaging, send Family Catechism email out at the same time, consistently each week so that parishioners can find order in the placement, this can be noted in the bulletin and pulpit announcements. Suggestion for the 3rd Wednesday at 9am. This will make it easy for people to find the monthly challenges, and submitted questions to be discussed.

Set up a parish email address for parishioners to submit questions and challenge suggestions and begin to encourage this effort. Suggestion - fsjchallenge@yourchurchname.com

Encourage Deacons and religious to actively join this conversation by shouldering up with our priests in attending and also answering the questions submitted, with focus on relating them to the domestic church and the vocations found within.

Enter a monthly challenge for mothers, fathers and single men and women in the third week's Flocknote email.

Incorporate into the email a message for fathers and young men to find their place with the leading men in the Fraternity and the Knights by continually sharing contact information for both in all pertaining email and correspondence.

Have the priest and deacon who will be hosting share some of the submitted questions that will be addressed in the 3rd Wednesday email.

Place a common message at the top of the weekly email to explain the mission of strengthening the family. Suggestion - The mission of the Domestic Church is to provide for everyone and

everything. Today's Church and society is the result of efforts, or lack thereof, now realized from past generations. Let's learn from the past and find value in pointing out the gifts found in the next generation, and in finding our rightful place in our vocations and domestic churches. We are not meant to face this journey alone, we need to build each other up, and intentionally hand on the tools to the next generation of Catholics. The Greatest Commission - Matthew 28:19-20. Handing on as First Importance 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

Consider permanently placing our Domestic Churches into the Prayer of the Faithful petitions. Suggestion - For our Domestic Churches, and the vocations found within, to better understand their God given gifts.

Priests to encourage our congregation to submit questions and challenges, and to attend before the homily in the third weekend Masses.

Suggested Pulpit Announcement:

The leading men of our faith community are shouldering up in their vocations, along with our priests and deacons, in encouraging all of our parish family, but especially the men of our parish, to attend our 3rd Sunday donuts and the Domestic Church gathering in an effort to build up our families and faith community. For this new parish event to be successful, we need the heart of the family, our mothers, wives and sisters, to help us to reach them with the knowledge that our brothers won't do for themselves what they will do for you. See the bulletin and Wednesday's Family Catechism email for monthly challenges and more information.

Suggested Bulletin Announcement:

Version 1

The Fraternity of St. Joseph and The Knights of Columbus are encouraging all of our parish brothers to step closer to their faith by exploring where they can best grow in our parish community by finding their place in our ministries' fellowship, and by using the tools and challenges that our Family Catechism provides weekly to strengthen the vocations found in our domestic churches, through intentionally looking at the weekly Wednesday email sent out with this end in mind.

We encourage you to step closer to the path with the band of Brothers that our fraternity and the Knights are intentionally assembling here at parish name. Hope to see you at our next meetings, and at our next 3rd Sunday Donuts and the Domestic Church

Version 2

COMBINED EFFORTS TOWARD GROWING VOCATIONS HERE AT PARISH NAME - The leading men of our faith community are shouldering up in their vocations, along with our priests and deacons, to encourage the men of our parish family to find their place in the Fraternity and

Knights, in an effort to build up a band of brothers ready to navigate and face the trials ahead. We need the heart of the family, our mothers, wives and sisters, to help us to reach them with the knowledge that our brothers won't do for themselves what they will do for their families. See the bulletin and Wednesday's email for monthly challenges and more information.

We encourage you to step closer to the path with the band of Brothers that our Fraternity and Knights are intentionally assembling here at parish name. Hope to see you at our meetings, and our next 3rd Sunday Donuts and the Domestic Church

Fraternity and Knights contact information to share in our Wednesday emails.

Fraternity of St. Joseph Men's Group

FSJjourneymen.com

fsjjourneymen@gmail.com

STA Knights of Columbus (Council #)

KofC Council Website

KofC Email

Fraternity and Knights to share all contacts on their email lists to be added to the Flocknotes Family Catechism email list.

FSJ commitment to slowly chip away at this effort.

After a few months consider to recap the efforts already in place to reach our young Catholics and families and start to intensify the messaging. In an understanding of the message of the measure in which we measure, begin to start to share how the domestic church provides for everything and how important understanding our vocation truly is in providing better for future generations of Catholics.

At the appropriate time, start to encourage other ministries to share in the combined efforts at the beginning of their meetings, and encourage making the domestic church and vocations topics of discussion made known through pulpit and bulletin announcements.

Intentionally work *slowly* toward creating a dynamic of how much family truly matters at the parish, that will now be seen through past efforts, witnessed by reaching out into the parish family in numerous ways with the awareness that, for most people, they need to see messaging over time, *and in numerous ways*, before they will put value into it...

Commitment to succeeding will be found in the understanding that going into this, you will not start to see the fruit of this effort for at least a year or more. The need to intentionally meet our brothers and sisters on the path where they are will be the common driving force. Like many Catholics, many of us were once cultural Catholics, and can understand how living in and of the

world can get in the way of living in the Word. Our Father shows us in our domestic churches that the measure in which we measure is how we reach our children, and in this knowledge, how we can reach our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our parish families need us to do this for them, and our Father has given us this opportunity to work together in the good soil He has already provided for us in our parishes.

Please provide any comments or suggestions that come to mind and submit them to fsjjourneymen@gmail.com for us to make this effort better in the gifts He has provided you with. **Common messaging said differently is where we unite. Our different views are not meant to get in the way of our work, they are meant to enhance it. We all hear His voice and Word differently, and in our own love language. Let's start to build each other up with this knowledge. He will place before us who we can individually reach with our gifts. We get to do this!**

St. Thomas Aquinas understood something essential: "to grasp reality fully, I need more than my own limited experience and perspective. Truth is too rich to be seen from one angle alone. We arrive at it through conversation, where each person contributes a piece of the whole". This is how truth is revealed, not through domination or alienation, but through friendship. As Scripture says, iron sharpens iron.

St. Joseph, reach us, Amen!