

Friendships as Men

Objective

To explore the intricacies of building and maintaining Male Friendships. One question to ponder “Does this person lead me to God or pull me away from him?” Yes, I may be fortunate to have some 2:00am friends but is there a higher calling for me to reach out to others outside my comfort level?

Song Suggestion: Servant Song

Bible and Catechism Readings:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:

If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

John 15: 13

There's no greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Corinthians 15:13

Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”

Catechism 1939 Human Solidarity

The principle of solidarity, also articulated in terms of “friendship” or “social charity” is a direct demand of human and Christian brotherhood.

Saint: St Philip Neri-Patron Saint of Friendship

St Phillip preached affability as the key virtue that helps us make friends. What is affability? It is the habit that regulates our outward manners so that we act in a friendly courteous way toward the people with which we come in contact.

Vignette:

Bob was an affable fun-loving guy. He enjoyed the camaraderie of male companionship & often used humor as a way of breaking the ice with those he came in daily contact with. Bob took solace in his weekly prayer group better known as the Father's Team. There he found like-minded people who did not shy away from sensitive topics or feel intimidated about sharing their Faith with others. Yet there was something missing. Bob kept getting this nagging feeling that he was called to do more. What if I challenged myself to get outside of my comfort zone & share some of these graces I obtained thru this ministry with others? Bob's Small Group would often meet at a Coffee Shop to prepare a topic to present to the large group on Friday mornings. It was at that coffee shop where Bob would always run into this one gentleman who would always greet him warmly. They would share some niceties about Sports & Weather. The man was intrigued by this group of men & asked Bob if he like to meet for coffee. How many of us have had one of these chance encounters but never took time to follow up on it? Here's hoping that when one of these opportunities does arise you'll make the effort to follow thru. Step out of that comfort zone & possibly sustain & build a new Friendship.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

When was the last time you made a new Friend?

Do my current Friends Lead me to God?

What are the obstacles in my Life that prohibit me from getting out of my comfort zone & making new Friends?

I say that I have 2:00am friends but do I reciprocate that Friendship or is it a one-way street?

Resources:



[7L: United Airlines Commercial 1990 "Speech" - YouTube](#)

Book: Messy & Foolish by Matthew Warner

Action Plan:

As Christian Men we are called to have intentional Christian Relationships. The best way of accomplishing this task is by putting ourselves out there & cultivate those relationships that may not come easy to us.

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