

## Making Your Staff into Saints

*One of the greatest and most important things a father will ever do is teach his children to pray.*

Below is an 18 week program designed to develop a simple, yet deep prayer life in your staff. A prayer life opening the door to the Holy Spirit, so that He may strengthen their faith and work through them to build and shape your parishes.

To start, set up meetings every 3 weeks for spiritual formation. Set these meetings up for early in the week, Monday if possible, and early enough in the day so they can start that day and develop the habit before the weekend comes and all is lost. Keep in mind that habits are difficult to develop, so they will need reminding and encouragement. You may want to consider setting up accountability partners.

**Meeting 1** - Give them St Alphonsus Ligouri's *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament* and ask them to spend 15 minutes every day with our Lord in the tabernacle.

**Meeting 2** - At three weeks they should be half-way through the book. Discuss their experience. Encourage, give advice, etc.

**Meeting 3** - Briefly discuss their experience. Give them other ways/methods/books to help them continue spending time before our Lord in the tabernacle. Challenge them to pray a morning offering when they first wake up.

**Meeting 4** - Briefly discuss their experience. Challenge them to pray a decade of the rosary. Take the time to explain how the rosary is both vocal and meditative prayer. Be sure to give them the tools and know-how to be successful.

**Meeting 5** - Briefly discuss their experience. Challenge them to pray a nightly recollection.

**Meeting 6** - Briefly discuss their experience. Start them on spiritual reading. You may want to supply a specific book or give options. Reading a book together can be a good way for the staff to get comfortable talking about and growing in the faith together.

Now the foundation has been laid. It's important to continue meeting regularly for spiritual formation so that their spiritual lives continue to grow and not become stagnant. To further make this point, below is an analogy from Fr. Adolphe Tanquerey.

*We have to go counter to the current... So long as we make the effort to go against the current, we advance or at least we hold our own. The moment we stop we are carried along and driven seaward, there to meet the ocean storms.*

In 4 months you will have a staff growing in their spiritual lives and desiring to share all they've learned with the rest of the parish.