

Esto Vir

Charter

2017-2018

I. Background

Due to the success of the St. Joan of Arc's 2016 "Into the Breach" Retreat, the men of the retreat planning team, along with Fr. Kline, desired to capitalize on the fruits of prayer and fellowship. The first order of business was to establish a team of men to make decisions regarding the development of this apostolate. The team consisted of twelve men who gathered on a regular basis to discuss the apostolate. The team began by defining the basic structure and function of the "St. Joan of Arc (SJA) Men's Initiative" (the name of the apostolate at the time). The team generated and completed a questionnaire in order to assess valued ideas regarding the SJA Men's Initiative. They discussed all thoughts drafted on these completed questionnaires. Based on these valued inputs, the team finalized a basic charter of operation. One of the first items voted on by the team was to change the name from the "SJA Men's Initiative," to "*Esto Vir*," which is Latin for "Be a man".

II. The Vision of *Esto Vir*

Esto Vir is a call for the men of St. Joan of Arc parish to become saints. This is a universal call to serve, to unite and build up other men to become intentional disciples. It can be as dramatic as St. Paul getting knocked off his horse or as unseen as a quiet resolve during a sleepy Sunday morning Mass. However we arrive at it, that resolve to follow Jesus consciously and intentionally with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength is what the whole of the Christian call to discipleship is all about. As St. Paul says, we are called to "*destroy arguments and every pretension raising itself against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive in obedience to Christ*" (2 Cor 10:5). This call to discipleship is grounded and lived out in our vocation, whether married or celibate. Once made, that decision will henceforth be the controlling decision that will drive and coordinate everything — *absolutely everything* — in the life of the disciple of Jesus Christ. Here begins the "New Life" as St. Paul describes, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come*" (2 Cor 5:17).

III. Purpose of *Esto Vir*

With the impetus of Bishop Olmsted's Exhortation *Into the Breach*, our overall purpose is to become followers of Christ in and through our vocation. The men of *Esto Vir* have formed small groups that are called "platoons." Each platoon has been designated a specific day of the week (except Sunday) to be "on watch," meaning that on those days the men pray and fast for a specific "breach" assigned to them.¹ Each platoon will also meet on a regular basis to encourage each other, challenge each other to grow in holiness, and to call forth to mission each member according to his vocation.² In order to achieve the fruit needed to become saints, routine meetings need to take place in every

¹ Cf. Bishop Olmsted's Apostolic Exhortation, *Into the Breach (ITB)*. In this exhortation, the bishop discusses the effects of the following "breaches" in our American society: pornography addiction, a decrease in sacramental marriages, the scourge of abortion, rampant fatherlessness, fallen away Catholics, and same-sex attraction.

² Cf. *ITB 2*: "I offer this Exhortation... for every willing man in the Diocese of Phoenix: priests, deacons, husbands, fathers and sons, grandfathers and widowers, young men in preparation for your vocation – that is, *each and every man*."

platoon. These meetings should act as rich soil, where each man's formation has the opportunity to grow and flourish.

IV. The basic structure of *Esto Vir*

Esto Vir is about leading men to become saints. In light of this, the basic structure includes three areas of formation: the human, the spiritual, and the intellectual. Each area, while distinct in itself, is naturally linked to the others. The three areas form the comprehensive structure of formation that could serve as pillars for *Esto Vir*.

A. Human Formation

The purpose of Human Formation is to assist each man in his task of becoming a man of integrity with the personality necessary to serve his family and the Church. The community life of the men's initiative and the various service opportunities in the community can be ordered to assist men to grow in true freedom, to develop a solid moral character, to be well-oriented to the truth, to become a man of communion, to evidence affective maturity, to be respectful of every person, to exercise appropriate care for his physical well-being, to be a good steward with respect to temporal goods, and to be a confident leader.

B. Spiritual Formation

In the area of spiritual formation, men seek to grow in their relationship with Christ through prayer, fasting and contemplation. In this relationship, they encounter the overwhelming love of God in their lives and share in His merciful compassion as Jesus tells us, "*No greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*" (Jn 15:13).

C. Intellectual Formation

In the area of intellectual formation, men seek to deepen their faith through study (e.g. the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* with Sacred Scripture; Magisterial documents). They are transformed through the renewal of their minds (cf. Romans 12:2), thinking about reality with the mind of the Church. In this they will increase their capacity for authentically proclaiming Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth, and the Life (cf. John 14:6) to all they encounter.

V. The function of this basic structure

Esto Vir seeks to assist men in precisely these three areas, because all three are of vital importance in forming its members to be a balanced, holy, learned, and effective man of Jesus Christ.

VI. *Esto Vir*'s decision making process

We resolve countering views by discussion and coming up with two options by the end of the discussion, then by voting on those options. Simple majority vote will decide the outcome.

VII. *Esto Vir*'s Formal Leadership

In order to fulfill the challenge set forth by Bishop Olmsted, *Esto Vir* must have a Corps Team and leadership. While Fr. Kline is the ultimate authority in regards to this apostolate, he humbly delegates authority of most matters to the *Esto Vir* Corps Team. These individuals were nominated, voted on and have accepted their positions with great honor.

The following is the Esto Vir Corps Team:

Spiritual Director – Fr. Don Kline

Spiritual Director – Dcn. Peter Auriemma

Provides guidance in all things spiritual; including direction, sacraments, education, etc.

Captain – Will Wisehart

Oversees all aspects of Esto Vir, runs the meetings, communicates to all platoon leaders and is generally the face of the apostolate.

Chief – Jake Tawney

Keep minutes at meetings, treasurer and contributes to logistics

Platoon Leaders – Andy Lambros, Brian Hanson, Ivan Garcia,

Gustavo Estrella, Joe Ozog and Chris Tabanico.

A part of the Esto Vir Corps Team, leads and communicates with their own platoon.

Staff Liaison – Andy Lambros, Brian Hanson

Helps communicate with parish, schedules rooms, some logistics, etc.

Team Members – Steve Perez, Doug Connelly

Assists with marketing, registrations, platoon support, etc.

VIII. *Esto Vir's* selection of Leadership roles:

- A.** The annual election of officers shall take place at the regular meeting in May.
- B.** On or before the second regular meeting in March of each year, the Captain shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members whose duty it shall be to report at the second regular meeting in April of such year the name of one candidate for each of the offices to be filled. Nominations from the floor of candidates other than those recommended by the Nominating Committee may be made at the first regular meeting in May and the second regular meeting in May.
- C.** The election of officers shall be by ballot. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect, except that where several of equal degree are to be chosen, a majority shall not be necessary, but all shall be voted for on one ballot and no ballot containing names of more or less candidates than there are such offices to be voted for shall be counted, and those receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected in the order of the number of votes received.
- D.** The Captain shall appoint two members to act as Reporters. After all who are entitled to do so have voted, the ballot shall be declared closed and the Reporters shall then proceed to count the votes in full view of the collective group. One of the Reporters shall examine each ballot singly and pass the same to his associate, who shall read aloud the name or names written or printed on all legal ballots. The Recorder shall tally the same and the result thereof shall be announced by the presiding officer.

- E.** Each officer elected must qualify and fill the office to which he is chosen, with or without installation, at the first regular business meeting in the month of July succeeding his election, unless excused by a vote of the Platoon, and must present himself for installation, unless excused by such officer. Otherwise such office shall be considered vacant.
- F.** Vacancies in elective offices shall be filled, after notice to the members, by election at the regular business meeting next succeeding the regular business meeting at which the vacancy was announced.