



Knights of Columbus

Into the Breach

Leader Addendum



Faith in Action

Faith

Into the Breach

There is a spiritual battle raging around us.

It's a battle which pulls men away from their families. It's a battle which prefers sin and temptation to virtue and leadership. It's a battle which asks us whether we will answer Christ's call to live and to love like him.

As Knights of Columbus leaders, we are on the front lines of this spiritual battle. Our role is simple – to offer our brother Knights a lifestyle and a brotherhood through which they can live and grow their Catholic faith.

Our members are looking for something that will add value to their lives and help them become stronger men, more loving husbands and better fathers. The Knights of Columbus created the *Into the Breach* video series as a powerful tool to meet these needs.

To achieve the greatest impact, harness the power of brotherhood. By watching and discussing *Into the Breach* as a community, you allow men to learn from each other and hold each other accountable. A successful *Into the Breach* program can transform a man into a powerful leader in his family, his parish and his council.

We want to make sure that you have everything necessary to run a successful *Into the Breach* program. In the pages that follow, you will find additional details and resources to help you bring *Into the Breach* to your council and parish.

You can use this document as the foundation for your efforts and those of your council, but remember that these resources are an optional guide. Each community has its own unique needs. Where you see opportunities for creative advertisement or an alternative use of the video series and discussion groups, you are encouraged to take advantage of that opportunity.

As you and your council take specific action in bringing *Into the Breach* to your parish, please let the Supreme Council know. We may want to highlight your efforts. Submit all *Into the Breach* activities using the [Fraternal Program Report Form](#) (#10784).

Additional Resources:

1. [Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide](#) (#11059)
2. [Into the Breach Invitational Flyer](#) (#10994)
3. [Working With Your Pastor](#) (#10999)
4. [Fraternal Leader Success Planner](#) (#5033)
5. [Fraternal Leader Training Webcasts](#)

Overview

In his apostolic exhortation *Into the Breach*, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today. Using either Bishop Olmsted's inspirational letter or the Knights of Columbus video series it inspired, councils will prayerfully examine the crisis of religious faith in our world. By discussing the lessons and calls to action found throughout *Into the Breach*, men will begin to devise a personal plan of spiritual battle to strengthen their lives, their families, and their communities.

Featured Program Requirements

- For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Using either the [*Into the Breach* video series](#) or apostolic exhortation (#340), hold a minimum of eight sessions to discuss the content.

Please Note: Councils may use a combination of either Bishop Olmsted's apostolic letter or the Knights of Columbus *Into the Breach* video series it inspired. However, councils cannot double-count the program, even if they complete both forms of *Into the Breach*.

Action Steps

1. Identify a program chairman to oversee all action steps and delegate tasks, as needed. If coordinating with the parish, confirm pastor approval with grand knight, and then set up subsequent parish ministry collaboration meetings.
2. Determine an appropriate place to hold your discussion. If using the *Into the Breach* video series, make sure you will have access to a television or a computer and projector.
 - All episodes of *Into the Breach* can be downloaded or streamed at www.kofc.org/intothbreach. Councils are encouraged to download the episodes to avoid technical challenges. If streaming, make sure you have a good internet connection.
3. Schedule times for your small groups to meet for discussions. Sessions should be at least one-hour and should be scheduled no longer than one month apart from each other.
4. Build public interest for the group! Promote your *Into the Breach* discussion group in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - Prominently display promotional posters
 - Bulletin announcements
 - Pulpit announcements
 - Posting on your council and parish website / social media pages
 - Make personal invitations using the *Into the Breach Invitational Flyer* (#10994)
5. Coordinate men from your council and your parish to help lead the small group discussions. You should have enough discussion leaders so that no group is larger than 8 people, including the leader. Discussion leaders should guide the discussion using the resources provided in either *Into the Breach* (#340) or *Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide* (#11059).

6. To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms.
 - Immediately after each session of your program, complete the [*Fraternal Programs Report Form*](#) (#10784)
 - At the end of the fraternal year, complete the [*Columbian Award Application*](#) (#SP-7)

Resources

1. #10730- [*Into the Breach Brochure*](#)
2. #340- [*Into the Breach Booklet*](#)
3. #11059- [*Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide*](#)
4. #10731- [*Into the Breach Vertical Poster*](#)
5. #10994- [*Into the Breach Invitational Flyer*](#)

Program resources can be ordered by your grand knight, financial secretary and/or program director on Supplies Online via [Officers Online](#).

Links

Program: www.kofc.org/breach

Video series: www.kofc.org/intothebreach

TASK LIST

- Meet with your pastor to request running an *Into the Breach* program in his parish. Offer how *Into the Breach* will benefit your pastor and his parish and ask if he will assist in advertising the program to the men of the parish. See “Meeting with Your Pastor” on next page.
- Determine how many *Into the Breach* sessions you will host and how many episodes will be shown and discussed each meeting. Remember to schedule at least one hour per episode for discussion. Set a schedule of when each *Into the Breach* session will take place and which episode(s) will be watched.
- If running *Into the Breach* remotely, choose a video conferencing system that best matches your council’s needs. Test the video conferencing system before your first meeting, making sure you understand all the controls. Determine the best way to have participants view the *Into the Breach* episode, according to your conferencing system’s technical capability.
- If running *Into the Breach* in person, work with your parish to secure a meeting location. Make sure this location has a TV or projector and that all A/V connections are working.
- Download the *Into the Breach* episodes onto your laptop or purchase a DVD on Supplies Online via Officers Online.
- Place *Into the Breach* advertisements around your parish, with pastor’s approval. If allowed by your pastor, hand out copies of the [*Into the Breach Invitational Flyer*](#) (#10994) following Mass. Consider digital means of advertising.
- Announce your *Into the Breach* program at your council meeting. A recommended announcement can be found on page 11.
- If approved by the pastor, work with the parish office to place an advertisement for *Into the Breach* in your parish bulletin.
- Share the *Into the Breach* trailer via email and your council’s social media accounts. Ask your parish if they will share the trailer via the parish’s email and social media accounts. Recommended email and social media announcements can be found on page 8.
- Select small group leaders and share all small group discussion resources with them, especially the [*Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide*](#) (#11059).
- Encourage small group leaders to read through the Introduction and How to Lead a Small Group in the [*Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide*](#) (#11059). Before each session, remind them to read through the corresponding chapter in the study guide to prepare for discussion.
- Work with the grand knight and membership director to schedule an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to follow your final *Into the Breach* program session.
- Print out your council’s calendar of fraternal and Faith in Action events to have available for *Into the Breach* participants. If running a remote program, send a digital copy of the calendar with the link to your video conferencing program.
- Complete the [*Fraternal Program Report Form*](#) (#10784) online following the conclusion of each discussion session in your program.
- Following the conclusion of each discussion session in your program, make a verbal invitation to each participant to join in one of your council’s other Faith in Action activities. Encourage them to invite others as well. Remember, a personal invitation is always more effective than a general invitation.

MEETING WITH YOUR PASTOR

Into the Breach is a resource to help strengthen the life of your parish. Over the past two decades, more than 14 million Catholics have left the faith. That means, for many of us, our communities are filled with men who need the welcoming and evangelizing message of *Into the Breach*.

This also means that *Into the Breach* needs to be a program available for every man in your parish. For that to happen, you need to have the support of your pastor. This is his parish, and our work as Knights is always meant to support him in his work of building that parish community.

Start with Service

As a first step to running an *Into the Breach* program, set up a meeting with your pastor. Explain that your council's primary purpose is to be in service to him and the parish, and offer that *Into the Breach* is a powerful way for your council to fulfill that purpose.

To help demonstrate how *Into the Breach* serves the parish, play the trailer for the video series (available at kofc.org/intothbreach), which gives a strong overview of the topics covered by the series. This will introduce your pastor to the video series and allow you to make direct connections between the themes of *Into the Breach* and the needs of your parish.

Anticipate concerns

Every pastor is thinking about two things every time you present a new idea to him: What will this cost? How much work will this create?

Any proposed idea from your council needs to relieve your pastor of these concerns. Come into your meeting with concrete plans – suggestions of where and when your *Into the Breach* program sessions will be held, how you will advertise (including pulpit and bulletin announcements), how much the resources will cost and how the council is planning to cover those costs.

Be sure to bring a copy of the [*Into the Breach Video Series Study Guide*](#) (#11059) that you can leave with the pastor, so he can review the content and confirm the strength and faithfulness of the materials.

Overcoming obstacles

If a pastor doesn't want to engage with your council, it's often because he doesn't understand what you can offer or he has had bad experiences in the past. Most pastors will have preconceived ideas of the Knights (good and bad).

Use this opportunity to show your pastor that *Into the Breach* is foundational to all the work you do as Knights. Through *Into the Breach*, men learn to better put their faith in action through a strong prayer life, dedication to family, a life of charity and passionate defense of the unborn.

Make sure to Ask:

- *What men would you recommend to lead small groups?*
- *What other ministries should we involve?*
- *Can the council use the parish hall?*
- *Can this be a parish announcement, either by the pastor or a council member?*

TOP 5 WAYS PASTORS CAN USE *INTO THE BREACH*

Parish priests are faced with numerous challenges as they bring the faith to their parishes and communities. Since its founding, the Knights of Columbus has been committed to supporting its parishes and parish priests in furthering the mission of the Gospel.

Into the Breach is the latest resource from the Knights designed to support and reinvigorate parish life. This twelve-episode video series features top Catholic thinkers and seeks to answer the question: What does it mean to be an authentic, Catholic man in today's world?

Totally free and available online to the public, *Into the Breach* is excellent for pastors looking for powerful new ways to address:

Parish engagement

Many Catholics have had a varied experience of their faith and may be asking themselves the question, "Why be Catholic?" *Into the Breach* answers this question with a call to community. By connecting parishioners with small groups, this program engages our need for fellowship while revealing the truths of who we are and what we are called to do as children of God. A successful *Into the Breach* program can excite the men of the parish into a powerful, mission-driven force for good.

Faith Formation

Bishop Thomas Olmsted says, "Not only does God have a plan for your life, so does Satan." As a faith formation tool, *Into the Breach* illuminates God's plan and provides concrete challenges for how to live it. Through powerful, 12-minute introductions to topics, *Into the Breach* provides a strong foundation to important faith formation topics – from prayer and sacramental life to evangelization and leadership. After being formed in these topics, men will be better prepared to strengthen other ministries throughout the parish.

Men's Groups

Into the Breach was designed to be used in a small group setting. Whether or not your parish has an active Knights of Columbus council, this video series and its accompanying study guide can be used to support men's ministry. All twelve episodes and accompanying study guides are available for free, and all men's groups are encouraged to establish small groups to enter more deeply into the message of *Into the Breach*.

Marriage Prep

The role of men in the family is irreplaceable – and yet, more than 1 in 4 children grow up without a father in the home. There is a masculinity crisis facing our families, and as a tool in marriage prep, *Into the Breach* can drive home the qualities every man must foster to fulfill his role as husband and father.

Parish Missions / Retreats

Because the *Into the Breach* videos can be watched in any order, independently of each other, they are a perfect tool for parish missions and retreats. Whether supplementing an existing theme or serving as the core message of the retreat, *Into the Breach* provides captivating content and ready-made support for break-out sessions.

What's Next?

- Ask your Knights of Columbus council or men's group to run *Into the Breach* small groups
- Encourage your parishioners to watch *Into the Breach* for free at www.kofc.org/intothbreach
- Share *Into the Breach* with all your parish ministries – for anyone to use!

SAMPLE SCRIPTS – PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT – COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Invitations are most successful if they are done in person. If in-person invitations aren't possible, they should be sent to people directly rather than through a general message blast. Consider breaking up contact lists among your small group leaders to allow for smaller text, phone and email groups. Whenever possible, personalize emails and text messages by using the recipient's name.

In addition to the following scripts, the Knights of Columbus have produced a flyer that councils can customize with their event time and location. Physical copies of this flyer can be purchased through Supplies Online. A digital file [Into the Breach Invitational Flyer](#) (#10994) can be found at kofc.org/fiaredources.

To create lists of contact information for Knights of Columbus members, grand knights and financial secretaries can use the *Knights of Columbus Data Abstraction Tool*. The Member Management and Member Billing applications have a Data Extract Tool that creates an Excel document with all members phone numbers on file. If you are not familiar with the tool, watch [this 3-minute video](#).

These phone numbers will be needed when using one of the popular platforms for group texting like Flocknote, Dial My Calls, WhatsApp or GroupMe.

To send a general email to council members, use the *Knights of Columbus Email Tool*. Grand knights and financial secretaries have access to this tool, which send messages to all council members with an email address on file, through Officers Online. If you are not familiar with the tool, watch [this 3-minute video](#).

Other popular email tools include Constant Contact and Flocknote.

Sample Email

Subject: The Breach in Christ's battle lines

Brother Knights,

What does it mean to be a man today? I think most of us have asked ourselves this question. We all want to lead fuller and more purposeful lives – to be better men, better husbands and better fathers – but sometimes it can be difficult to know how.

That's why the Knights of Columbus have produced *Into the Breach*, a video series inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic letter of the same name. This 12-episode video series seeks to answer the question: What does it mean to be an authentic, Catholic man in today's world?

This question is answered through the expert commentary and inspiring personal testimonies from prominent Catholic voices, including Scott Hahn, Father Mike Schmitz and Superbowl champion Matt Birk.

The lessons of *Into the Breach* are powerful and will help each of us become stronger men. They will improve our relationship with God, with our wives, with our children and grandchildren and with the entire community. You can watch the series for free at kofc.org/intothbreach.

But we can't learn all the lessons of *Into the Breach* on our own. We need a brotherhood. That's why [Council name and # here] will be hosting small group discussions, so we can share our insights and help each other on our journey towards authentic Catholic masculinity.

Join us as we discuss *Into the Breach* and encourage each other to live out its lessons. Small groups will be meeting to engage with *Into the Breach* on [Day/Date/Time] in the [parish hall].

We look forward to entering *Into the Breach* with you.

Fraternally,
[name]
[officer role]

Contact:
[+1 (123) 456-7890]
[an.email@gmail.com]

Text Message

The following sample text should be followed by a phone call:

Brother Knight,

This is [name], [council role] of [Council name and #]. I am inviting you today to join me in a new program to help strengthen you as a Catholic man and lead to a fuller, more purposeful life.

Men of our parish will be meeting [Date/Day/Time] in the [parish hall] to engage with the Knights of Columbus' new video series on authentic Catholic masculinity, *Into the Breach*.

This series and our discussions will help strengthen our commitment to God and make us stronger men, husbands, fathers and leaders. You can contact me at [+1 (123) 456-7890] or [an.email@gmail.com] with any questions.

Learn more about the series at kofc.org/intothbreach.

Phone Call

While personal phone calls are preferred, there are platforms such as Flocknote and Dial My Calls that can send out voice messages to your council phone number list. The “Leave a Message” text below can be used for this situation.

Live Script/Topics

Hello, this is [name] from Knights of Columbus [name of council and #], may I speak to [Member Name]?

Starting [Day/Date/Time] in the [parish hall], our Knights of Columbus council will be meeting to watch and discuss the new video series, *Into the Breach*. This series has powerful lessons on how to be a better man, husband and father by embracing a life of faith.

We really would love for you to join us. I encourage you to watch the trailer for this video series. You can find that at www.kofc.org/intothbreach.

It was great talking with you. Thank you for your time. Can I leave you an email address and phone number to contact, in case you have any questions? [+1 (123) 456-7890] or [an.email@gmail.com]. Thank you and have a good day.

Leave a Message

Hello, this is [name] from Knights of Columbus [Name of council and #], calling for [Member Name]. We are calling all of our Knights of Columbus members to invite them to a new initiative meant to help answer the question: “What does it mean to be an authentic, Catholic man in today’s world.”

At your convenience, please call me at [+1 (123) 456-7890], so I can let you know more about this opportunity. You can learn more about it at www.kofc.org/intothbreach. God Bless.

Wrong Number

If the phone number is wrong, report it back to a committee member that can update the Excel document, and look for an up-to-date phone number. Places to look for phone numbers include local online phone books or the parish office.

Sample Pulpit Announcement

When possible, begin the announcement with the *Into the Breach* trailer.

What does it mean to be a man today? I think many of us have asked ourselves this question. We want to live full and meaningful lives. We want to be better men, better husbands and better fathers. But often times, we don't know how to start.

That's why the Knights of Columbus have produced *Into the Breach*, a video series inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic letter of the same name. This 12-episode video series seeks to answer the question: What does it mean to be an authentic, Catholic man in today's world?

The series features expert commentary and inspiring personal testimonies from prominent Catholic voices, including Scott Hahn, Father Mike Schmitz and Superbowl champion Matt Birk.

The lessons of *Into the Breach* are powerful and will help each of us become better men. They will improve our relationship with God, with our wives, with our children and grandchildren and with the entire community.

You can watch the series for free at kofc.org/intothbreach. But to really absorb all the lessons and apply them to your life, the encouragement of a brotherhood is needed. That's why [Council name and # here] will be hosting small group discussions.

Join us as we discuss *Into the Breach* and challenge ourselves to become the leaders God has called us to be in our family, parish and community. Small groups will be meeting on [Day/Date/Time] in the [parish hall].

We look forward to entering *Into the Breach* with you. I will be available after Mass to answer any questions.

Sample Council Meeting Announcement

Today, I am excited to announce a new and important initiative that our council will be participating in.

The Knights of Columbus have produced a new, 12-episode video series that seeks to answer the question: What does it mean to be an authentic, Catholic man in today's world.

This series, *Into the Breach*, was inspired by Bishop Thomas Olmsted's landmark apostolic exhortation for men, and it features expert commentary and inspiring personal testimonies from prominent Catholic speakers, including Dr. Scott Hahn, Father Mike Schmitz and Superbowl champion Matt Birk.

The lessons of *Into the Breach* are powerful, and will help each of us become stronger men. They will improve our relationship with God, with our wives, with our children and grandchildren and with the entire community.

But we can't learn all the lessons of *Into the Breach* on our own. We need a brotherhood. That's why our council will be hosting small group discussions, so we can help each other on our journey towards authentic Catholic masculinity.

Each [number of weeks] starting [Day/Date/Time], small discussion groups will be meeting to engage with *Into the Breach* on in the [parish hall].

Please invite your brother Knights and your fellow men from this parish to join us on this important initiative for our council and for the Church.

HOW TO RECRUIT WITH ITB

Into the Breach is a vital part of a healthy council's recruiting strategy. The content of the *Into the Breach* video series communicates to prospective members the spiritual and societal problems that Knights address. The small group discussion connects them to the council fraternity and experience. And the life of prayer that flows from *Into the Breach* brings them closer to the heart of Christ.

For this reason, it is important to remember that *Into the Breach* should be open to all men in the parish and community. Invitations should also be extended to non-practicing Catholics and other men (friends, family, co-workers) as a powerful opportunity for evangelization.

Steps to Recruiting with *Into the Breach*:

1. Every council member and prospective member should receive a personal invitation to join an *Into the Breach* small group, either from the grand knight or a small group leader.
2. Run an *Into the Breach* recruitment drive. Instead of asking men to join the Knights, invite them to participate in an *Into the Breach* small group discussion. This will introduce them to who the Knights are before you ask them to join.
3. Don't start your program by asking participants to join the Knights – instead, wait until the end of *Into the Breach*. This allows the program and their experience with the Knights to convince them of membership and will make your recruitment pitch more successful.
4. Have the council's calendar of fraternal and charitable activities available for attendees to pick up at your *Into the Breach* event. An active schedule of Faith in Action programs in all four program categories will drive interest in becoming a member.
5. Conclude every *Into the Breach* meeting with an invitation to another council event or Faith in Action program. This can be either a Knights of Columbus program or a parish-wide initiative but should be indicative of the work and fraternity of your council.
6. Host an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity following your final *Into the Breach* program meeting, and personally invite any non-member participant to attend and become a Knight.
7. Encourage small group members to continue to follow-up with his small group participants, especially prospects, new members and inactive members. Ask for prayer requests, extend invitations to council events and offer support when needed.



**Knights of
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