

Spiritual Battle

- Begin each discussion with a simple prayer: *Our Father, Hail Mary, or Glory Be*
- Discuss progress on spiritual goals outlined in the previous meeting's "Call to Battle" section
- Discuss the text using questions provided under "Understanding the Breach"
- Meditate upon the suggested scriptural passages under "Sword of the Spirit"
- Announce the practical spiritual goals for the week based upon the "Call to Battle" section



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To learn more about the
Into the Breach Program, visit:

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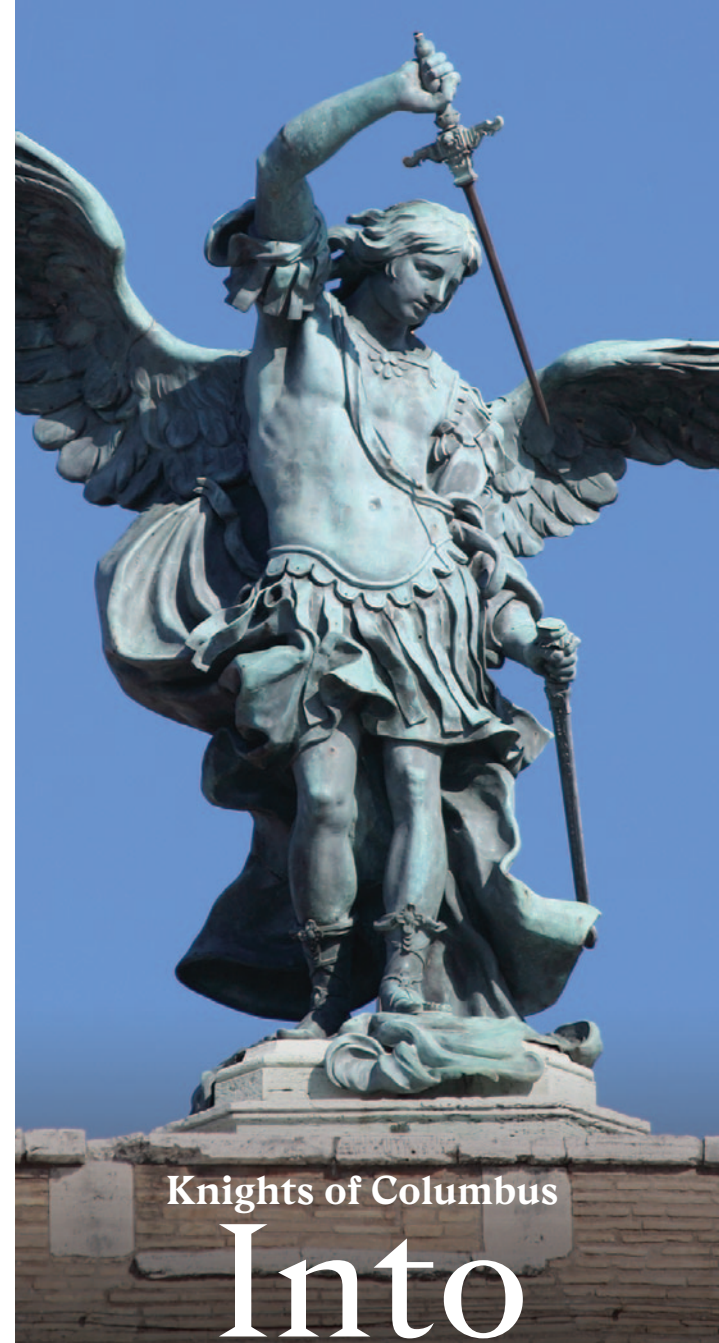
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Into the Breach



Faith in Action

Faith



Into the Breach

We live in a time of crisis for religious faith and family life that must be met by men with a heartfelt embrace of masculine virtue.

To outline the challenges we face and devise a plan of battle, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted has written the groundbreaking document, *Into the Breach*. The Knights of Columbus are pleased to partner with Bishop Olmsted in making this document more widely available and to provide a study guide on the important issues he raises.

Bishop Olmsted begins his analysis with the shocking fact that 14 million Catholics nationwide have left the Church in recent years. This clearly shows that there is an enormous breach in the battle line of faith that is causing disruptions in the Church and wider society.

While this crisis concerns the whole Church, men in particular are missing from the battlefield of faith. Consider that men make up only about 40 percent of Mass attendees in the average parish. Instead, many men vainly seek fulfillment by conforming to the world's false images of manhood.

In this document, Bishop Olmsted calls men to something better, something great. He identifies the enemies of the faith — both spiritual and temporal — and draws up a battle plan for men to fight for their own souls and for the salvation of their families and loved ones. Here you will find a sure guide for stepping into the moral and cultural breach. Let us join our brother Catholics on the front lines and take up the battle anew, to spread the joy of the Gospel, heal the wounds within ourselves and others, and steadily transform the world.

Group Discussions

The *Into the Breach Study Guide* is segmented into eight reflections covering the document's eight sections. Discussion groups may spend a week per section or decide to cover multiple sections each week. Holding a weekend retreat to examine the document in a more compressed period is another potential option. Regardless of the time frame your council sets for exploring this document, make sure you stay in order. Ideally, the group should complete your examination of this document in about two months.



Reflections



Understanding the Breach - Questions for individual reflection or group discussion after reading the specific section



Bricks for the Breach - Quotes from the document that provide a solid guide, or “bricks,” for repairing the breach in the Church.



Sword of the Spirit - Scripture passages or verses that are related back to the text of *Into the Breach*. These passages can be considered “the sword of the Spirit” (Eph 6:17) that confronts and conquers evil. Consider using the traditional practice known as Lectio Divina (divine reading) when reflecting on these passages. First read the verse aloud slowly and with reverence. Then, read the verse a second time; while it is being read, begin to meditate on its meaning. Next, pray to God that he will reveal which aspects of the passage apply to your own life. Finally, contemplate these words or sentences and ask God to speak to you through them.



Call to Battle - Practical goals for implementing the message of the document. Those using this guide in a group setting should discuss their progress on these goals at each meeting.



Prayer - Meditations and petitions taken from the Church's tradition or the writings by the saints. These prayers, which may be offered individually or in a group, are provided to help men become familiar with the Church's spiritual treasures. Through prayer, we raise our minds and hearts to God and prepare ourselves for spiritual battle.

In addition to these five sections, there is an appendix at the back of the Into the Breach Study Guide with additional resources to aid you in spiritual combat.