

Hello. My name is Michael Horn. I am a parishioner here at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in South City and I am a member of the Catholic Men for Christ Committee/Parish Captain. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year attending the CMFC conference, which has been a great blessing in my life. The talks, the time in prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the closing Mass deeply enrich my spiritual journey as a man called to become more like Jesus Christ. Each year, I walk away better equipped to be a better man of God, husband, father, and coworker.

The 2019 conference will be held on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of UMSL. The conference begins at 8:30 am and concludes with a vigil Mass at 4pm. As in years past, we have an excellent set of dynamic speakers who will address the topics of conversion, reconciliation, evangelization, and discipleship. This year's speakers are Ralph Martin, Deacon Larry Oney, Jesse Romero, and Fr. Tom Vordtriede, one of our local priests here in St. Louis.

I encourage you to attend this conference and to invite your son, your father, your friends, and your coworkers as well. Undoubtedly, we find ourselves at a critical moment in the history of the world and of the Catholic Church. We need to hold ourselves accountable as men to grow in holiness, support our families, and raise the next generation of saints. Our spiritual lives must be the main priority of our lives. If we have not done so already, we need to choose Jesus Christ as the Lord of our life. It is vital that we establish healthy friendships with our brothers who can enable us to grow to become the men we are destined to be, embracing our fundamental identity as adopted sons of God. We are called to holiness and true masculinity. We are called to grow in communion and brotherhood with one another. We are called to be men of Christ.

I will be in the vestibule after Mass with flyers and cards. Please feel free to ask me any questions you might have about the conference or the speakers. May God bless you and may God bless all the men of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.