



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES OPERATIONS MANUAL

A Guide for Leaders

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10

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In conjunction with the Father Kapaun Guild, Kapaun's Men is dedicated to spreading devotion to Servant of God Emil Kapaun and inspiring others to imitate his example in their own lives. For more information on Father Kapaun and his cause for Beatification and Canonization, visit the Father Kapaun Guild's website, www.FatherKapaun.org. If you have questions or would like assistance with the Kapaun's Men Series, please contact us at the information at the bottom of this page.

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KAPAUN'S MEN STEWARDSHIP SERIES

Welcome to the Kapaun's Men Stewardship Series! This series is intended to be a followup to the Virtue Series, which explores the heroic life and virtues of Servant of God Emil Kapaun, Catholic priest and Army chaplain who died in a Korean Prisoner of War camp. While the videos in this series can be useful at any time, they make the most sense after participating in the Virtue Series. That said, new participants are always welcome. We recommend that any newcomers watch "The Story of Father Kapaun", the first video of the Virtue Series, which is available on Formed, in order to get the appropriate background on his life.

WHY A SERIES ON STEWARDSHIP?

For our second series, Kapaun's Men chose the topic of Stewardship— a word and concept that is often misunderstood. Rather than just a fancy way of talking about money, Stewardship is actually an attitude and a way of life that describes our proper response to the infinite love and ongoing goodness of God.

The first step to understanding Stewardship is recognizing who God is, that everything we have is a gift from Him, and that He is active in our daily lives. When we call God our Father, we are acknowledging His infinite love for us, His children, and His ongoing providential care. He is the source of our life and everything else we have— our talents, our time, our opportunities, and even our material possessions. All of these are gifts given to us by God out of love so that our own needs may be filled and also so we can help meet the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Stewardship, then, is the response of someone who recognizes that everything is a gift from God. This response is twofold: we desire to give thanks to God for all He has given us, and we seek to use His gifts according to His intention. In our fallen state we often either seek to use these gifts merely for our own advancement, or simply let them go to waste. However, their true purpose is to help get ourselves and others to heaven. The Bible seeks to remind us of this even from its very first pages when God creates the world and names Adam and Eve Stewards of the Garden. It continues throughout the Old Testament, whether in the 10 Commandments or the message of the prophets to honor God and care for the least among us. Jesus takes up the theme as well, perhaps most vividly in the parable of the Talents and the parable of the sheep and goats (Matthew 25). The mystery of all of this is that when we use our gifts well, it leads to a life of fulfillment and profound joy.

Emil Kapaun grew up in a family and community that believed that God was looking out for them. For many years the Kapaun family endured hardship on the farm, but this taught them an appreciation for all of God's gifts, great and small. In turn, they had a desire to use those gifts well and knew the importance of looking after one's neighbors. Father Kapaun's desire to become a priest was a response to the gifts he had received and a desire to "spend himself for God." The spirit of Stewardship was alive in Father Kapaun from his earliest days.

This video series will focus on what are called the Four Pillars of Stewardship: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. They are the foundations of a solid community structure, whether it be the family, parish, or even society at large. Without any one of the Pillars the structure will lose stability and risk toppling. When we foster the growth and exercise of each Pillar, we will be building a solid foundation on which Christ can build His Temple.

In this series you will be introduced to several people who are examples of Stewardship. While Father Kapaun is not the center of all of the videos, his spirit runs through the series. Likewise, the videos do not present a “theology” of Stewardship as such, but meditations on how we can better cultivate Stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship is an ongoing conversion journey to fully recognizing and receiving God’s love and seeking to return it to Him in the best way possible. In this way even the ordinary events and encounters of our day become extraordinary opportunities to get ourselves and others to heaven. It was this attitude that permeated Father Kapaun’s life, and he encourages us to do the same: “God gave us our gifts, not for our own glory or pride, but that we might use them for God’s greater honor and glory. Use your gifts to help your fellow man as much as you can.”

The Stewardship Series is made up of the following ten sessions, each with accompanying videos. If your group meets for more than an hour, you could potentially combine the two videos for each Pillar into one session.

1. Introduction to the Stewardship Way of Life *(Video Length: 8 minutes)*
2. Hospitality: Kevin Rathert’s Story *(Video Length: 14 minutes)*
3. Hospitality Continued *(Video Length: 6 minutes)*
4. Prayer: Perpetual Adoration *(Video Length: 9 minutes)*
5. Prayer Continued *(Video Length: 8 minutes)*
6. Formation: Bishop Carroll Football *(Video Length: 15 minutes)*
7. Formation Continued *(Video Length: 7 minutes)*
8. Service: The Lord’s Diner *(Video Length: 9 minutes)*
9. Service Continued *(Video Length: 8 minutes)*
10. Stewardship: A Way of Life *(Video Length: 7 minutes)*

The participant study guide provides discussion questions that help facilitate a conversation with other men following the video, and weekly challenges help you strengthen the Pillar of Stewardship as the week goes on. We hope that these reflections challenge and deepen your understanding of Stewardship so that you may recognize God’s gifts and like Father Kapaun respond in an extraordinary way.

HOSTING A KAPAUN'S MEN SESSION

Meetings are designed to last an hour. We recommend being punctual in beginning and ending on time so that men can keep their other commitments to family and work. Study Guides are provided to help assist you in facilitating each session. Here is a step-by-step walkthrough of a session.

Note: There is no special leader information for each session, as the video and participant study guides provide all the info you need to present to the men.

- 1. Welcome:** Try to arrive early to welcome the men as they arrive. Begin your meeting promptly by asking the men to find a seat. During your first session you might want to give a quick overview of the series and any other logistical details men might need to know.
- 2. Prayer:** At the beginning of each session you will find the Chaplain Kapaun prayer as well as an additional prayer, Psalm or Scripture reading based on the session's Pillar of Stewardship. Lead the group in praying these two prayers.
- 3. Introduction:** Read the "Introduction" section to the group. These short excerpts are taken from Church Teaching, Scripture or the sayings of the saints, and are intended to give a little more insight into the session's Pillar of Stewardship.
- 4. Video:** We recommend previewing the video before your session so you can give a brief introduction to it. You can focus on what stood out to you, why you think it will be impactful, or even share if it was especially meaningful to you in some way. Keep it short (anywhere from 10 seconds to 3 minutes) to allow time for discussion afterwards. Encourage men to take notes in the space provided about what strikes them in the video.
- 5. Discussion:** After the video, direct the men to the Discussion Questions in the Study Guide. These will help participants apply the topic to their own lives and will foster a spirit of accompaniment with other men. See the next page for further advice on facilitating discussion.
- 6. Weekly Challenge:** When there is about 5 minutes remaining in the session, call men to attention and remind them of the weekly challenge. The challenge is intended to be fairly simple but also challenging enough to help you cultivate the particular session's Pillar of Stewardship as the week goes on.
- 7. Petitions and Closing Prayer:** If you wish, you may open the floor to particular prayer intentions for the group to pray for. Finally, end with 3 Hail Mary's, as the first video describes. This will be an ongoing practice for Kapaun's Men in the morning and evening.

TIPS ON LEADING A SMALL GROUP

The small group discussions are where men can take the lessons learned during the video and directly apply them to their own lives. Hearing from and accompanying other men will lead to new insights and practical ways to grow in our practice of Stewardship. Here are some tips to help you facilitate the groups:

- **Group Size:** Discussion groups of about 5-7 men seem to work the best. If you have a large group, we recommend breaking into smaller groups. You may decide whether to keep the groups the same throughout the series or to allow them to mix things up.
- **Set the Tone:** Invite men to really participate in the discussions, both by sharing and listening. The discussion is not meant to be a lecture by any one person, but a means of learning from one another and growing in virtue alongside our fellow men. Treat each other with support and encouragement as Father Kapaun did.
- **Take Notes:** Likewise, encourage men to take notes during the video: What speaks to you? What ties into your experience? Where is an area you feel like you need to grow? The goal is to learn from and grow with Father Kapaun and other men in this journey. If something is powerful to you, it can be a great discussion topic for the group.
- **Discussion Questions:** The questions listed in the Study Guide are meant to help facilitate the conversation. If the discussion starts to stall or get stale around one question, move onto the next one. The group does not have to take the questions in order or even answer them all. Likewise, something else from the video may have struck you so that it provides a good discussion topic.
- **On-topic:** It's a natural tendency for group discussions to occasionally get sidetracked. While good things may come from this, do your best to gently steer the conversation back to the topic at hand.
- **Be Real and Be Supportive:** Real discussion with other men can be challenging, as it is often easier to talk about sports, the weather, or work. However, we encourage you to be bold and to go deep, as this is what can really transform your life. Remember, each man attending wants to get to heaven, and we need other men to help us get there. Be supportive and affirming of your fellow men, seeking to be a voice of encouragement as Father Kapaun was.

Once again, if you have any questions or desire some guidance in leading your group, feel free to reach out to us at the contact information on the copyright page. We hope that you benefit from the example and intercession of Father Kapaun and continue to grow as holy and authentic men!

PROMOTING KAPAUN'S MEN

Finally, here are a few tips to assist you in promoting the Kapaun's Men Stewardship Series:

- **Personal Invitations:** Things like bulletin announcements or social media posts (see examples on the next page) are good and necessary, but by far the most effective way we have found to get people to a new group is by personal invitation— what we like to call hand-to-hand combat. Emails work okay, but taking a couple minutes to make a phone call or talking in person is very powerful. Men respond best to a personal invitation!
- **Pastor's Help:** Likewise, men tend to respond well when your pastor is excited about something. Pastors have a lot on their plates and may not feel like they are free to promote one program over another, but if they are willing to encourage men to participate in Kapaun's Men either publicly from the pulpit or on an individual basis, it will be a great aid to getting more men to participate.
- **Father Kapaun or Men's Group?** This is the chicken or the egg question: do you promote Father Kapaun's story and example to get men to attend, or do you try to build up the men's group concept? Depending on how well Father Kapaun is known in your area, you may need to focus on the importance and effect that journeying as group of men with each other can bring about, and then mix in a bit of Father Kapaun. However you promote it, your excitement will be the key influencer!
- **What's in the name?** Those of us who are familiar with Kapaun tend to call him "Father Kapaun", but this probably isn't the best strategy for promoting the series to people who aren't familiar with him. "Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun" might work better.
- **Share some info or a video:** As a way to help introduce people to Father Kapaun, you could share a short video of Father Kapaun found online, the trailer for the Stewardship Series, or use the "Share Topic" option on Formed, which allows you to create your own 3-minute or less clip to share.
- **Promotional Material:** Check out the Leader Resources site on Formed at <https://leaders.formed.org/> for flyers and posters, video trailers and other images to use in promoting Kapaun's Men.

Once again, if you have any questions or desire some guidance in leading your group, feel free to reach out to us at the contact information on the copyright page. We hope that you benefit from the example and intercession of Father Kapaun and continue to grow as holy and authentic men!

BULLETIN OR SOCIAL MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Option 1:

Kapaun's Men Stewardship Series

How can your ordinary life be transformed into something extraordinary? Join Kapaun's Men as we discover how Stewardship teaches us to recognize God's gifts in the ordinary circumstances of our lives and respond in a way that is truly extraordinary. This 10-part series will focus on the Pillars of Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service, helping us leave behind a lasting legacy for our family, friends, and the world. All men of the parish are welcome to join us on _____ (day/time) beginning on _____ in _____ (location) as we participate in this series that will give you a new outlook on the meaning of the word Stewardship.

Option 2:

Kapaun's Men Stewardship Series

"God gave us our gifts, not for our own glory or pride, but that we might use them for God's greater honor and glory. Use your gifts to help your fellow man as much as you can." Join Kapaun's Men as we follow our patron, Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun, in seeking to respond heroically to God's invitation of grace. The 10-part Stewardship Series will focus on the Pillars of Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. All men of the parish are welcome to join us on _____ (day/time) beginning on _____ in _____ (location) as we participate in this series that will give you a new outlook on the meaning of the word Stewardship.