



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session One:
From Ordinary to Extraordinary:
The Stewardship Way of Life

"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.

Video Production: Many thanks to Steve Hebert for helping us craft these videos and share the message of Stewardship with you.

Thanks to the Men and Women behind the Stewardship Stories:

The Rathert Family, Kevin Mullen

Bishop Shawn McKnight and Bishop Carl A. Kemme

Mike Wescott and Pat Burns

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Jan Haberly and the Lord's Diner staff, volunteers and guests

Father John Hotze, Episcopal Delegate for the Cause for Canonization of Father Kapaun

Father John Lanzrath and Joe Farris, our MCs

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Kapaun's Men

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SESSION ONE

From Ordinary to Extraordinary

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun,
spent himself in total service to you
on the battlefields and
in the prison camps of Korea,
until his death at the hands of his captors.

We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
if it be your will,
to make known to all the world
the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving,
knowing that all I am and all that I have is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help me to do your will.
I am listening, Lord God.
Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that I may hear you clearly.
I offer to you this day all the facets of my life,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school—to be patient, to be merciful,
to be generous, to be holy.
Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me
and the fervor to fulfill my good intentions.
I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith,
to reflect my love for you and my neighbor.
Help me to reach out to others as you, my God, have reached out to me.
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Stewardship:

“Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.”

- Catholic Diocese of Wichita

VIDEO NOTES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What first comes to your mind when you hear the word “Stewardship”? How do you think your perception might need to change?

2. How has God “gifted” you?

3. In the video, Father John said, “God gives us these gifts for a particular purpose: to get us to heaven.” How am I using my gifts to get myself and others to heaven? Are my gifts leading me elsewhere?

4. We all seek to leave behind a legacy. What legacy do you want to leave?

5. How can an awareness of purpose or meaning help take something that is ordinary or mundane and make it extraordinary? Do you have any examples from your own life when this has happened?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Make it a priority to
attend Kapaun's Men.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Two:
Hospitality: Kevin Rathert's Story

"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

SESSION TWO

Hospitality: Kevin Rathert's Story

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun,
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We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
if it be your will,
to make known to all the world
the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

INTRODUCTION

“What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.”

- USCCB, *To Be a Christian Steward*

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the relationship between hospitality and gratitude?

2. "God talks to you in the spaces between your heartbeats." How does God speak to you?

3. Kevin Mullen describes hospitality as "taking care of those who need help." How does this video expand the traditional understanding of hospitality?

4. When have you shown the type of hospitality expressed above? When have you received it from someone else?

5. What do you think of Kevin's comment about faith: "When you really need it is when it's hardest to have it"?

6. Do you think of hospitality in terms of becoming a visible sign of God's love?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Reach out and thank those
who have shown you hospitality
in the past.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Three:
Hospitality Continued

"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

SESSION THREE

Hospitality Continued

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

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the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



1 PETER 4:7-11

The end of all things is at hand. Therefore, be serious and sober for prayers.
Above all, let your love for one another be intense,
because love covers a multitude of sins.
Be hospitable to one another without complaining.

As each one has received a gift,
use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.
Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God;
whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies,
so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,
to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

"There is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our lives - the pain, the loneliness. We must have the courage to recognize it. The poor you may have right in your own family. Find them. Love them. Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart. Speak tenderly to them. Let there be kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Always have a cheerful smile. Don't only give your care, but give your heart as well."

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

VIDEO NOTES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can you try to live a life of hospitality toward others? What opportunities has the Lord placed in your path?

2. Father John shared a story about Eugene Kapaun humbly serving at the school named for his brother. Who is the Eugene Kapaun in your life, and how have they shown you what hospitality is? How can you reach out to them in response to their hospitality?

3. What do you hold onto, mentally, emotionally or materially, that keeps you from seeing the face of Christ in the person in front of you?

4. The person of joy will express themselves with a simple smile. In what other simple ways can you show hospitality every day?

5. What are some strategies for showing hospitality to people in whom it is difficult to see the face of Christ? What about people who disagree with you on some level?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Share with someone in need as a sign of hospitality for Christ.



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Four:
Prayer: Perpetual Adoration

"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

SESSION FOUR

Prayer: Perpetual Adoration

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
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to make known to all the world
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and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
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for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



ADORO TE DEVOTE, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Godhead here in hiding,
Whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows,
Shape and nothing more,
See, Lord, at Thy service
Low lies here a heart,
Lost, all lost in wonder
At the God Thou art.

Seeing, touching, tasting
Are in Thee deceived;
How says trusty hearing?
That shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me,
Take for truth I do;
Truth Himself speaks truly,
Or there's nothing true.

On the cross Thy Godhead
Made no sign to men;
Here Thy very manhood
Steals from human ken:
Both are my confession,
Both are my belief;
And I pray the prayer
Of the dying thief.

I am not like Thomas,
Wounds I cannot see,
But I plainly call Thee
Lord and God as he;
This faith each day deeper
Be my holding of,
Daily make me harder
Hope and dearer love.

INTRODUCTION

“Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us,’ says St. Alphonsus Liguori. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace.”

- St. John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* #25

VIDEO NOTES



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of the statement that Bishop McKnight makes: "The Lord wants to have an appointment with you"?

2. What can we learn from the Lord's example of prayer?

3. Bishop McKnight suggests that prayer is a dialogue, where we express ourselves but also must listen for a response. When you pray, do you talk or listen more? Have you ever heard the Lord speak to your heart? If so, share how you recognize the Lord's voice.

4. The highest form of prayer for the Church is the holy sacrifice of the Mass, where we adore God through His Son and the use of His Word. Do you think of the Mass as prayer?

5. Bishop McKnight talks about the transformative power of prayer and how it can change you or an environment. Has prayer changed you?

6. St. Teresa of Avila says that the driest moments in prayer are often the most valuable, as they require the greatest acts of faith- acts of pure adoration. How do you deal with dry times in prayer?

7. What blessings have you received from an Adoration experience?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Devote an hour to prayer with
Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Five:
Prayer Continued

"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

SESSION FIVE

Prayer Continued

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun,
spent himself in total service to you
on the battlefields and
in the prison camps of Korea,
until his death at the hands of his captors.

We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
if it be your will,
to make known to all the world
the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



LUKE 11:1-4, 9-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished,
one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:
'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread
and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test.'

I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds;
and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?
Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?

If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much
more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

INTRODUCTION

"Turning our hearts to God in prayer, then, is the first and best way to draw closer to Him, crying out in love and trust as a child does to its Father. Through prayer we acknowledge that we are nothing without God, and that all depends on His grace - in fact, even the desire to pray is itself a result of His grace."

- Diocese of Wichita, *Characteristics of a Christian Steward*

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you take the time last week to spend an hour in adoration? If so, share one thing about your experience.

2. Do you think of your time as a gift from God? What do you think about Father John's statement that being a good steward of your time means you will spend some of it in prayer?

3. What obstacles are in the way of you taking the time to pray? Why is a commitment to spend time in prayer so important?

4. What is a small way you can start to build good habits of prayer? What are some practical ways you lift your mind and heart to God in prayer that could be beneficial for others to know?

5. How does prayer build on hospitality?

6. According to Mother Teresa, the two great moments in our lives are the present and the hour of our death. Why did she believe this?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Gather your family and pray
three Hail Mary's every day.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Six:
Formation: Bishop Carroll Football

"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

SESSION SIX

Formation: Bishop Carroll Football

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



ROMANS 12:1-2

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

INTRODUCTION

"The formation for the apostolate presupposes a certain human and well-rounded formation.... [T]he lay person should learn especially how to perform the mission of Christ and the Church by basing his life on belief in the divine mystery of creation and redemption and by being sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.... [T]he laity should gradually and prudently learn how to view, judge and do all things in the light of faith."

- *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, #29, Vatican II

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did this video make you view the pillar of formation differently than you previously had?

2. In what ways, either formally or informally, are you involved in the formation of others? Do you acknowledge that responsibility?

3. Coach Schuckman talked about changing the identity of the program. This was intentional. Do you neglect anything when it comes to the formation of those entrusted to your care? In what ways can you be more intentional in forming disciples for Christ, especially within your own family?

4. "You play for the guy next to you, not for yourself." How does this apply to spiritual formation, and how can we become better at practicing this principle in our relationships with others outside of sports?

5. How did Chris Norgren's story affect your view of formation?

6. Who has been an invaluable mentor or example in forming you as a Christian man?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Find someone to share with
and hold you accountable.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Seven:
Formation Continued

"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

SESSION SEVEN

Formation Continued

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun,
spent himself in total service to you
on the battlefields and
in the prison camps of Korea,
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We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
if it be your will,
to make known to all the world
the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete sacrifice for you
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In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory
to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self,
and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;
that you, rooted and grounded in love,
may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine,
by the power at work within us,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."

- Colossians 3:1-4

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can you better understand who you are called to be? Do you think of yourself as being called to be a disciple of Christ?

2. What is my plan for growing as a disciple of Christ? Am I committed to following it through, or do I stop at “good intentions”?

3. How does temptation affect your growth and formation? Do you let it stop or discourage you?

4. Do you embrace your responsibility of getting yourselves, your family and your friends to heaven? Do you think or talk about heaven and what it takes to get there?

5. What experiences of accountability or lack thereof have helped or hindered your own formation? Have you ever been disciplined or challenged in a way that helped you grow as a Christian man?

6. Father John proposed a question to ask before we act: "Is what I am about to do going to lead me closer to the Kingdom of God or farther away from it?" How would this question impact your decisions?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Spend quality time with your family in a formative way.



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Eight:
Service: The Lord's Diner

"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

SESSION EIGHT

Service: The Lord's Diner

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



PRAYER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Lord, teach me to be generous.
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,
to labor and not to ask for reward,
save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

"But Jesus summoned them and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

- Matthew 20:25-28

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of the statement that, "As we serve, we are also served; as we give we receive; as we bless, we are blessed"?

2. Have you had the experience of receiving more gifts than you gave through an act of service?

3. Jesus says that we will be judged according to how we treat the least of our brothers and sisters (Matthew 25). What is our attitude towards the least of our brothers and sisters? Are we willing to serve them even when we cannot be repaid?

4. Bishop Gerber responded to a need in developing the Lord's Diner. Is there a pressing need you can respond to in order to serve others?

5. We tend to think that our service needs to be impactful in a big way in order for it to be meaningful, yet Mike Wescott talks about “making a dent” through our service. How does this change your perception of service? Share a time when God “made a dent” through your service.



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

Use your gifts to help someone- anonymously.



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Nine:
Service Continued

"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

SESSION NINE

Service Continued

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
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In your name, Lord, we ask,
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and our final hope. Amen.

Father Kapaun, pray for us!



PRAYER BY RIGHT REV. W.J. CAREY

O Holy Spirit of God,
Come into my heart and fill me.
I open the windows of my soul to let You in.
I surrender my whole life to You.
Come and possess me;
fill me with light and truth.
I offer to You the one thing I really possess:
My capacity to be filled by You.
Of myself I am an unprofitable servant, an
empty vessel.
Fill me so that I may live the life of the Spirit:
The life of truth and goodness,
The life of beauty and love,
The life of wisdom and strength.
And guide me today in all things:

Guide me to the people I should meet or
help,
To the circumstances in which I can best
serve God,
Whether by my action, or by my sufferings.
But, above all, make Christ to be formed in
me,
That I may dethrone self in my heart and
make Him King.
Bind and cement me to Christ by all Your
ways, known and unknown:
By holy thoughts, and unseen graces, and
sacramental ties,
So that He is in me, and I in Him, today, and
forever.

INTRODUCTION

"I have given many gifts and graces, both spiritual and temporal, with such diversity that I have not given everything to one single person, so that you may be constrained to practice charity towards one another. I have willed that one should need another and that all should be my ministers in distributing the graces and gifts they have received from me."

- Our Lord to St. Catherine of Siena, *Dialogue I, 7*
Taken from Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1937

VIDEO NOTES



4. In what practical ways can you focus on being a servant leader?

5. "He did this for me; I do what for Him?" How does this saying by Mother Teresa challenge you?

6. Father John mentioned the above quote and having a crucifix in your office as two simple reminders of Christ's call to serve. Are there any other simple reminders that you use to help you grow as a servant?

7. In what ways must you uproot pride in your life so you may better serve?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Go to the Sacrament of
Reconciliation.*



KAPAUN'S MEN

STEWARDSHIP SERIES STUDY GUIDE

Session Ten:
Stewardship: A Way of Life

"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

SESSION TEN

Stewardship: A Way of Life

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, in the midst of the folly of war,
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Father Kapaun, pray for us!



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

(St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Student Center, Ames, Iowa)

Loving God,
I believe that You are the source of every blessing,
and You have blessed me with all that I have and all that I am.
Help me to joyfully enter into the grace of giving
as well as into the happiness of serving.
I willingly accept the challenge of Stewardship in my life,
recognizing that being a good steward
is nothing more than living an authentic Christian lifestyle.
Dear God, I resolve to be generous with my time, talent and treasure.
I resolve to participate fully in my faith community.
At times I will fall short, but with the help of your love, I pledge to keep trying.
In so doing, I will confidently live each day serving and loving You,
as well as my brothers and sisters from my heart,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

“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.”

- Father Emil Kapaun

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Stewardship is not a program, it’s a conversion of heart. How has your view of Stewardship changed? What in this series has helped draw you closer to Christ?

2. Father John compared the four Pillars of Stewardship to the four Marks of the Church in the Creed:

i. "One" relates to Hospitality: we are one Body in Christ and are called to treat everyone with hospitality because of this. How can you practice hospitality?

ii: "Holy" relates to Prayer: we must spend time in prayer to be made more like Christ. How can you commit to enhancing your prayer life?

iii. "Catholic" relates to Formation: we must always live by and grow in our faith. What can you do to continue your formation as well as help form others?

iv. "Apostolic" relates to Service: we are called to go out to the world and put our faith into action. Where are you being called to serve and become a better servant leader?

3. What examples have you learned by being a part of Kapaun's Men that can help you live the "other 167 hours" in the week?

4. We began this series by saying that Stewardship can change our outlook on the ordinary events in our lives. Through the lens of Stewardship, how can those ordinary moments become extraordinary encounters with God?



WEEKLY CHALLENGE:

*Embrace Stewardship as
a way of following Christ.*