



# PARISH IN A BOX

HOW TO START MINISTRY TO MEN IN  
YOUR LOCAL PARISH

COMPILED BY CATHOLIC MEN'S LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

Why Parish in a Box? We want to make ministry to men in the local Catholic parish attainable for anyone and everyone. The vision of Catholic Men's Leadership Alliance is that every diocese in America has a vibrant ministry to men. How does that start? At the local level with parishes.

Parish in a Box was created for men just like you. Men who desire to gather for instruction, discipleship, and fellowship with other Catholic men in their parish and community. Our desire is to give you tools to start and grow a ministry to men in your parish.

A few things to note before we get started. All materials linked in this guide have been compiled with permission from groups successfully doing ministry to men in the parish and diocese levels. What worked for them may not be a perfect fit for your parish or diocese, but our prayer is that you can use these resources to help guide and build a successful ministry to men in your own setting.

As you make your way through the material, if you have questions about any of these resources or the parish ministry to men process, please contact Dennis Daniel, Executive Director of Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men. He will help connect you with the appropriate contact for specific resources provided here. He can be reached by email ([execdir@centexcatholic.com](mailto:execdir@centexcatholic.com)) or phone (512-751-1504).

## Section 1: Organizational Models

These are various organization charts and models that lay out different ways you can organize ministry to men within a parish, as well as how it relates at the diocesan, regional, and national levels.

### 1) [National Models](#)

Slides presenting a model for Organizing a Sustainable Men's Fellowship at the national, regional, diocesan, and parish levels.

### 2) [The No Man Left Behind Model](#)

Key concepts at a high level drawn from the No Man Left Behind Model

### 3) [Key Roles and Responsibilities Chart – That Man Is You](#)

The leadership roles of men and the 7 steps to superabundance from the That Man is You program

4) [Diocese to Deanery Organizational Designs](#)

Slides prepared by the Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men describing a structure and process for organizing men's ministry at the diocesan and deanery levels.

5) [Organization Charts](#)

Example of a structure for organizing a diocesan or regional men's retreat or conference and a regional men's ministry.

6) [Decision Makers and Roles](#)

Examples of Roles and Responsibilities and suggested committees for a diocesan or regional men's ministry prepared by the Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men

7) [Deanery Lead Focus and Process](#)

Recommendations for a process and metrics useful in establishing and managing a men's ministry at the deanery and parish levels

8) [Organizing Events from a Movement Perspective](#)

Examples of Roles and Responsibilities applicable to organizing events followed by an ecclesial movement

## Section 2: Introductory Content

These documents provide a base for the reason ministry to men is so important in the Catholic Church today, as well as a general guide to recruiting men to participate.

1) [Rough Script for Priest Discussions](#)

This document stresses the importance of getting to know each other. Finding out what the Director of Religious Education needs are and asking if there is anything that we can assist with.

2) [Finding and Recruiting Men](#)

Discusses some basic concepts in finding and recruiting disciples. Provides a "Follow Jesus" Process chart.

3) [Best Practices in Forming Parish Men's Groups](#)

Guidance provided by "The Fishers of Men" organization. Discusses best practices in forming parish Men's Groups. Discusses forming a new group, working with an existing Parish Men's group, and provides some additional helpful guidelines.

4) [Sample Men's Ministry Brochure](#)

This is a sample tri-fold flyer that promotes Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men and what the organization is about. It asks probing questions and provides some basic understandings and emphasizes our need for God and how in union with our fellow brothers we can find God.

5) [Sample Prayer Card](#)

This is a sample prayer card that is given to every man. It provides the Vision and Mission statements of the group and encourages men to connect daily through prayer.

### Section 3: Scripts to Launch Parish Core Teams

This series of 8 documents and videos are tools that were developed to help launch or strengthen core teams and Dynamic Men's Groups (DMG's). They are a compilation of highlights from No Man Left Behind and Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell.

Each document and video highlights a separate aspect of ministry to men and some keys to the two major facets for having a successful Ministry to Men: 1) effectiveness is governed by man to man discipleship and 2) efficiency of action is aided by having a solid framework for the ministry.

1) Building Your Ministry to Men: The Big Picture

[Script](#)      [Video](#)

This document and video highlight the reasons why ministry to men is so important and the two fundamental features, discipleship, and framework.

2) Discipleship: It Starts by Fully Giving our Lives to Jesus and Sharing with Others

[Script](#)      [Video](#)

This document and video provide some consideration for core team members to assure that they are really prepared to take on the commitment of leading a ministry to men.

3) Discipleship: Gauging the Different Thresholds of Conversion

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This document and video discuss the stages of spiritual progression so that core team members are aware that they must meet men where they are and be prepared to walk at the pace of the recipient.

4) Discipleship: Sharing the Kerygma

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This document and video are a reminder that this mission is all about leading men to Christ.

5) Building Your Ministry to Men: Capturing the Momentum for Long-Term Discipling

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This document and video discuss some of the needs for long term success and some of the pitfalls to avoid. It introduces some fundamental aspects of a successful framework for ministry to men.

6) Building Your Ministry to Men: Planning to Launch

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This document and video discuss some of the steps needed to plan a successful launch of an initial ministry to men.

7) Building Your Ministry to Men: Meet Men Where They Are – Five Types of Men

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This document and video address the five types of men that your ministry will encounter and provides some guidance on meeting men where they are in their journey.

8) Building your Ministry to Men: Pulling it All Together

[Script](#)                      [Video](#)

This is a capstone document and video that review some of the broad concepts discussed and serves as a guideline for establishing a long-term approach for a successful parish ministry to men.

#### Section 4: Dynamic Men's Groups (DMG's) Content

These are additional resources, books or videos that may be helpful in establishing ministry to men. This resource list will be augmented periodically as additional content is identified.

1) [Knights of Columbus – Into the Breach Video](#)

Inspired by the Apostolic Exhortation for Catholic men written by Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix, The Knights of Columbus

2) [Being a Catholic Man Handout](#)

A half-page publication summarizing common issues catholic men face and how to address them. (Central Texas Fellowship of Catholic Men)

3) [Bibliography](#)

Books we would recommend for further reading and understanding about ministry to men

#### Section 5: Tools – Techniques to Drive Conference Attendance

This section includes resources to encourage men to attend a men's conference for your parish or diocese.

1) [Men of Christ Why Go Video](#)

A promotional video filled with individuals answering why to attend an annual Men's Conference (Men of Christ - Milwaukee).

2) [5P Approach for Parish Leaders](#)

Organized instructions with proven techniques to engage men at a parish and maximize attendance at an annual men's conference (Men of Christ - Milwaukee).

3) [Phone Call Scripts](#)

Sample scripts to use at a parish call-a-thon. Provides responses to common objections & techniques to reach more men (Men of Christ - Milwaukee).