

Into the Breach

Video Series Study Guide

INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

INTRODUCTION

“And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land...” (Ezekiel 22:30)

In 2015, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted issued a challenge to the men of his diocese—to step into the breach. His exhortation, *Into the Breach: An Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men*, identifies the crisis of faith facing the Church today and presents a vision of the role of Catholic men in combatting it.

Inspired by Bishop Olmsted’s vision, the Knights of Columbus and the Diocese of Phoenix have joined together to produce a 12-episode video series, also titled *Into the Breach*.

Each episode focuses on a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features interviews with well-known Catholic commentators and follows the personal story of a man whose life illuminates each theme.

This study guide is a companion to the series. Each chapter in this guide corresponds to an episode in the series and is meant to aid a group discussion. The guide can also be used for individual reflection.

By joining together in brotherhood, men receive the support they need to grow in virtue and to take action to serve Christ and others. We hope that this series, and this study guide, help you and all of us to step into the breach.

A MAN WHO CAN STAND IN THE BREACH

To step into the breach, we must begin by recognizing an important reality: that we are engaged in a battle for the hearts and souls of every person.

This battle is real, and it is spiritual. It began before we were born and will continue until Christ comes again. It is larger than any of us can see. It includes angelic beings, the men and women who have gone before us in the faith, as well as each of us. As Knights we have committed in a special way to engage in this battle in defense of our families, our parishes, our communities and our world. And yet, since the turn of the millennium, millions of men have left the Catholic faith. There is a sizeable breach in the lines.

But the mission of the Church goes beyond mere defense. Christ commissioned his disciples, and that includes us, to preach the Gospel to all nations. We are all called to evangelization. On this front there is also a great need, and the sizeable number of young people leaving the faith indicates we need to step into this offensive campaign as well.

This series is an invitation to join this battle, to step into the breach and to join the evangelical offensive. It challenges men to seek greatness, to be heroically virtuous and to develop a character marked by goodness and truth, strength and courage. It helps prepare men to be capable of standing in the breach and fighting for Christ.

To be a man who is willing and able to step into the breach requires certain commitments, including:

- Striving for a life of holiness and virtue
- Praying daily and frequently receiving the sacraments

- Fulfilling the duties of fatherhood and family life
- Supporting one's brothers in Christ
- Serving others, especially the most vulnerable, such as the poor and unborn
- Supporting the Church, especially through the parish

The *Into the Breach* episodes and study guide are meant to help men deepen their understanding and practice of these commitments.

<https://dphx.org/into-the-breach/>