

July 25, 2017

Greetings Men of God!

It is my privilege to reach out to men all over Connecticut to share the great news of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference. We're happy that you've expressed an interest in helping with this amazing event.

A parish captain is an active man in the Catholic Church. His mission is to invite the men of his parish to share in opportunities to grow more deeply in their faith. The 2017 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference is a unique event, run by laymen just like you. Conferences like these are happening all over this country. The oldest (17 years) takes place in Worcester, MA, but we are not far behind in Connecticut. Our mission is simple: provide a venue for Catholic men to hear incredible speakers, share their faith with other like-minded men, attend the sacrament of Confession, and experience dynamic worship with uplifting music at our 4:00 PM Vigil Mass.

Those who have attended these conferences will tell you how inspired and empowered they become spending time with other Catholic men, hearing inspirational messages from our speakers and sharing eye-opening encounters with Christ. The Archbishop of Hartford always reminds us how this event takes place shortly before Advent. It is certainly a spiritual booster shot! We have many men's groups who attend this event, including the Knights of Columbus and the Men of St Joseph. This year, we will have Catholic Nuns praying for us in the Chapel, and priests and deacons from all over the state.

What can you do to help? Speak with the active men of your parish and invite them to attend. Share the information and organize your group. Arrange transportation and encourage the men to make it on time!

Being a Parish Captain honors us greatly, so we want to reward you for your efforts. If over 10 tickets are sold in your parish, we want to offer you a free ticket for 2018. We are grateful that you are representing the conference & we will support your efforts. We have some plans for a Parish Captain get together, but it is too early in our process. We also want to share some profiles of our Parish Captains on our Facebook page. You can expect to be contacted.

Some practical things you can do include setting up a table with a tri-fold posterboard with information on it at the entrance of the church, and placing announcements in the parish bulletin, and possibly making an announcement from the pulpit, and engaging men's groups (like the Knights of Columbus) to help you spread the word. If you have WIFI in the church building you can set up to display the website and explain how to buy tickets online (with the pastor's permission).

In this special website page, made just for you, we have some tools you can use in your ministry to the men of your parish. Parish Captain Support Resources page:

<https://www.ctcatholicmen.org/parishcaptain.aspx>

We look forward to working with you and welcome your feedback and ideas. Let us know how we can support your efforts.

In Christ,

Ken Santopietro  
director, Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference  
[www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org) 860-484-7950

***Evangelism Tools for Parish Captains for the 2017 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference  
Sample Bulletin Announcements –***

1) Greetings Men of God! It's that time of year again – time for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference, Saturday, October 21, 2017. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year and it looks to be better than ever. We're calling all men of the parish to join us for a day of dynamic speakers, deep spirituality, incredible worship, and great food, fellowship, and fun! It won't be the same without you! Sign-ups will take place on (*list dates*) at the table in the (*location*). Don't miss out on this wonderful event for Catholic men from all over Connecticut! **Tickets are on sale NOW at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org)**. It will be held at St Paul Catholic High School, Bristol, CT. Registration begins at 8 AM and you can buy tickets at the door.

2) Calling all men of the parish! It's time to step up and join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference, on Saturday, October 21, 2017. This year is going to be our best year ever! We've lined up some great speakers (like Raymond Arroyo from EWTN) to help you grow spiritually as men. This is an opportunity to share your faith with Catholic men from all over Connecticut, experience powerful worship, go to Confession, and have an all-around great time! Tickets are on sale NOW at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org). It will be held at St Paul Catholic High School, Bristol, CT. Registration begins at 8 AM and you can buy tickets at the door.

3) Check out the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference website after all the masses this weekend at the table in the (*location*). The conference offers the men of the parish an opportunity to be in fellowship with other Catholic men from all over Connecticut. There will be dynamic speakers, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and even a few surprises this year! Don't miss out on this incredible event! At St Paul Catholic High School, in Bristol, CT, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017! [Use this if you will set up a laptop in the vestibule to show men how to navigate the website and how to purchase tickets online.]

4) Brothers – we are always looking for an event that can be run with no budget! Why not invite all the Active Men of this Parish to attend the Catholic Men's Conference together? Let's meet on the morning of October 21<sup>st</sup>, early and be at St Paul's High School in Bristol by 8 AM for registration. It will be a spiritual day of friendship, camaraderie and refreshment. Tickets are \$45, buy them online at [www.ctcatholicmen.org](http://www.ctcatholicmen.org) or at the door. If you are interested, see Parish Captain [ name, email, and phone ], and we can make arrangements.

5) Greetings Men of God! It's that time of year again – time for the **10th Annual Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference** at St. Paul Catholic High School in Bristol, CT, on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017. This year looks to be better than ever. We're calling all men of the parish to join us for a day of dynamic speakers, deep spirituality, incredible worship, and great food, fellowship, and fun! Our lineup includes **Raymond Arroyo**, host of The World Over on EWTN, **Tim Staples** from Catholic Answers, **Bishop Frank Caggiano** from the Diocese of Bridgeport, **Fr. Glen Sudano**, CFR from the Franciscan Friars of Renewal in the Bronx, NY, and **Jim Wahlberg**, the Director of the Mark Wahlberg Foundation. Music will be provided by Christopher Mueller and Fr. Joseph Gill. And of course, **Marty Rotella** of SpiritPower Music.org will be our Master of Ceremonies again. It won't be the same without you! The ticket price is \$45, includes lunch and may be purchased at our website [www.CTCatholicMen.org](http://www.CTCatholicMen.org) or at the door. Registration starts at 8 AM.

Don't miss out on this wonderful event for Catholic men from all over Connecticut!

**Questions?** Advertise in the program? Want a vendor table? Email: [ctcatholicmensconference@gmail.com](mailto:ctcatholicmensconference@gmail.com)

**How to Speak to the Men of Your Parish about the  
2017 Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference**

- What is the Connecticut Catholic Men's Conference?

The Conference is a one-day event that takes place once a year in the fall. It features talks from dynamic and deeply spiritual speakers, fellowship with other Catholic men, great music, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the opportunity to go to Confession, a great lunch, special activities for men, and a beautiful mass at the end.

- Why should you go to the Conference?

This is an opportunity to get away from the busyness of life and connect with men who share the same values and the same struggles as you. It's a time to renew your Catholic faith, get real with your spirituality, find freedom from sinful habits, and experience beautiful worship with your brothers in Christ. There are ministries and vendors with books and materials to help you grow in your walk with Jesus. It's a place where you can receive the wisdom of men who have walked the walk of faith and personal struggles and come out stronger and ready to serve God with greater passion and power. Essentially, it's a day of coming to terms with how wonderful it can be to be a Catholic man!

- How will this benefit your family and your Church community?

Men who attend the conference discover the presence of Jesus Christ and His power to change lives. You'll come home a better husband and father because you'll gain an appreciation for what it means to be the head of your family, sharing the responsibilities and joys of marriage and parenting together with your spouse. Sharing with other men going through the same struggles as you will help you to gain strength and you'll carry the lessons learned at the conference home with you. You'll find relief from the burdens in the sacrament of Confession and spend time getting close to your Savior during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. All of this will strengthen and equip you to walk the walk of faith with greater hope and determination. You'll get in touch with your gifts and your weaknesses and find out what you're passionate about. You'll return to your parish ready to take on new challenges in the Body of Christ.

**The PROMOTIONAL FLYER is the very best summary of the event.**

## Trivia about the Men's Conference:

There are only a few laymen operated conferences in the country. We are not owned by any Diocese. Our monies are held at the Church of the Assumption in Ansonia, CT

Archbishop Mansell set up the diocese's cooperative effort with Bob Macarelli & Jim O'Day in 2006. Father Robert J. Rousseau was instrumental in its inception.

There have been four directors of the conference:

Bob Macarelli	2008-2009
David Craig	2010
Joe Premus	2011-2012
Ken Santopietro	2012-2017

The committee has two members involved since the first year.

David Craig  
Jack Harrington

Bishops who spoke at the CCMC (excluding this year)

Archbishop Mansell (Hartford)  
Archbishop Blair (Hartford)  
Archbishop Lori (Bridgeport)  
Bishop Paul Chomnycky (Eparchy of Stamford)  
Bishop Cote (Norwich)  
Bishop Rosazza (Hartford)

Keynote Speakers every year in order

2008 Danny Abramowitz  
2009 Fr. Larry Richards (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row)  
2010 Fr. Donald Callaway  
2011 Tom Peterson  
2012 Mark Houck  
2013 Dr. Bryan Thatcher  
2014 Jon Leonetti  
2015 Patrick Madrid & Fr. Michael Gaitley  
2016 Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio  
2017 Raymond Arroyo & Tim Staples

Locations of the men's conference

Hartford Convention Center, Hartford CT  
Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford CT  
St Dominic's Church, Southington CT  
Goodwin College, East Hartford CT  
St Paul Catholic High School, Bristol CT