

Dear Friend of The King's Men,

August 1, 2009

Hard to believe that it is already August 2009! This month The King's Men (TKM) will be celebrating our 3rd anniversary of full-time outreach to men in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and beyond. What a blessing this ministry has been in my personal life and I know for thousands of men throughout the world.

This past month served as a much needed planning month for TKM following our highly successful "Into the Wild" (ITW) program. We kicked off the month with our usual No More Porn Tour on Wednesday July 6th. We had a large number of men (14) turnout for this activism against the multi-billion dollar porn industry. This response was clearly a fruit of the ITW retreat weekend as a number of these men who came out to witness to the harms of pornography on society were first timers. For more information about the Tour please log onto www.thekingsmen.org.

On Friday July 10th, I was blessed to be an invited speaker at the annual Courage Conference at Villanova University. Among the invited speakers was Father John Harvey, OSFS, the founder of Courage, Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, and Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR. This spiritual conference is for all members and friends of Courage and EnCourage, the Catholic Church's response to same sex attraction disorder. That same day, I traveled to Bethlehem, PA to kickoff a youth rally for approximately 100 teens on the issue of chastity and pro-life. The featured speaker was the dynamic lay evangelist and EWTN personality Jesse Romero. It was a great way to end a busy day for TKM!

On Saturday July 11th, former TKM intern and now part-time staffer Melissa Ehrenzeller married Ben Haines, a long-time TKM supporter and friend. My co-founder Damian Wargo and I were blessed to share in this great day for this model Catholic couple. Congratulations to Ben and Melissa! TKM wishes you a lifetime of happiness together!!

On Wednesday July 15th, Damian and I organized our first ever TKM men's formation workshop at our headquarters in Oreland, PA. The primary purpose of this workshop was to continually educate and mentor the existing men who facilitate our weekly formation and accountability meetings in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. A secondary purpose was to educate men who are exploring the possibility of launching a TKM group in their area. Information technology enabled us to communicate with two men who are developing a TKM group in Louisiana and Indiana. In all we had 20 men participate in this workshop including a priest from a parish in Northeast Philadelphia.

Damian and I have been talking for some time about offering the men who are not able to come to one of our four weekly meetings a meeting via teleconferencing. On Wednesday July 22nd, TKM commenced our 5th weekly TKM formation and accountability meeting for men. This is a virtual meeting. Our educational resource is Pope Benedict XVI's new encyclical "Caritas et Veritate." More information about TKM's formation meetings can be found at our website.

The Way of The King's Men: A 'How To' Guide for Building Effective Catholic Men's Groups continues to sell through our website www.kingsmenhandbook.com and on Amazon.

Your brother in Christ,

Mark J. Houck