**St. Gertrude’s Catholic Men’s Fellowship Mission & Purpose**

*“I have come so that you may have life, and have it abundantly.”* **John 10:10**

**OBJECTIVES**

1. Grow men’s spiritually by building on current successful format.
2. Ensure sustainability of Men’s Fellowship into the future.
3. Develop & encourage shared leadership within the group.
4. Keep it simple & manageable, be inclusive, and hold each other accountable.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We are committed men, principally Catholic, who recognize our need for God’s help. We gather in Christ’s presence in an atmosphere of trust, equality and anonymity to share personal experiences and feelings. Encouraged by the Holy Spirit, we unconditionally accept and prayerfully support one another.

**OUR PURPOSE**

* To help men establish and nurture a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
* To share personal experiences and feelings with other men in an atmosphere of trust and confidence.

*(The sharing is the teaching and the teaching is the sharing.)*

* To create an atmosphere in which men freely acknowledge their dependence on God in life’s successes and failures*. (Your crisis is your gift, and your weakness is your strength.)*
* To facilitate the discovery and development of the spiritual life and to grow deeper in our Catholic faith.
* To encourage men to construct a more intimate relationship with family and friends. *(All growth occurs in relationship & you become who you let love you.)*
* To encourage men to grow and become who God intended them to be and to experience the joy of living fully and becoming all they were meant to be by the Creator.
* To create a placewhere all of the above can occur while protecting confidentiality of what is shared.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. **Meeting Format & Content.**

* Meeting Format: Fellowship, Song, Prayer, Topic, Readings, & Discussion.
* Respect Time: Start song at 7:45 AM, Prayer, Scripture, and Leader introduction and sharing sets up men’s active participation and discussion by 8:30 AM. Closing Prayer starts promptly by 9:00 AM.
* Utilize splitting into smaller groups to encourage more personal sharing as appropriate.
* Incorporate more group activities like the Renunciation exercise that took the group deeper.
* Utilize books like Unbound and Fr. Larry Richards Be A Man to build meetings around.
* Be open to new ideas, speakers, and where the Holy Spirit wants to takes us.

1. **Develop Shared Leadership**.

* Lead Team consists of volunteers serving 2-3 year terms who want to learn how to plan, prepare, & lead a meeting. Lead Team Leader is elected and serves a 2-3 year term.
* Lead Team meets quarterly to plan meeting themes and content 3 to 6 months out.
* Publish a 3 to 6 month meeting schedule to facilitate shared meeting development & leadership.
* Lead Team membership should be renewed on an annual basis with overlapping terms for continuity.

1. **Facilitate Accountability**

* The concept is to enable smaller groups of 2 to 5 men to informally form and meet between sessions to debrief on the larger group’s topics and discuss other issues in a more personal setting.
* This would meet the need of deeper personal sharing and enable our group’s purpose in a different format, and on a more frequent basis.
* Ask for volunteer(s) to develop a simple process to enable this to happen. It could be as simple as a sign up sheet after the meeting or exchange of email or phone call.

1. **Foster Outreach Opportunities**

* Establish a Men’s Group Outreach Committee to foster and develop opportunities for the Men’s Group to contribute to the broader Parish Community and in the process, attract men to the Fellowship.
* Examples of this Outreach in the past have been; sponsorship of a Parish Festival Booth, Bible Series logistics, Men’s Conference Lead Team, and importantly sponsoring our Annual Advent Retreat.
* Future ideas that can be discussed and built upon by this Committee could be; how to on-board and welcome new men, 5th Saturday Events, Men’s Group participation in a Church Rosary, plan social/family events, participation in other Parish Committees and Ministries, Adoration, etc…