

“Do whatever he tells you.”  
—John 2:5



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

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In this month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I want to thank you priests for the gift of your generous service in imitation of the Incarnate Word. In a way, we celebrate you all during Father's Day on June 20 this month too! For the fathers of families in your parish and for men's groups, I encourage you to direct their attention to the groundbreaking 12-episode video program series called *Into the Breach*. Each episode explores a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features well-known Catholic speakers, as well as the personal story of a man who has deeply experienced the episode's topic in his own life. June is also the month when schools begin their summer break. I have heard many good pastors remind their flock that the faith should not take a summer vacation! There is some incredible faith-filled and family friendly material on the FORMED platform to ensure that the faith only grows stronger this summer! One idea is to sponsor a family movie night at the parish this summer with one of our great saint movies! For example, on June 29 we celebrate the feast of Saints Peter and Paul and we have the movie *Saint Peter* starring Omar Sharif from *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago* as Peter. There may even be a movie or show on FORMED that features your parish's patron saint that you can watch along with a potluck sponsored by your community. Please know that we at FORMED are very happy to help you come up with creative ways to help those you serve to understand, live, and share their faith. Check out our Leaders site for more ideas: <https://leaders.formed.org/>.

Mary's five-word direction to the servers at the Wedding Feast at Cana is delivered to us as well.

When we are faced with emptiness of faith, hope, resources, or charity for others, Mary draws us close as she gently and firmly redirects us from our distress to “do whatever he tells you.”

When we do as she counsels, our empty jars will be filled with more than we can ever imagine.

As summer begins, we prepare for two of the great Marian feasts. On August 15, we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption, when Mary was assumed body and soul into Heaven. Next, on August 22, we celebrate the memorial of the Queenship of Mary, when the Church reconsecrates herself to Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. To assist parishes with increasing Marian devotion, FORMED offers the following resources.

### **33 Days to Morning Glory**

Intended for the faithful who live in the modern world of busyness and distraction, *33 Days to Morning Glory* gives individuals a quick and easy way to withdraw from the demands of daily life



and enter into a peaceful interior reflection on their relationship with Christ in the context of Marian devotion.

Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, author of *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, outlines the journey to Marian consecration, using four giants of Marian spirituality as guides: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Pope St. John Paul II.

Father Gaitley masterfully summarizes their teaching, making it easy to understand and put into practice. More specifically, he weaves their thought into a user-friendly, do-it-yourself retreat that will bless even the busiest of people.

### **Lectio: Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God**

In this eight-session LECTIO study, Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church Fathers reveal about Mary's life and identity.



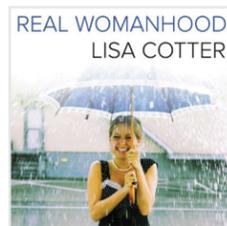
Learn why Mary is vital to Catholics and why so many people have been deeply devoted to her over the centuries.

The LECTIO series is designed for use at home or in a parish setting with participant workbooks and a comprehensive leader's guide.

# HIGHLIGHTS ON FORMED

After more than a year of limited entertainment options, we are more acutely aware of the banality of much of the popular programming on television and in movie theaters.

For those seeking inspiration and a reenergized faith, FORMED is excited to offer the following resources.



## **Real Womanhood by Lisa Cotter**

In a talk given to women at the FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) national conference, Lisa Cotter debunks the myths of stereotypical modern-day womanhood. Using insights from Pope St. John Paul II and the heroic example of modern-day saints, Cotter gets to the truth about what it means to be an authentic woman. Catholic speaker, author, and podcaster Lisa Cotter explores the topics of relationships, femininity, and living life with excellence.

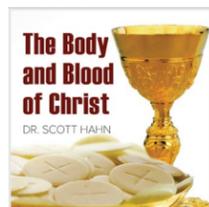
## **New Content from Saint Luke Productions**

Since 1980, Saint Luke Productions has been inspiring audiences with dramas focused on the beauty and richness of the Catholic Faith. New 60- to 90-minute episodes explore the lives of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John Vianney, and St. John of the Cross. All are intended for a family audience of middle-schoolers and up. Declare a family movie night and pass the popcorn!



# LITURGICAL CALENDAR

While the summer months are often a time for vacation, there is no such thing as a faith vacation. Throughout the month of June, we are excited to offer resources for your parishioners on both the liturgical and secular calendars to help deepen—rather than take a vacation from—their faith.



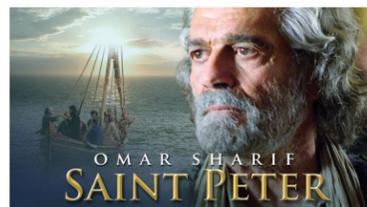
## **June 3 The Feast of Corpus Christi**

Many Catholics pray, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief” (see Mk 9:24), when pondering the mystery of Jesus’s Real Presence in the Eucharist. In the informative Lighthouse Talk *The Body and Blood of Christ*, Dr. Scott Hahn provides the biblical basis for the Church’s teaching on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the significance of the Feast of Corpus Christi.



## **June 19 Father’s Day**

*Into the Breach* is a groundbreaking 12-episode video series from the Knights of Columbus that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic man in today’s world. Inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted’s apostolic exhortation to Catholic men, *Into the Breach* tells men that they are made for greatness and challenges them to achieve it by founding their lives on God and pursuing heroic virtue.



## **June 29 The Feast of SS. Peter and Paul**

*Saint Peter* tells the epic story about the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, focusing on St. Peter, who is played by the renowned Egyptian actor Omar Sharif (star in *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Doctor Zhivago*). The film delves into Roman and Jewish opposition to Jesus’s followers, Peter’s resolve in the face of persecution, his friendship with Paul, and his realization that following Christ will lead to his execution.

# PARISH SPOTLIGHT

An active parishioner at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Sandwich, Illinois, Charlie Sondgeroth worries about the men who are not coming to Mass and what that means for the future of the Church.

Results of a Swiss study conducted in 1994 underscore the importance of fathers on the faith lives of their children.

In short, only 2% to 3% of children whose fathers never attended church or attended irregularly grew up to attend church regularly themselves—*regardless of the mother’s attendance*.

But in homes where the father attended church regularly—even if the mother was non-practicing or an irregular attendee—38% to 44% of their children attended church regularly as adults.

Sondgeroth’s concern inspired him to form a small Saturday morning men’s group organized around the Knights of Columbus’s 12-episode video series *Into the Breach*, available for free through the parish’s [formed.org](http://formed.org) subscription.

Each episode explores an aspect of male Catholic spirituality, such as leadership, brotherhood, prayer, and family. The

short episodes allowed plenty of time for discussion and building camaraderie.

“A lot of men don’t get out and socialize. That’s part of the problem,” Sondgeroth said.

Watching the videos and talking over their coffee for an hour on each Saturday “led to some quite interesting discussions about how we get men to come back to church again—especially after COVID,” Sondgeroth said.

Sondgeroth said that the message of *Into the Breach* for Catholic men is both important and simple.

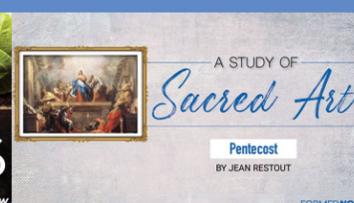
“Be a man. Be a father, like St. Joseph was,” Sondgeroth said. “Your family will see that you have their best interests at heart. They’ll want to go to church with you.”



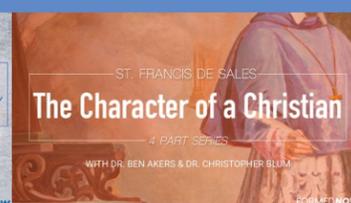
# FORMEDNOW



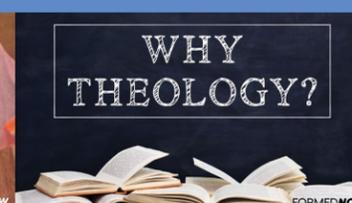
**The Feminine Genius**  
Gina Warner and Annette Bergeon, executive director of Endow, sit down to discuss the feminine genius. In this series, these two long-term friends explore St. John Paul II’s *Letter to Women* and his apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem*, in order to draw out the spiritual riches of these texts.



**Sacred Art**  
Art is one of the most ancient forms of catechesis the Church has used to teach the Faith. In the spirit of this practice, throughout the liturgical year, Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp discuss various pieces of art, its theological meaning, and its significance for Christian culture.



**The Character of a Christian**  
In this four-part series, Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Christopher O. Blum sit down to discuss St. Francis de Sales and his best-known work, *The Introduction to the Devout Life*, and the character of a Christian revealed through his life’s witness and writings.



**Why Theology?**  
Why does someone today give years of his or her life to study theology? Students at the Augustine Institute Graduate School share their stories as to how they came to the graduate school and what motivated them to answer the call of the New Evangelization.