



Catholic Men's Fellowship (CMF) of St. Barbara's and Disciples in Mission (DIM)

Parish Lenten Program - Disciples in Mission

You have probably heard in recent weeks via the bulletin/homilies and from our informal discussions of the upcoming, parish-wide Lenten initiative called Disciples in Mission (DIM). You will be hearing more of the details the next two weekends during which sign-ups will occur for the DIM Small Groups which will be meeting weekly, at times to be determined, for the 6 weeks of lent.

The CMF Core Team, in consultation with Msgr Paul and the DIM Core Team, is encouraging CMF participation within the St Barbara parish community in Disciples in Mission (DIM) Small Groups as a special supplemental activity ("i.e. a little something different, a little something extra") during the 6 weeks of Lent. CMF men inclined to participate are suggested do so according to their calling/preference in one of the following two ways:

1. As individuals or 'pairings' at-large within the groups being formed across the parish through sign-ups the next two weekends
2. As groups of CMF-St Barb men who will utilize DIM materials for 6 weeks during lent, indicated through the same sign-ups

You will note that the DIM sign-up sheets will offer, as an integral part of the at-large DIM promotion, an option for men in the parish not currently involved with CMF who might prefer DIM participation in an all male, rather than mixed gender setting. We (CMF-St Barb) plan to include them into our groups of CMF men doing DIM (Item b above).

Requested Actions

- Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be guiding you to participate in DIM for Lent (via the approaches outlined in either Item a or Item b above), and respond to the DIM sign-up sheets these next two weekends. Respond in the appropriate space on the form under "Other Preferences/Requests" as follows to indicate your intention:
 - "CMF Men's Group - Pairing". If you prefer the Item 1) approach, i.e. to participate in a 'pair' of CMF men to be "imbedded" in a group at-large
 - "CMF Men's Group. If you prefer the Item 2) approach, i.e. to participate with a group of CMF men with "imbedded" men from the parish at-large
- Respond in parallel via e-mail to us to indicate your intentions relative to DIM so that we can begin to anticipate plans necessary to form and administer the DIM pairs & groups associated with CMF.

Supplemental Study Groups During Lent

We hope you are able to participate in a significant way in the DIM Lenten initiative, either in the self-contained 'CMF' groups, or perhaps with more benefit as individuals/pairs spread across the DIM groups, as there are many potential benefits to be gained. These six weeks of Lent can serve as sort of a "boot-camp" for how to move us more toward evangelization and as a means for further outreach. Much of our focus in CMF is typically on formation and personal growth; this might be a supplemental way to expand the influence of CMF beyond the members themselves by sharing the graces and what we're learning, and to expose more folks to what we're about in CMF while we're at it.

While we encourage all CMF men to take this special opportunity during Lent to grow in the faith, be in community with our parish family, and further engage individuals beyond our existing CMF groups, we recognize there may be considerations which preclude this. As a result, we will be holding an interim, combined Thursday night topical session (topic TBD, though will be focused on 'applied apologetics'/evangelism in the spirit of DIM) in February and March for those men who want to continue during Lent with the Thursday Study Group in addition to DIM, and/or for those who are not inclined or are otherwise unable to participate more fully/directly in DIM.

Note that we will be offering these two interim study sessions in February and March in 'open-house' format for CMF and for men in the parish at-large. They will be held on February 21 and March 13 in the CLW Room at 7pm. No response required; just show up.