

State Council Program Awards

Entry Form

THIS REPORTING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH COUNCIL AND FORWARDED TO THE STATE COUNCIL.
(A separate reporting form should be completed for each program category.)

CATEGORY (MARK ONE): **Faith** **Family** **Community** **Life**



COUNCIL INFORMATION:

1 Council Number: #1266 Total Council Members: 482
 Grand Knight: Joe Vitale E-Mail: gk1266@mikofc.org

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPB) Program Date: Feb, 14, 2019
 Participation: $\frac{30}{\text{Members}} + \frac{20}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{50}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{50}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{72}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{3600}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$
 Program Planning: $\frac{\$200}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{10-15 \text{ Hrs}}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: 18 Donations: $\frac{\$200}{\text{Local Currency}}$

3 Describe program in detail. Use additional paper if necessary. Supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, videocassettes, DVD's, display materials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.

3a) In the space provided below, briefly describe the purpose and goals of this program. This section must be completed.

Mission Statement

Catholic men inviting other men to a comfortable environment where we take responsibility for learning, living, strengthening, and sharing our faith, which in turn make us better men, leaders, husbands, fathers and followers of Christ.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

**ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE COUNCIL
 TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION**

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy or State Program Director

COPY TO: Council File

Available in electronic format at www.kofc.org



(continued on reverse)

3b) Whom does this program benefit?

MPB has a direct faith effect on the participants. The impact on our Community and our Parishes has been noticeable. The men who attend MPB are impacted first by hearing others in their social circles coming together to talk about their faith. As they grow in faith and confidence, they begin to live their faith "out loud". As a result of inviting other men--not just Catholic men--MPB has grown quickly, acknowledging a "thirst" for the Gospel. Several of the men have stepped-up and become table leaders as they channel the discussions in small groups. Leaders seem to just rise-up out of the floor. Clearly these men are responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Others exercise their Charisms by actively participating to prepare for the meetings, and others do so by actively participating in discussion topics or meeting the marketing needs of the program.

A secondary benefit has been increased enrollment in membership of K of C Council #1266. Just last year we encouraged the guys to become members and had 18 men join the Knights of Columbus. Most had not experienced the work of the Knights and saw a place to plug-in for Christian service and to live-out their faith. The K of C leaders allowed MPB free use of their building and has now reaped the rewards of increased membership. God is at work in our Council.

3c) What problem or need did this program resolve?

Most of the men of MPB are cradle Catholics. The average age at MPB is near 50 years old. We have had a modest increase in attendance of younger guys and have encouraged them to attend. First and foremost, this program has encouraged Catholic men to live their faith "out-loud". Rather than attending social events and talking only of social issues, our guys actively talk about faith and involvement. The Catholic Church needs an active Lay faithful to fulfill the needs of God's people. With the reduction in Priestly Vocations, the Laity must step-up to do the work of the church. We can no longer be silent attenders at Mass and think that we have fulfilled our obligation to Christ.

Many of our number have children who no longer attend Mass. They have become a part of the growing group in this country we call the "nones". While this has had an impact on families, it also has a profound impact on the Church. MPB believes that by making better Domestic Priests in our homes, we can curtail the migration of our youth away from the church.

Last, MPB has injected new life into an aging K of C Council. Recent fundraising programs have had excellent attendance by volunteers and have drawn many of the younger guys to participate.

3d) Why did the council select this program?

Sometimes the Lord works in unusual ways. Monroe has numerous Parishes within the city limits. Council #1266 actually encompasses 5 local Parishes near or in the City of Monroe. One of the parisheners of a local parish was inspired to develop an MPB program similar to one he was involved in at Our Lady of Good Council in Plymouth, MI. Rather than have the program be designated as from a single Parish, he asked the Council Leaders if the meetings could occur in their facility. Once established, various participants have been coming from all over the County. Some travel a long distance to join us for our 6:00 AM meetings.

Because of the impact that MPB has had on Council #1266, it has chosen to adopt the program as their own. In fact, given the success of the program, we would encourage all Councils to seek a similar program to encourage the faith of its membership.

3e) Describe the success of the program:

MPB met for the first time on February 14, 2019. The first meeting had 5 men in attendance. By February 2020 we routinely were having 40-50 men attending. The Corona-Virus has caused a drop in participation although we continued to meet virtually by Zoom, and in April 2021 began meeting in-person and on Zoom for those who choose to remain distant. We are confident that as members are vaccinated and feel safer, they will return to our meetings. We may choose to continue the Virtual participation option as it has been preferred by several of the guys.

The true measure of success for this program is in the increase of Faith in the men. So many have been impacted for the Kingdom of Christ by renewing their faith. This is a Lay-led program. We call ourselves "The Regular Joes", but I can affirm that these men are far from regular. Deacon Mike Stewart is a regular attender and has been instrumental in building a new Catechesis for the guys as we discuss relevant issues that impact our faith. MPB does not want to "tie-up" the time of our local Priests as their time is so precious. Deacon Mike truly has a heart for men's ministries and is a key to the success of this program.

Another success factor is the small group interaction. It is imperative that guys meet with a familiar group and have confidential deep conversation about the studies that we do together. We either use a book study or video series to jump start the small group discussion, but the real work happens as men have faith talk with other men they have grown to trust. We look forward to impacting the lives in our community by building faithful men!

Attest: Walter K. White Jr.
State Deputy

Signed: Joe Vitale
Grand Knight

4/1/21
Date

Men's Prayer Breakfast

MPB



Grand Knight: Worthy Joseph Vitale

Program Director: Worthy Elliot Alfredson

Knights of Columbus Service Program

April 2021

Worthy,

In this binder you will find the description of a program we have instituted in Monroe Council #1266. **The Men's Prayer Breakfast** (MPB) has had a profound impact on the faith lives of men in our community and has also precipitated growth in our Council membership.

MPB brings men together around their faith. The premise that all Catholic men do not share their faith openly simply is not true. Given the proper place and environment, men openly defend and share their faith and help one another grow closer to God. Truly, Iron sharpens Iron!

We call ourselves **Regular Joe's** because all of us do not consider ourselves "Trained Ministers". We are fathers, husbands, sons, uncles and working guys. What we discover is that we are far from ordinary— We are extraordinary men faithfully trying to live-out the great commission of furthering the Gospel to others!

We would encourage our Worthy Brothers throughout the Knights of Columbus to undertake a similar program to encourage faith development within your Council. While this program outline is considered a good overview of the program, we welcome men from throughout the Knights to join us and experience how the program works.

Vivat Jesus!

Joseph Vitale

Grand Knight Council #1266

Elliot Alfredson

Program Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Overview
2. Invitation and Prayer Cards
3. Photographs
4. Testimonials
5. Credits



Overview

Most of us at one time or another have been engaged in either a Bible Study or Prayer group as we have journeyed thru our faith life. In truth, most Catholic men avoid such groups as their time is limited and caring for our families becomes a priority—as it should. So, when, and how should Catholic men grow in faith and knowledge of Christ as St. Paul encourages us to do? The Mass, while a grand celebration of our faith in Christ, does not always give us the interaction we need to challenge one another. MPB becomes the “gym” where we work-out our faith and challenge each other.

Deacon Mike Stewart here in Monroe famously once said, “Put two guys in a bar with a couple of beers and they’ll pour themselves out to one another!” How true that is! So, what is the right time and place for guys to meet? In Monroe we have found that the Knights of Columbus Hall is a wonderful place to meet. And the best time? **6:00 AM!** Why 6:00 AM? Because if you hold the meeting at night, the only guys that can show up are the retired guys. All the family guys and 20 somethings are raising a family or building careers. If you ask them to rise early, they will come, participate, and leave for work at 7:00--- so you better end on time, every time.

So, what do you talk about? The key is talking! This is not a teaching moment for Clergy! But in the end, the guys learn. They learn because they teach themselves—with a little help. We have done book studies where we go through a chapter each meeting. We have also used videos to jumpstart the discussion. The website “FORMED” has a ton of good video learning series’ that can be used for group discussion. The key is to have the initial part of the meeting be only 15-20 minutes long, so guys have time to talk in small groups of 8-10 guys at a table. Here is a quick rundown of the meetings:

5:45 AM men arrive for coffee and donuts or other lite breakfast. (Usually prepared by one of the table groups)

6:00.... Welcome and prayer intentions or praises. (group administrator usually does this)

6:10.... Group prayer. We use one written by Deacon Mike Stewart, but you can use many forms of prayer. We encourage praying freely from the heart as a change of pace for most guys.

6:12...Introduce new guys. We usually ask them to introduce themselves and who invited them. (inviting is a big thing—this is part of our mission statement!)

6:15.... If we are using a video series, start the video. Then pass out discussion points to Table leaders.

If a book study, circulate questions for discussion and begin small group table talk. (Table leaders facilitate conversation)

6:50...give a few minutes to wrap up the discussions.

6:55...any announcements and closing prayer. Closing prayer can be at tables or as a large group.

It all sounds simple—and it is! There are a few key people that need to be in place to make it work. Here is a list of positions and responsibilities who are key to the program in Monroe:

Program Administrator: Responsible for oversight of MPB. With the help of the Holy Spirit and Clergy, considers study areas and materials. Assigns members for food and beverages and coordinates the meeting set-up. Usually Kicks off the meeting and acts as an emcee for the morning. Repetition and keeping on schedule each meeting is important. Keeps a roster with names, cell phone and email of all members. Usually, should send a reminder email a few days ahead of the meeting with faith-filled encouragements and the agenda items for the meeting. (chapters to study, links to virtual meetings, discussion questions for the week, etc.)

Clergy: The intent of MPB is to be a Lay-led ministry not tying up the time of the local clergy. In Monroe we are honored to have Deacon Mike Stewart as an active member of our group. While he is a member, he does not direct the study. He participates in discerning the Holy Spirits' leading on discussion material but is not the program administrator. It is suggested that a credible, trained Minister be part of the group for the inevitable time when clarity on Church Doctrine is needed. (Men are encouraged to have a Bible and Catechism of the Catholic Church with them).

Table Leaders: These guys are the heart and soul of MPB. I would suggest they be men of strong character, and able to guide discussion well. These are not teachers! In fact, we would ask them to hold their opinions and thoughts as much as possible so that table mates can speak freely. Their job is to facilitate conversation. The Discussion does not have to follow the discussion sheet if guys are sharing openly. The goal is to get guys talking about faith—even if they do not agree all the time! Sometimes, we encounter a member that has severe problems. This is not the place to work them out! The table leaders are not social workers, so we encourage them to bring those issues to the administrator/ Clergy to seek professional help and resources.

MPB Members: The discussion cannot happen unless we INVITE men to come. When Jesus first began drawing men to Himself, they asked Him, “Lord, where are you staying?” His answer was, “COME AND SEE!” Its that simple. Just ask a friend to come and see. Usually after the shock of rising so early, they never miss another session. So many guys have said, “I’ve never experienced anything like this!”

It is important to know that members need to keep the confidence of the others at their table. It is preferable that guys stay with the same tablemates for at least a year to develop strong brother-like relationships. These relationships endure for years to come. It is also important to shuffle the tables annually, so guys grow and learn with other men they perhaps do not know. Last, as the size of the group grows, new table leaders will be required, and these can be chosen as the Spirit guides from among these MPB members.

One last note. Groups of men have the power to change. You can expect your Parish Communities to change as faithful men involve themselves in ways they might never have, prior to MPB. While MPB is designed to be led by the Laity, The Program Administrator should be in tune with the needs of the local Parish(s). Priests and Deacons are encouraged to attend meetings—even to hear confession during the meetings---or to provide guidance from authentic Catholic Teaching during discussions. Make no mistake, MPB can be a powerful group for change in a parish if the Priest/Deacon utilizes the group under God’s provision.

IRON IS SHARPENED BY IRON; ONE PERSON SHARPENS ANOTHER. Proverbs 27:17



MPB Invitation and Prayer card



MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic men inviting men to a comfortable environment where we take responsibility for **learning**, living, **strengthening**, and **sharing** our faith, which will in turn make us better men, leaders, husbands, fathers and followers of **Jesus Christ**

Making

Molding

Missioning

We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday
of every Month 5:45 a.m.
Monroe K of C #1266
202 W. Front St. - Monroe, MI 48161

EST.



2019

* **REGULAR JOE** *

**MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST
MONROE**

MEN'S GATHERING PRAYER

Lord, I'm a man ...

- ... a man who's been blessed in his life,
yet has done *nothing* to deserve
those blessings;
- ... a man who recognizes that he's not
perfect, especially when I try to be
someone *other* than the person you
made me to be;
- ... a man who's trying to balance *all*
that you've given me to care for,
and *all* that I invite into my life
outside your plans for me;
- ... a man who struggles to find enough
time, enough *money*, enough
patience for all that challenges me on
this life's journey;
- ... and a man who needs you more than
I'll *ever* admit to myself or others.

Lord, I'm a man ...

- ... a man who places himself before you,
asking *nothing* of you, except to help
me realize that your hand is *always*
there to help me back into the boat.

Amen.



MPB members can purchase a heavy quarter zip-shirt that creates a sense of belonging.



Close-up of image on the quarter zip-shirt



Leadership team meets for table leader training. Left to right is Jim Crawford, Joel Whalen, Elliot Alfredson, and John Castiglione.



Our first Pandemic outdoor meeting under roof cover because it rained. August 6, 2020.



Indoor meeting on October 1, 2020. Video series with Fr. Michael Schmidt.



Indoor meeting April 15, 2021 at the K of C Hall. Deacon Mike Stewart Discusses the Importance of a Consecration to St. Joseph as an upcoming book for the group.



Indoor at the K of C Hall on April 15, 2021. Group administrator Elliot Alfredson and Deacon Mike Stewart receiving prayer intentions and praises. A small group joining us by Zoom is projected on the wall.



The group is socially Distant and safe in our large K of C Hall! April 15, 2021.

DEACON MICHAEL STEWART

I am a Roman Catholic permanent deacon ordained for the Archdiocese of Detroit in 2009, and assigned to serve two parishes in Monroe, Michigan. In addition, I also serve our local Catholic high school as a theology teacher and chaplain, as well as our local Catholic elementary school as chaplain.

I've long had a vision for men's ministry; one that is not a bible study, per se; nor is it service-oriented, or even purely fellowship. I envisioned a men's ministry that is purely faith enrichment, and that provided for fellowship as a by-product. I further envisioned this ministry employing what I called a 'kitchen table' model of fellowship rather than a more formal setting. There was another, long-established men's ministry in Monroe, though it employed a more formal model, and was held in the chapel at the Catholic high school. For nearly six years, I facilitated a successful men's ministry that followed the model I had envisioned. Between 15-20 men faithfully attended the monthly meetings, and we met around a large 'kitchen' table with coffee and refreshments. Each meeting followed a different theme which included scripture, discussion, and prayer. The men eagerly shared their faith, their struggles, their doubts and fears. This was the first time that many of these men had ever participated in a ministry of this kind outside of their formal church attendance.

After nine years, I was reassigned to another (larger) parish in Monroe (I've since been assigned to BOTH parishes, now that we share a common pastor). The men's ministry at my former parish was assumed by one of our regular attendees, but sadly, they were not able to sustain the momentum and focus of the group.

It was my intent to re-engage the group, but this time for BOTH parishes, when I met Elliot Alfredson one morning after a Mass that I had preached. I learned that he was a fairly new Catholic, and was married to a woman from our parish whose family I had long known. He told me that prior to moving to Monroe, he was a member of a very large parish in the western suburbs of Detroit. The pastor at that parish was quite charismatic, and it was his invitation that Elliot accepted in coming to the Catholic faith. That parish has a very large and highly successful men's ministry that has met weekly for over ten years. Elliot told me that he had been praying about planting a seed for that model of ministry here in Monroe. We shared stories about our passion for men's ministry, and the need to draw men, and particularly younger men back into the faith. Recognizing that the men in my prior men's group had become dependent on a clergy-run model, the idea that Elliot presented in a purely lay-led ministry was very appealing. In addition, since it was based on a small group discussion, it followed the 'kitchen-table' model that had long been part of my vision.

After a couple planning meetings, we drew a few more men together, and the seed for the Monroe Prayer Breakfast (MPB) was born. In order to appeal to younger men (non-retired), the MPB model meets very early in the morning (gather at 5:45AM, begin at 6:00AM), offers a small continental breakfast, and limits the meeting to precisely one hour. The suburban Detroit group meets weekly, and has grown to near 250 men employing that model, so it seemed logical to use that same model here. We met first in the social hall of the parish I am serving, but quickly decided that if we were to appeal to a broader group of men, we could not be associated with any single parish. Elliot and I then reached out to the local Knights of Columbus Council who eagerly welcomed us, and offered the use of their facilities. Within six months, our group had grown to nearly 50 men representing several parishes in our vicariate.

While I'm not from Monroe, I have lived and worshipped in this community for over 40 years. Not unlike the rest of our culture, I've witnessed a steady decline in the number of men who attend Mass, and particularly young men. As a high school theology teacher, I recognized that many young people were not attending Mass purely because their parents didn't attend. The task of engaging younger men in the faith seemed daunting. Surprisingly though, MPB has appealed to men of all ages, from teenagers to elderly men, and many of them who were either non-practicing or were, at best, lukewarm in their faith. We've provided opportunities for the men to re-engage in the sacraments, and have even offered the sacrament of Reconciliation within the context of our meetings. I've seen men whom I know for years attend our meetings who we've rarely seen at Mass. I've witnessed some of those same men now serving the Church as liturgical ministers, and others ministering in Christian outreach programs. Our men are now praying with and for one another, are participating in bible studies, and are visible in their parishes.

As a member of the Catholic clergy, the challenge of evangelization in the context of our lethargic culture (and even more so in this pandemic) is often daunting. Having long held a vision for men's ministry, I marvel at how God brought Elliot - this on-fire for the Lord new Catholic - into my life. I further marvel at how God took our mutual visions and planted a seed for re-engaging Catholic men in the faith. The future of men's ministry in Monroe is exciting through the spirit and witness of MPB.

Deacon Mike Stewart

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish

St. John the Baptist Parish

St. Mary Catholic Central High School

Monroe Catholic Elementary School

Monroe, Michigan

April 2021

John P. Castiglione

720 Toll St. Monroe, MI 48162
313-363-3545
Johncastiglione15@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I have been asked to share a few of my thoughts in reference to our Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPB), in Monroe, Michigan. After several months of formation and prayer the MPB Monroe was organized in 2019. Its purpose was for catholic men (Regular Joes) to come together twice per month to express their beliefs, thoughts, and ideas in reference to our catholic faith. It was meant to be "different" from attending church. It was meant to be organized but casual where men can get together and talk about their faith. I personally have been a catholic for over 65 years, and nowhere have I been where men get together and talked candid and open about their faith.

We (MPB) have had the privilege of priests, deacons, catholic evangelists, and other catholic faith leaders attend our meetings and share with us their thoughts and ideas about our catholic religion, and in turn they have asked individually us to give our thoughts to them. Nothing has enriched and strengthened my faith more than the MPB Monroe.

I wish to thank the leadership of MPB Monroe, Elliott Alfredson and Deacon Mike Stewart for facilitating, and always providing direction for our discussions, as well as the Knights of Columbus Monroe, for opening their doors and allowing the MPB Monroe to meet at their facility. The Knights of Columbus Monroe under the leadership of Joe Vitale, provide a wonderful example of Jesus's teachings of welcoming. The Knights of Columbus Monroe provide to MPB Monroe an opportunity to evangelize our catholic faith each and every time we meet.

Warm regards,

John P. Castiglione

STEVE LATONDRESS

The Monroe Men's Prayer Breakfast has brought into my life much spiritual joy since joining the group a couple years ago. Having a regular outlet to speak about my faith, and what it means to me, with like-minded men, is such a blessing! For me, my initial participation was passive ... I was reluctant to share my thoughts. Our group is very welcoming and encouraging, truly a "no judgment" zone. Soon, I was contributing regularly and eventually became a leader insomuch as facilitating table conversation with a small group of men. One of my greatest delight's is having met an older gentleman who I had never known. In a short time, we befriended each other. Not only have we become fast friends, but we are also each other's biggest supporter. Without MPB, this relationship would have never occurred, and I would be poorer because of it. This group and its members are a part of my daily prayers.

Thanks be to God for bringing them into my life!

-Steve Latondress

Monroe, MI

ELLIOT ALFREDSON

I started attending Men's Prayer Breakfast (MPB) while a Parishioner at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Plymouth, MI. These guys meet every Wednesday at 6:00 AM and have 150-200 guys attending every week! The program is Lay led with pastoral oversight and approval. The daily agenda is simple for attendees. The group was broken into small groups of 8-10 guys with a table leader to keep the discussion on task. Usually, a book study or video series was used for topical information, but the real growth begins as guys talk to one another about their faith. I was Blessed to have an awesome table leader the first year. Joe Malone encouraged guys to build their faith by active participation in discussion, prayer time and in celebrating the sacraments. He is a good man and loved God.

By the second year I was asked to be a table leader. This was a time of great growth in faith for me. The table leader role is not to teach, the books and videos do that. The table leader role is to guide the discussion. Trust me—guys will talk in small groups—you just need to keep the discussion on task. Generally, the leadership of MPB provides a set of discussion questions to act as springboards to lead off the conversation. There is nothing like this in all Catholic programs for men.

In 2016, I married a wonderful Woman in the town of Monroe and moved here and became a Parishioner at St Mary's of the Immaculate Conception. I was driving back to Plymouth every Wednesday because MPB fed my soul! It was a long way to go, and I also began to see the need for MPB in Monroe. I know that the Holy Spirit was pushing me toward a program here.

By 2019 God had exposed several guys to me who I knew would be the core of an MPB in Monroe. We had our first meeting on Valentines Day 2019 with 5 guys. The Knights of Columbus Hall seemed a good neutral place for us to meet so that we would not make this a program tied to any of the 3 Parishes in downtown Monroe. A year later there were 50 guys coming and there was a buzz going on about MPB. Then the pandemic hit, and we were forced to take the program virtual. We met several times on the outdoor patio ant the Knights of Columbus but as winter of 2020 settled in, we had to meet on Zoom entirely. As of April 2021, we have begun to meet inside the K of C Hall, but we also provide a virtual connection for those that prefer distancing.

MPB is like the workout room where men fine tune and shape their faith. We are challenged by one another to live a life worthy of the calling given us by Christ. We re-live the Catechesis given to us at our Confirmation. For many guys they are re-learning their faith. I am challenged by God to grow with the guys. As the program coordinator, I need to be as sharp or more than the men in the group. MPB has been a motivator for my faith, and it brings me closer to God.

Thanks be to God for His incredible gift!

By His Grace,

Elliot Alfredson

517-204-3501

JOEL WHALEN

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Joel Whalen, and I am born and raised in Monroe Michigan and I am an active member of the newly formed Men's Prayer Group (MPB). This group of Catholic faithful men have been meeting twice a month for a little over two years now and has made a huge impact on my faith life. I have connected with other Catholic men in learning, growing, and serving our community.

The local Knights have been so gracious to allow us to meet in their building and supported our group over the last few years so much. In fact, I became a member of the Knights of Columbus about 9 months ago and look forward to getting involved in all the good service that they do every day.

My goal is to further grow in my spiritual life through the great work both MPB and the Knights are doing and will continue to spread the Good News of Jesus!

Thanks,

Joel Whalen

With Thanks and Honor

MPB has its roots in Plymouth, Michigan at ***Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish***. A group of men organized and started MPB in 2009 after experiencing a men's group at a local Protestant church. The original guys were Brian Hill, and Todd Forfinski. Unfortunately, Brian has gone to the Lord, but revels in the growth of the program he envisioned. Along with about 20 other guys, they slowly developed the right "recipe" for men growing together. Credit should also be given to the programs Coordinators today, Steve Cooper and Tom Bastin. These men had the foresight and nature to develop a program which has Catholic principles and a far-reaching impact on the faith lives of men from many Parishes in the area. They willingly shared all their resources and intellectual data with our group in Monroe including the cool Logo and especially the "recipe" for bringing men of faith together. My ability to administer the group in Monroe is only because these guys have their group in Plymouth.



I also need to thank a local print shop for assisting with our media and broadcasting the MPB program in Monroe. Lamour Printing has been a huge help in making us look good and professional. Brian and Joe are both Knight brothers and assist us both in talent and donations whenever needed.

Deacon Michael Stewart has been an incredible asset on MPB. He offers guidance, prayer support and credibility with his down-to-earth hands-on style of leading Catholic men to faith. He lives in the trenches and gets his hands dirty every day in his ministry to the sick, dying, and broken. We are Blessed to have him at our disposal.

Last to the members of MPB. Thanks for your contributions to our discussions and willingness to wake and go out before the sun each day we meet. Continue to grow in faith and shepherd your families in the Faith.

It is an honor to serve with such great souls! All thanks be to God for his Great Gift of Jesus Christ!

By His Grace,

Elliot Alfredson