

Into the Breach Testimonials

Lionel Demers and Donald Sorin attend Into the Breach sessions at Holy Cross Parish in the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, facilitated by Deacon Gilles Urquhart. (1)

What has there experience been like?



Lionel Demers

I had been looking for something like *Into the Breach* for a while, a place where men could talk about their faith openly, because so often we keep it private. A parishioner at Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens told me about it and I'm really glad he shared.

At our sessions, more often than not, we have 20 to 30 people attending. We talk about living a truly Christian life. Not just going through life with a Christian façade, but becoming holy. We talk about what that means, through the examples of the saints. Who was Saint

Joseph? What were his qualities? How can they inspire me?

We also reflect on our personal journeys, because none of us are at the same place in our walk with Christ. We discuss our weaknesses, our temptations and what we're all striving to overcome. For instance the epidemic of Internet pornography. I myself had difficulties with that in the past. I looked for help and took steps to get out of it. And I've been able to share those steps with the group. It is beautiful that we can bring these difficulties with other men, and in the light of Christ.

Why attend Into the Breach? I'd say because it's time to take a good look at yourself and your relationship with Jesus. To question yourself and not be afraid to do it.



Donald Sorin

I came to *Into the Breach* because a childhood friend invited me. I had already been part of teenage Christian groups, as well as several men's groups at la Paroisse Cathédrale Saint-Boniface. I'm a Knight of Columbus and I participate in their activities.

Into the Breach is different. Here, there's fellowship with other men of faith in a manner that's unlike any other men's group, in a way that's complementary to what happens elsewhere, like with the Knights.

We reflect on our role as men of faith, as fathers. We talk about what that means, because as churchgoing men, our values are often under attack. Together, we enrich each other's faith and guard ourselves against attack.

Thanks to bishop Olmstead, we've also managed to break the loneliness of being a Catholic man. At work, as a teacher, I sometimes feel compelled to hide my faith. If I dared to defend my personal values, I'm pretty sure my job would be threatened. So it feels good to be with other men who share the same concerns, the same sense of purpose.

Why attend *Into the Breach*? Well, to be quite honest, I didn't realize how much I needed the fellowship. And when I came to my first session, I was floored. I expected three or four men, and we were more than twenty!

(1) Deacon Gilles Urquhart discusses **Into the Breach** in a series of videos available [here](#).