



KAPAUN'S --- MEN

BEATITUDE SERIES OPERATIONS MANUAL

A Guide for Leaders

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In conjunction with the Father Kapaun Guild, Kapaun's Men is dedicated to spreading devotion to Servant of God Emil Kapaun and inspiring others to imitate his example in their own lives. For more information on Father Kapaun and his cause for Beatification and Canonization, visit the Father Kapaun Guild's website, www.FatherKapaun.org. If you have questions or would like assistance with the Kapaun's Men Series, please contact us at the information at the bottom of this page.

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KAPAUN'S MEN BEATITUDE SERIES

Welcome to the Kapaun's Men Beatitude Series! Inspired by Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun, this series has been designed to unite men in prayer, formation and discussion in order to foster a spirit of accompaniment among men and to help us courageously respond to God's universal call to holiness, becoming better husbands, fathers, leaders and friends.

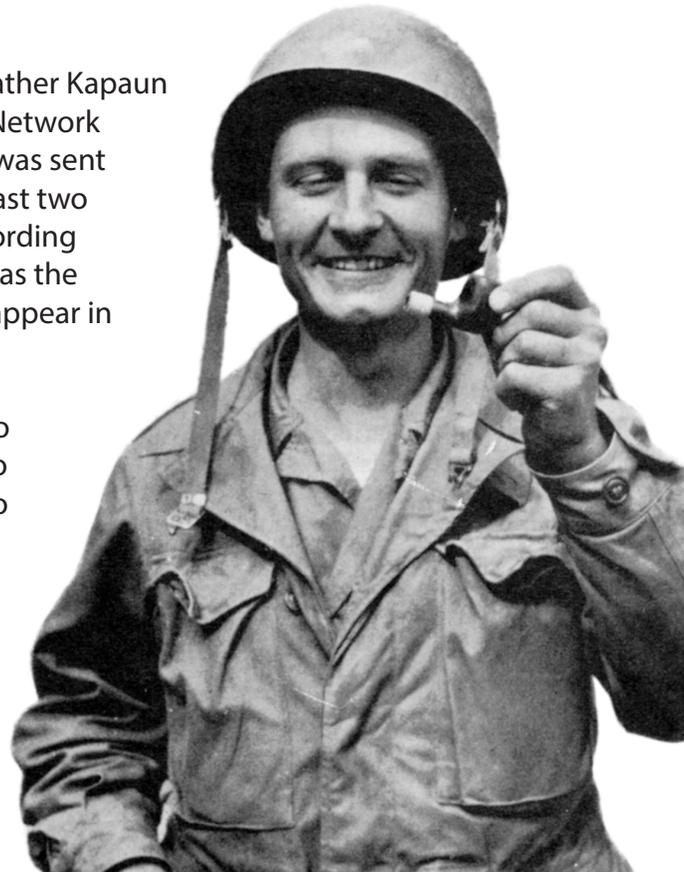
This series is intended to be a followup to the Virtue Series, which explores the heroic life and virtues of Servant of God Emil Kapaun, Catholic priest and Army chaplain who died in a Korean Prisoner of War camp. While the videos in this series are certainly useful at any time, they make the most sense after participating in the Virtue Series, which gives more detail on Father Kapaun's life. That said, new participants are always welcome. We recommend that any newcomers watch "The Story of Father Kapaun", the first video from the Virtue Series, which is available on Formed, in order to get the appropriate background on his life. Each video in the Beatitude Series will end by tying the particular Beatitude back to Father Kapaun's life.

WHY A SERIES ON THE BEATITUDES?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, which summarizes Catholic teaching, says that the Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' moral teaching (CCC #1716). This is a bold statement, and one we ought to live by! Each Beatitude begins with the word "Blessed", promising a blessing to those who follow them. This blessing is often beyond what we can fully grasp on earth because it is only fulfilled in heaven. Sometimes we will feel the blessing as a foretaste of what is to come, while other times we simply trust in Jesus' word. Either way, the Beatitudes describe for us the attitudes and actions that a Christian must foster in his life if he wants to be whole and fulfilled and ultimately reach heaven.

We are blessed to have the transcript of the reflections Father Kapaun delivered on the Beatitudes on the Armed Forces Radio Network in Japan in April 1950, less than three months before he was sent to Korea. A short audio clip containing a portion of the last two Beatitudes has even survived- the only known audio recording of Father Kapaun. His teaching on the Beatitudes serves as the inspiration for this series, and portions of his reflections appear in the study guide at the beginning of each session.

There are two things we would like to point out as you go through this series. First, as Christians, we are all called to adapt our way of thinking to that of Jesus, and there is no better summary of Jesus' attitude than the Beatitudes. Whether it's about being poor in spirit (humble, reliant upon God) or fostering an attitude of mercy and peacemaking, the Beatitudes are a great measuring



stick to help us match our interior attitudes with those of Christ. Granted, we may not always experience all the conditions portrayed in each Beatitude story to the same extent as the people featured, but we can still foster the Beatitude and live it out to the extent we are called.

Second, to go hand-in-hand with this, as Kapaun's Men we know that we are not on this journey alone. Pope Francis constantly reminds us that we must live a gospel of accompaniment. When you go through this series, you may not feel as if a particular Beatitude is as pertinent to you as another one is, and that's okay. What we ask is that you think of persons in your life who might be experiencing the challenges of that Beatitude in an acute way, and think about what you can do to support them. In that way we will be accompanying our brothers and sisters on their journey to heaven.

The Beatitude Series is made up of the following nine sessions. (We apologize for the numbering, as due to the Introduction video the first Beatitude is shown in Session 2 and so on!)

1. An Introduction to the Beatitudes *(Video Length: 10 minutes)*
2. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit *(Video Length: 19 minutes)*
3. Blessed are Those who Mourn *(Video Length: 16 minutes)*
4. Blessed are the Meek *(Video Length: 16 minutes)*
5. Blessed are They who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness *(Video Length: 10 minutes)*
6. Blessed are the Merciful *(Video Length: 20 minutes)*
7. Blessed are the Clean of Heart *(Video Length: 18 minutes)*
8. Blessed are the Peacemakers *(Video Length: 16 minutes)*
9. Blessed are They who are Persecuted for the Sake of Righteousness
(Video Length: 17 minutes)

The participant study guide provides discussion questions that help facilitate a conversation with other men following the video, and weekly challenges will help each session's Beatitude take root in men's lives throughout the week.

We are excited to share this series with you and hope you find the stories of the men and women in it to be an aid on your journey to heaven. Know that you are in our prayers, and feel free to contact us at the information on the copyright page if you need any assistance!

HOSTING A KAPAUN'S MEN SESSION

Meetings are designed to last an hour. We recommend being punctual in beginning and ending on time so that men can keep their other commitments to family and work. Study Guides are provided to help assist you in facilitating each session. Here is a step-by-step walkthrough of a session.

Note: There is no special leader information for each session, as the video and participant study guides provide all the info you need to present to the men.

- 1. Welcome:** Try to arrive early to welcome the men as they arrive. Begin your meeting promptly by asking the men to find a seat. During your first session you might want to give a quick overview of the series and any other logistical details men might need to know.
- 2. Prayer:** At the beginning of each session you will find the Chaplain Kapaun prayer as well as an additional prayer, Psalm or Scripture reading based on the session's Beatitude. Lead the group in praying these two prayers.
- 3. Father Kapaun's Wisdom:** Read the "Father Kapaun's Wisdom" section to the group. These short excerpts are taken from Father Kapaun's reflections on the Beatitudes or other homilies and are intended to give a little more insight into the session's Beatitude.
- 4. Video:** We recommend previewing the video before your session so you can give a brief introduction to it. You can focus on what stood out to you, why you think it will be impactful, or even share if it was especially meaningful to you in some way. Keep it short (anywhere from 10 seconds to 3 minutes) to allow time for discussion afterwards. Encourage men to take notes in the space provided about what strikes them in the video.
- 5. Discussion:** After the video, direct the men to the Discussion Questions in the Study Guide. These will help participants apply the Beatitude to their own lives and will foster a spirit of accompaniment with other men. See the next page for further advice on facilitating discussion.
- 6. Weekly Challenge:** When there is about 5 minutes remaining in the session, call men to attention and remind them of the weekly challenge. The challenge is intended to be fairly simple but also challenging enough to help you cultivate the particular session's Beatitude as the week goes on.
- 7. Petitions and Closing Prayer:** If you wish, you may open the floor to particular prayer intentions for the group to pray for. Finally, end with 3 Hail Mary's, as the first video describes. This will be an ongoing practice for Kapaun's Men in the morning and evening.

TIPS ON LEADING A SMALL GROUP

The small group discussions are where men can take the lessons learned during the video and directly apply them to their own lives. Hearing from and accompanying other men will lead to new insights and practical ways to live out the Beatitudes. Here are some tips to help you facilitate the groups:

- **Group Size:** Discussion groups of about 5-7 men seem to work the best. If you have a large group, we recommend breaking into smaller groups. You may decide whether to keep the groups the same throughout the series or to allow them to mix things up.
- **Set the Tone:** Invite men to really participate in the discussions, both by sharing and listening. The discussion is not meant to be a lecture by any one person, but a means of learning from one another and growing in virtue alongside our fellow men. Treat each other with support and encouragement as Father Kapaun did.
- **Take Notes:** Likewise, encourage men to take notes during the video: What speaks to you? What ties into your experience? Where is an area you feel like you need to grow? The goal is to learn from and grow with Father Kapaun and other men in this journey. If something is powerful to you, it can be a great discussion topic for the group.
- **Discussion Questions:** The questions listed in the Study Guide are meant to help facilitate the conversation. If the discussion starts to stall or get stale around one question, move onto the next one. The group does not have to take the questions in order or even answer them all. Likewise, something else from the video may have struck you so that it provides a good discussion topic.
- **On-topic:** It's a natural tendency for group discussions to occasionally get sidetracked. While good things may come from this, do your best to gently steer the conversation back to the topic at hand.
- **Be Real and Be Supportive:** Real discussion with other men can be challenging, as it is often easier to talk about sports, the weather, or work. However, we encourage you to be bold and to go deep, as this is what can really transform your life. Remember, each man attending wants to get to heaven, and we need other men to help us get there. Be supportive and affirming of your fellow men, seeking to be a voice of encouragement as Father Kapaun was.

PROMOTING KAPAUN'S MEN

Finally, here are a few tips to assist you in promoting the Kapaun's Men Beatitude Series:

- **Personal Invitations:** Things like bulletin announcements or social media posts (see examples on the next page) are good and necessary, but by far the most effective way we have found to get people to a new group is by personal invitation— what we like to call hand-to-hand combat. Emails work okay, but taking a couple minutes to make a phone call or talking in person is very powerful. Men respond best to a personal invitation!
- **Pastor's Help:** Likewise, men tend to respond well when your pastor is excited about something. Pastors have a lot on their plates and may not feel like they are free to promote one program over another, but if they are willing to encourage men to participate in Kapaun's Men either publicly from the pulpit or on an individual basis, it will be a great aid to getting more men to participate.
- **Father Kapaun or Men's Group?** This is the chicken or the egg question: do you promote Father Kapaun's story and example to get men to attend, or do you try to build up the men's group concept? Depending on how well Father Kapaun is known in your area, you may need to focus on the importance and effect that journeying as group of men with each other can bring about, and then mix in a bit of Father Kapaun. However you promote it, your excitement will be the key influencer!
- **What's in the name?** Those of us who are familiar with Kapaun tend to call him "Father Kapaun", but this probably isn't the best strategy for promoting the series to people who aren't familiar with him. "Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun" might work better.
- **Share some info or a video:** As a way to help introduce people to Father Kapaun, you could share a short video of Father Kapaun found online, the trailer for the Beatitude Series, or use the "Share Topic" option on Formed, which allows you to create your own 3-minute or less clip to share.
- **Promotional Material:** Check out the Leader Resources site on Formed at <https://leaders.formed.org/> for flyers and posters, video trailers and other images to use in promoting Kapaun's Men.

Once again, if you have any questions or desire some guidance in leading your group, feel free to reach out to us at the contact information on the copyright page. We hope that you benefit from the example and intercession of Father Kapaun and continue to grow as holy and authentic men!

BULLETIN OR SOCIAL MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

Kapaun's Men Beatitude Series

Discover the true blessings of Christianity with Kapaun's Men as we explore Jesus' Beatitudes alongside Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun and our fellow men. Father Kapaun was a heroic Catholic priest and Army chaplain who spent his life in service to his fellow men on the battlefields and in the prison camps of Korea and witnessed to the truth of the Beatitudes in his daily life. _____ Parish will be hosting the 9-week Kapaun's Men Beatitude Series on Formed.org beginning on _____ in _____(location). All men of the parish are invited to join us as we accompany one another toward our heavenly goal! Contact _____ for more information.