

THE MEN ARE BACK !

Verso l'alto! Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, one of our “Big 3”, wrote these words across a photograph of himself climbing the vertical face of a mountain. Within a matter of days after penning these prophetic words, Pier Giorgio, whom Pope John Paul II called the Man of the Eight Beatitudes, died at the age of 24 from polio he contracted on one of his many visits to the poor. *Verso l'alto* is Italian and means Toward the Top.

“The Brotherhood of the Iron Will” (Kepha) is striving daily to reach the top. The success of Kepha is the salvation of souls. Kepha is Catholic men young and old, priests, fathers and sons, doing together what we might not do on our own. Through Kepha’s five pillars; apologetics, brotherhood, charity, mortification, and prayer, we are united in our pursuit of holiness. **Apologetics** allows us to be able to defend our one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. Without apologetics we would not be able to defend the hope that is in us. **Brotherhood** is the glue that holds our apostolate together. Make no mistake about it, brotherhood is the one thing others see that makes them admire Kepha. They see fathers standing beside their sons. They see boys encouraging each other to grow in holiness while having a great time being Catholic. **Charity** is learned and lived in Kepha. Whether it is visiting a nursing home on one of our monthly retreats or going door to door collecting groceries for a poor family. Giving of oneself is a requirement of Kepha brothers. Then there is **mortification**. That’s a word you do not hear very often. In Kepha mortification is a “pearl of great price!” The world we live in teaches no limits to anything. The secular acceptance of immediate satisfaction is turning people into slaves of their own flesh. In Kepha, learning to have water only with meals for a day or abstaining from meat on Fridays of the year is a healthy approach to becoming holy. If a man cannot say no to an Oreo cookie, then he will have no chance at disciplining his desires or passions. Then finally is **prayer**. In Kepha we are united in 5 states every day in morning prayers and a daily Divine Mercy or Rosary. These pillars of Kepha are just that. Something to hold us in place, accountable to each other.

Today’s culture of absent fathering is the major force behind many disturbing social problems; gangs, drug abuse, alcoholism, pornography, and premarital sex to name a few. If cultural continuity is to be improved, proper values must be transmitted from one generation to the next. The family is the most important mechanism in value transmission. But just because dad still lives at home, he may not have the tools he needs to become the father God intended him to be. Dad may not have been taught by his father how to be the spiritual head of the family. ***You see, the image of the father is found in the son. What the son observes in the father he himself will do.***

Conquering life’s difficulties on the Ascent toward Heaven – *Toward the Top!* – is what our Catholic father-son apostolate is all about. Our members are fathers and sons, boys with no fathers, men with no sons, and priests. KEPHA families play a role in many of our events, understanding as they do that the Church needs healthy, manly, and holy men to awaken the sleeping giant that is our proud patrimony, the Catholic Faith.

Are you buckled up and ready for high-octane Catholicism? Do you believe that the Catholic heart should beat with a healthy mix of Dynamic Orthodoxy, Infectious Joy? Are you tired of a limp and ineffectual Catholicism that needs an injection of Catholic testosterone? If you answered yes, then let me assure you: THE MEN ARE BACK!

It is my pleasure, as the National Director of KEPHA, to invite all Catholic men to join us! Kepha’s “Brotherhood of the Iron Will” will excite and inspire you. Now in five states, we are made of a variety of members, all in love with our Catholic Faith, all eager to defend the Holy Father. Whether you are a father seeking a Brotherhood in which orthodox Catholics provoke each other to Heaven, or a priest/seminarian looking for support in your vocation, or a boy searching for peers who want to “Play Hard and Pray Hard”, or a mother praying that the men in her life will evolve into authentic Catholic men, then Kepha is here to help you *Live and Die Catholic to the Core*.

Can you hear the trumpet? Please answer the call. Join us on the Ascent...Towards the Top!

Corey Harned
National Director