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**RISE Homily Guide  
Thank you for offering RISE to your parish community!**

*Here are some guiding thoughts for incorporating an invitation to RISE for the men of your parish through the readings of the three Sundays prior to the Sept 17, 2018 World-Wide RISE Challenge.***SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE PREPARING YOUR HOMILY TO INTRODUCE RISE:**

**WHAT’S THIS ALL ABOUT?**

1. RISE is a MOVEMENT of men all around the world. It’s a challenge for us to step-up and become who God has called us to be. At this time in our history, it’s more critical than ever that men RISE up and become saints.
2. RISE encourages men to live an examined life, then challenges them to live the examined life in the circles around them, e.g. family life, work, parish ministry, etc through an integrated and authentic masculinity.
3. RISE offers a brief 3-5 minute video and challenge offered to live each day intentionally. To take a man’s life from here to the next level: awake, inspired, engaged, and called to live life more fully invested in God, family, and others.
4. There are 4 video stories of men throughout the 30 days to connect men to the experiences and lessons learned by other men through the lens of son, brother, spouse, and father.
5. RISE has a growing online community as well as the invitation to walk through the Challenge with a friend via daily touching base and meeting if possible. The space provided under each day’s content has become an incredible source of support, inspiration and witnessing to what an examined life is all about.

**SOME SUPPLEMENTAL THOUGHTS TO INFUSE IN A SUNDAY HOMILY:**

**Homily notes for the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, Sept 2, 2018:**  
**Reading 2, James 1:17-18, 21B-22, 27**

*Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights…*

* God’s Fatherhood is the foundation for all of our lives. From Him streams all that’s good, beautiful, wholesome and true.
* But there can be many things that block out His unconditional love.
* St. John Paul II once wrote that the “original sin was an attempt to abolish fatherhood…”
* We know sin blocks the love of God. And we’re seeing sin in so many places today, in the Church, the culture around us, and our own hearts.
* The Church, the culture, our neighborhoods, our families NEED real men, real fatherhood, that is ready to open up and receive this “gift from above” that is the Father’s mercy.
* Real fatherhood, real masculinity comes from men who can open their lives, their hearts, to this “Father of lights”...
* There is a new movement of men who are doing just that. RISE is a 30 Challenge that seeks to refresh and rekindle in men a sense of who they are and what they’re called to be...

*Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.*

* RISE is structured to take men from their heads and hearts to an actual plan of action. Daily challenges encourage men to be “doers of the word” in their everyday life!
* (Parish name) is inviting all of our men, single, married, whatever place in life, to take the RISE 30 Day Challenge.
* The fruits of this movement have been incredible and we want this for our own parish community.

**GOSPEL: Gospel MK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**  
*“This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me…”*

* We’re reminded daily of the many failures of men, in politics, government, the entertainment industry, and in our own Church.
* Now more than ever every man in our parish needs to RISE... To be rekindled in their identity as sons, brothers, spouses and fathers of faith, and to bring us into real community.
* RISE is a 30-day challenge for all men that shares simple and profound messages each day, and shows you how to make real and lasting changes that will bring a greater peace and balance to your life.
* Men, we need to know our true identity… we need to know we have a mission, shoes that no one else can fill.
* RISE is a reset that will bring us back to our true name and encourage us forward in our vocation.
* Join the men of our parish as journey together beginning this September 17...
* (DETAILS then given as decided by parish leadership)

**Homily Notes for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, Sept 9, 2018:**

**Reading 1, Isaiah 35:4-7A:   
“***Thus says the LORD: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes...”*

* These are certainly days when fear can choke the heart, along with anger, bitterness, despair even, and many other feelings in the face of our current crisis.
* But we’re called to “be not afraid.”
* Our hearts need a reset, a place to go and start fresh with trust in God.

**GOSPEL: Mark 7**

*“He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man’s ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, ‘Ephphatha!’— that is, ‘Be opened!’”*

* The state of things in our Church and our culture today have sapped our strength, our faith perhaps, and shaken our trust.
* Christ in today’s gospel pulls a man aside to minister to him; to heal him.
* Christ meets him in a profoundly personal and incredible way, right where he is, right in his wounds.
* As we look at our church and our world and see men failing and falling all around us, we know the men in particular of (parish name) need a reset. We need to rise up and live the life God is calling us to live.
* This Fall is an opportunity for every man in our parish to RISE…. To be rekindled in our identity as sons, brothers, spouses and fathers of faith, and to bring us into real community.
* Men, we need this now more than ever.
* RISE shares simple and profound messages and cinematic stories lead you straight into your own heart, and show you how to make real and lasting changes that will bring a greater peace and balance to your life.
* Men, we need to know our true identity… we need to know we have a mission, shoes that no one else can fill.
* RISE is a reset that will bring us back to our true name and encourage us forward in our vocation.
* Join the men of our parish as journey together beginning this September 17!
* (DETAILS then given as decided by parish leadership)

**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday, Sept 16, 2018:**  
  
**Reading 2, James 2:14-18**

*“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?*”

* It means so much when one’s words are backed up by an action. Saying I love you has all that much more force when it’s followed or joined by an actual selfless act of love, whether it’s a personal word, a visible help with a project, or a comfort in a time of suffering.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8  
“***Along the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’”*

* Speaking directly to the men for a moment...Who do you say God is? If you would say He is the Lord, do you allow Him into your life in a profound way?
* Identity is a word used a lot in our culture today. What would you believe is your core identity as a man?
* We discover our identity first in our family, by looking up at our parents.
* As Catholics we continue this “looking up” straight in to the eyes of Christ Who reveals a loving Father for us. We belong to Him, we’re loved by Him!
* Today amidst a whirlwind of confusion over our identity and of the identity of the Church in the world, it’s time to reestablish and reclaim our true name, and to live an authentic masculinity that is not ashamed of who we are as men, and who we are to be for others.
* This Monday, men from our parish and all over the world will RISE up together.
* RISE is a 30-day challenge that shares with you simple and profound messages and cinematic stories lead you straight into your own heart, and show you how to make real and lasting changes that will bring a greater peace and balance to your life.
* Men, we need to know our true identity… we need to know we have a mission, shoes that no one else can fill.
* RISE is a reset that will bring us back to our true name and encourage us forward in our vocation.
* Join the men of our parish as journey together beginning this September 17!
* (DETAILS then given as decided by parish leadership)