

Outdoor Masculine Experiential Weekend Rallies 108 Men For Immediate Release

The King's Men organized an authentically masculine and Catholic retreat called "Into the Wild" at French Creek State Park in Elverson, PA from June 4-7th. "The purpose of the weekend was to bring men together for a rugged masculine experience that would enable men of all ages to learn skills that would help them in becoming a better leader, protector and provider," states Damian Wargo, Co-Founder and Director of Operations for The King's Men.

The bucolic grounds of French Creek State Park served as the backdrop for this powerful weekend filled with a variety of activities designed to activate the primal instincts in men. Each day was structured around the three fundamental roles of masculinity: leader, protector and provider. The "Leader Day" featured a team orienteering competition that challenged each man to stretch themselves in ways that most had yet to experience in their masculine journey. The men were divided in teams of four and strategized how they were going to collect as many contact points as they could find with their issued compass and map. "The men were challenged to discover and exercise their leadership skills in navigating through a very thick forest and terrain at French Creek" said orienteering course planner Jason Nardi.

"The Provider Day" featured a series of outdoor activities that were designed to activate man's ability to provide for their basic needs as well as the needs of others. The men were divided into three groups: fishing, outdoor church building and outdoor cooking. Men learned from Pro-Bass Tour fisherman James Charlesworth how to effectively reel in a meal. Some men used their carpentry skills to give glory to God by building "Our Lady of the Fields" outdoor chapel (unofficially named on the weekend). Other men learned from Chef John McGann that it is possible to have a pig roast even when the ground is wet. "It was truly inspiring to see young men mentoring older men and older men passing on their wisdom in the art of swinging an axe or building a fire" said Mark Houck Co-Founder and President of The King's Men.

The last day of the retreat engaged the men in their role as protectors of women and children. Men were invited to become men of action and to take on the greatest evils of our day like abortion and pornography.

Father Phillip Chavez, SOLT, spiritual advisor to The King's Men, summoned men's masculine hearts through dynamic daily homilies and engaging talks on the leader, protector and provider. "It was a privilege to work with so many men eager to grow in their masculine identity and offer them the graces from the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation."

For more information on "Into the Wild" contact Damian at 215-906-8878 or email damian@thekingsmen.org. The King's Men (www.thekingsmen.org) are a 501(c)(3) non-profit lay men's apostolate at the service of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.