

Dear Men,

May 1, 2008

April showers bring May newlyweds?! That's right! On April 25, 2008, the Lord called me to enter into the holy sacrament of matrimony with my wife: Ryan-Marie (McCarthy) Houck. My vocation as a husband and God willing as a father will no doubt broaden my perspective on masculinity and challenge me in new ways as I continue to live out my role as leader, protector and provider. Despite this great personal news for me during the month of April, *The King's Men* (TKM) had another busy and productive month uniting and building men.

As always, the first Wednesday of the month (4/2) brought TKM to Adult World in Montgomeryville, PA for our No More Porn Tour from 4-8 PM. Co-founder Damian Wargo and I experienced two unique occurrences at this protest. First, a Christian woman named Zeena saw our activism and was so inspired and edified that she decided to stop and join our witness, which she did for approximately 2 hours. Second, the management of the sexually oriented business (SOB) was so bothered by our activism that they proceeded to passively aggressively conduct a counter protest. After the blaring of music and the display of an adult entertainment DVD poster on the front steps did not produce the desired effects, two store managers decided to put the following words on their community billboard: "Don't mind them they're crazy." It was encouraging to know that indeed our witness is having an impact on motorists and employees of the SOB. For more information on the Tour please go to [www.thekingsmen.us](http://www.thekingsmen.us)

TKM was blessed once again to be invited to St. Ignatius parish in Yardley, PA on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. You might recall Damian and I spoke to a group of men about protecting their home from the dangers of pornography last month. This time, I presented a talk to fathers and sons entitled "You've Got What It Takes: What Every Father and Son Need to Know about their Relationship." In attendance were 10 fathers and 10 sons including one grandfather and World War II vet who wanted to know what he missed due to his father's death at a young age. Needless to say, I was humbled to speak to this group. Although most of the fathers were middle age with a son either in middle school or high school, there was one father and son present who will forever stand out in my mind. This father and son taught me much about the development of the father/son relationship, the bond that exists between the two and how we are never done learning about each other. For you see, this particular son was 35 years old.

On Wednesday April 16<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of participating in Kennedy-Kenrick's junior class retreat. TKM conducted three 30 minute workshops along with a great 45 minute Q&A session. Approximately 100 students jammed the youth center of St. Titus parish in Norristown, PA for what was a great day of authentic masculine spirituality.

Finally, I would like to tell you that I was asked in early February to submit an article to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on the issue of pornography. The USCCB's Respect Life department asked TKM to write this article and I am pleased to tell you that they will be printing the article in a brochure. I am told that this brochure will go out to all of the priests within the United States probably in late spring/early summer. All praise and thanks be to God for this amazing opportunity!!

Mark J. Houck  
Co-Founder/President