



Virtus et Veritas Ministries  
 www.v2ministries.org  
 "Virtue Through Adventure"

# Spring Newsletter

February 2025

## CALLED TO SERVE: VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Dcn. Randy's Story

The mention of V2 evokes so many thoughts and images. I guess after volunteering for over a decade, I have a lot to draw from. But I think more likely it is due to the good works that come out of the V2 Ministries mission, the boys who are impacted. The mission of V2 never strays far from my mind. When I volunteer at the Holy Family Shrine and see a family come in with camper-aged boys, you can be sure they do not leave without hearing about V2.

Speaking of these thoughts and images, let me take you through a day at V2 Camp. It starts in the cool July morning with the dads gathering for prayer and a hot cup of coffee. Soon, the still of the morning is broken by the arrival of 60 plus young men. Throughout the day, they are running from one activity to another. One activity may include diving into Scripture and another has them heaving water balloons at a seminarian. They engage in "friendly" competition on the archery range or gaga pit. They demonstrate their obedience in chores. They express their reverence and docility while at Mass. It's a day filled with camaraderie and joy and good food under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. And we bring our day to a close in front of the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration.

Personally, I continue to be amazed and in awe of the wonderful and holy men and women God has placed in my path on this faith journey. There is no doubt V2 has had a serious impact on my own faith through praying with everyone, sitting in on the chaplain's talks, and the tremendous brotherhood that the camp fosters. There is no doubt I am a far better version of myself compared to 10 years ago. I thank God every day for the opportunity to be involved with V2.

What I treasure about V2 is that it all starts with prayer and is guided by the Holy Spirit. I envision V2 being instrumental in a revival of vocations for the Archdiocese and beyond. I've seen the effect that is already being had on young men, and I am confident it will cause a ripple effect to the Church and all of society by building better leaders and better husbands, fathers, and priests. And that, my friends, is very exciting. Please join me in prayer for the continued growth and success of V2 Ministries.



Deacon Randy Park has been a core volunteer dating back to 2012 beginning at Leadership Camp in the Diocese of Lincoln. After three years there, he helped Toby establish Camp Virtus et Veritas in the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2015. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2017 by Archbishop Lucas and currently serves at St. Benedict the Moor in Omaha. He and his wife Terri have three children and four grandchildren.



# WHAT IS A RITE OF PASSAGE?

## Ministry Update from the Executive Director

In our last newsletter, I shared the exciting news of the newest V2 initiative to form young men, called Esto Vir, which is currently in the pilot stage. This name is Latin for "Be a man" and is taken from the writings of St. Josemaría Escrivá. Most of all, it perfectly captures our goal for the project: to build a 'rite of passage' which forms boys into virtuous Catholic men. But many of you may not be familiar with the concept of a rite of passage or have only a vague understanding of this ancient practice.

A rite of passage is a set of experiences from childhood to adulthood that teaches boys what it means to be a man in their particular society. **Historically, nearly all cultures across time and place utilized rites of passage** to cultivate the desired virtues in their next generation of men. They had a clear understanding that puberty is a critically important stage in a young man's life, that the formation he receives during this stage, or lack thereof, can make or break his future. This means, by extension, that the formation of a society's young men can make or break the future of that society.

Recognizing the importance of forming boys into men, they would guide their young men through a years-long maturation process from adolescence to adulthood, which included:

- **Moral and spiritual formation**
- **Experiences that forge male identity** (accepting responsibility, overcoming fear and adversity, taking risks, self-sacrifice, building confidence, managing conflict)
- **Preparation for leadership roles in the community**
- **Band of brothers:** a sense of belonging and deep bonds of brotherhood among boys
- **Intergenerational mentorship:** an invitation from the father into a greater community of men including elders of the community.

Fast forward to the current day, where our culture has completely lost the concept of a rite of passage. Where previous societies gave boys a path to manhood, our society gives them a question mark. Today's boys no longer know what it means to be a man or how to get there.

At V2, our vision is to reclaim the rite of passage. Taking the best from traditional rites of passage and infusing them with the wisdom of the Catholic Church, **we will provide boys a path to manhood rooted in virtue and authentic Catholic masculinity.** We invite you to unite with us in prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our next great adventure.



YOURS IN CHRIST,

**TOBY KORENSKY**

Executive Director  
Virtus et Veritas (V2) Ministries

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## JOIN US FOR THE SECOND-ANNUAL V2 ALUMNI NIGHT

Friday, March 14  
from 8 PM to 11 PM  
Free food and drink hosted  
by Runza – Elkhorn



## V2 SPRING SUMMIT

Saturday, April 26  
from 8 AM to 5 PM  
Camp Rivercrest  
*Registration opens soon!*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving**  
Wednesday, May 7



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