

with **FR. JOHN PUTNAM**  
*St. Mark Catholic Church  
Huntersville, NC*

**Q: Why did you decide to use Fraternus and/or Fidelis?**

A: It's become abundantly clear that in society today there is a loss of virtue, morality, and faith. Fidelis offers opportunities for our young people to form community with their peers, under the guidance of competent adults, so as to grow in virtue and stay strong in faith.

**Q: How has it helped your parish become more vibrant?**

A: In addition to strengthening our youth members, participation in both Fraternus and Fidelis have a tremendous impact on our adult leaders. This is a great blessing because when parents see their children positively impacted, they themselves are inspired to take a deeper and more meaningful walk.

**Q: What tips would you give to other priests looking to implement Fraternus and/or Fidelis in their church?**

A: When you first start to consider sponsoring in the parish, it can seem overwhelming. Where will I find the adults? How can we afford the annual dues? These organizations change lives, and when you find a few adults who are interested in helping our young people — and they are out there in the pews! — it is not a difficult undertaking. Priestly support and encouragement are needed, but it is not all up to you!

**Q: What has surprised you the most about implementing Fraternus and/or Fidelis?**

A: Many of the adult leaders of these organizations are a huge support to me in my pastoral responsibilities. They form a wonderful community of believers that really help the overall efforts of the parish to bear great fruit.



"In addition to strengthening our youth members, participation in both Fraternus and Fidelis have a tremendous impact on our adult leaders."



**FIDELIS**

3210 N Pleasantburg #1017  
Greenville, SC 29609  
info@fidelisonline.org  
855-588-4222

Fidelis forms girls — heart, mind, body, and soul — into a sisterhood of mature, virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women.

**AUDIENCE**

Girls, Aged 12-18

**FOCUS**

Building Sisterhood  
Mentorship from Older Women  
Intentional Virtues

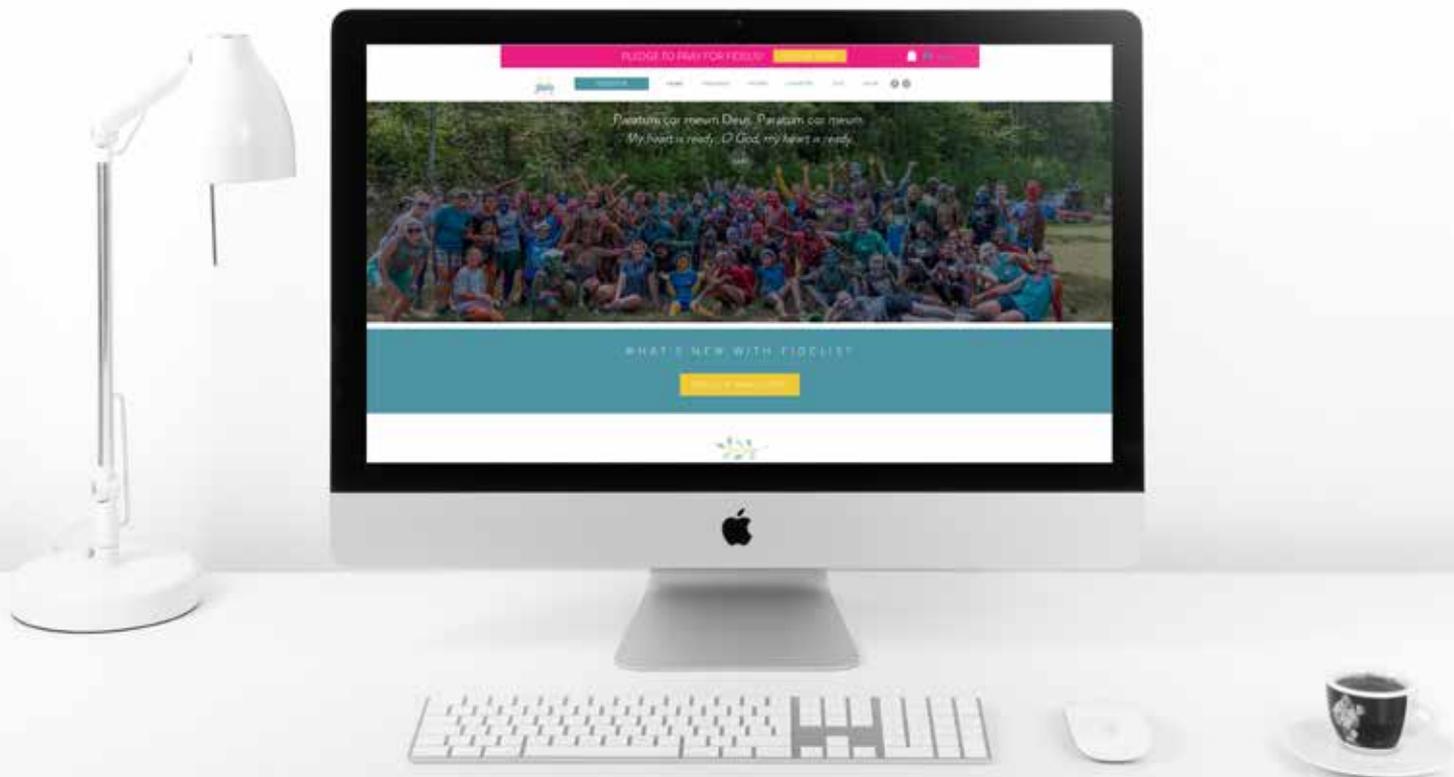
**FORMAT**

Movie Clips, Activities, Games  
Prayer, Discussion, Personal Testimonies

**ANNUAL RETREAT**

July 13-17 2022 in Tennessee  
All Chapters

[www.fidelisonline.org](http://www.fidelisonline.org)



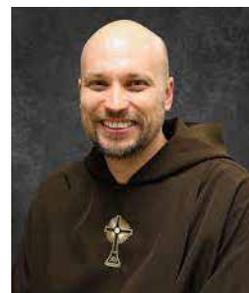


with **FR. LUKE  
WILGENBUSCH**

*Our Lady of the Lake*

*(615) 887-9631*

*fr.wilgenbusch@nashvocations.org*



with **FR. JOHN PAUL  
ZELLER, MFVA**

*Franciscan Missionaries*

*of the Eternal Word*

*(205) 296-9862*

*fr\_johnpaul@ewtn.com*

**Q: Why did you decide to use the Fraternus ministry?**

A: Fraternus helps fathers, young men, and boys to take their faith seriously in a way that I have never experienced in any other parish program. It is always a lot of fun, and yet it never avoids challenging the brothers to confront head on the real struggles and battles that come with the invitation to be a disciple of Christ.

**Q: How has it helped your parish become more vibrant?**

A: I know that I can always count on the captains and brothers in Fraternus to be a great example to the whole parish of what it looks like to live one's faith seriously. The witness of so many young men earnestly striving for virtue and also desiring to spend time with their fathers is both countercultural and inspiring.

**Q: What tips would you give to other priests looking to implement Fraternus?**

A: For any priest that wants to bring Fraternus to their parish I would say that the first important step is to invest in a group of men who are dedicated to their faith and convicted about the mission. Specifically, it's important to find men who understand that co-ed youth groups, while doing many great things for the Church, are often not as well equipped to speak to boys in today's culture about virtuous and holy masculinity.

**Q: What has surprised you the most about implementing this ministry?**

A: I continue to be surprised by the way that Fraternus helps men to connect with their fathers. I think it is common for communication to break down between a dad and his son when the young man is in middle school and high school. Without explicitly addressing that issue, however, Fraternus has a subtle way of bringing the two together. It is always edifying to see that happen.

**Q: Why did you decide to use the Fraternus ministry?**

A: I have been blessed to be part of Fraternus in Birmingham for 7 years. In a short time, we began to see how Fraternus was one among many solutions to the secularization of the future.

**Q: How has it helped your parish become more vibrant?**

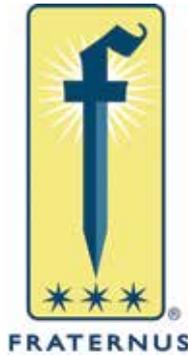
A: I have seen men who were good Catholics become better Catholics. I have seen men who don't regularly avail themselves to Confession, make Confession a regular staple of their spiritual life.

**Q: What tips would you give to other priests looking to implement Fraternus?**

A: Be present! Make yourself available. We are all busy and can make every excuse in the book. The young men notice when their priest is present and engaged. The Sacrament of Penance is an essential part of every meeting. The Fathers and their sons, both take advantage whenever we have priests available to hear Confessions.

**Q: What has surprised you the most about implementing this ministry?**

A: The biggest surprise to myself and most of the men of our Birmingham Chapter was and continues to be that Fraternus is not primarily for the youth, but it has benefited the men the most. I have seen and heard about marriages being strengthened. In our Chapter, when we started to take ownership over our role as men and seeing firsthand how accountability in a Brotherhood of Men, that has been the greatest and most welcomed surprise to most of us.



**FRATERNUS**

PO Box 1171  
Pickens, SC 29671  
info@fraternus.net  
855-879-3823

A faith based mentoring program for young men ages 11-18 with a focus of living a virtuous life in the ordinary life. Fraternus engages the masculine heart and builds virtue through weekly meetings, outdoor excursions, discipleship groups, and summer camp.

**AUDIENCE**

6th -12th Grade Boys

**FOCUS**

God the Father & Fatherhood  
Multi-Generational Brotherhood

**FORMAT**

Weekly Meetings  
Outdoor Excursions & Summer Camp  
Discipleship Groups

**ANNUAL RETREAT**

July 13th -17th, Summer Ranch, Tennessee

[www.fraternus.net](http://www.fraternus.net)

