

Sacred Story Community



SSC Candidacy Application Process & Information

Candidates should feel drawn to be part of an intentional small faith community that calls one to a daily relationship with Christ that also reaches out to serve those most in need.

A candidate will know he or she is right for this commitment by having a desire to fulfill the obligations of both a candidate and a full member once received into the SSC following the initiation period.

Follow the application process chosen by your pastor. He will make the final determination on the candidates chosen for the SSC beta-project once individuals apply.

We are encouraging SSC communities to organize by male and female gender for this initial test. Our research indicates this is the most effective way to create the strongest bonds and to have sustained success with group retention.^[1]

The end goal and purpose for joining a Sacred Story Community is to join with others who, like you, desire to live your Catholic and Christian faith to the fullest extent and to be supported and to support others who desire the same goal.

[1] Our conclusions from the research I have done on gender-segregated small groups are as follows:

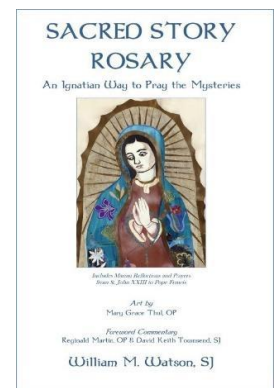
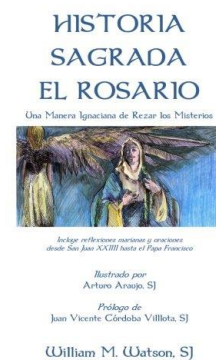
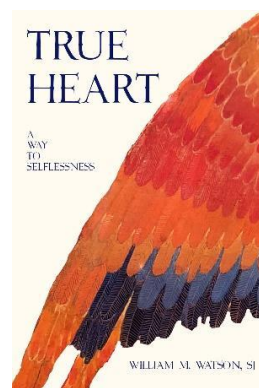
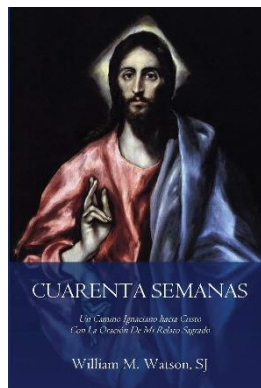
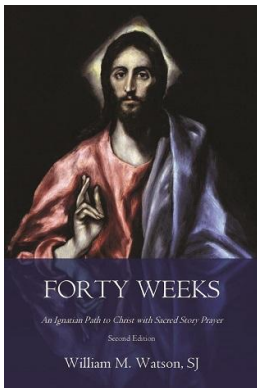
1. Ministry leaders perceive gender segregation as helpful, especially in young adults.
2. It provides opportunity for the cultivation of identity in terms of gender.
3. It provides opportunity for role models and understanding mentors.
4. Gender segregation is helpful in situations where participants are asked to be vulnerable.
5. Removes the distraction of attraction.
6. Boosts overall participation.

Information for candidates: <https://sacredstory.net/candidatetoolkit/>

Información para candidatos: <https://sacredstory.net/comunidad/>

SSC Spiritual Disciplines for Candidates

- Candidates who apply will be selected by the Pastor for the beta-project into a Men's and a Women's group, with potential specific groups for Young Adults and High School, as well as in English and Spanish.
- All Adult Candidates must take the [**Forty Weeks—An Ignatian Path to Christ**](#) journey: completing it and the *Whole-Life Confession* in the first part of the journey plus Consecration to the Immaculate Heart and Sacred Heart.
- All Young Adult Candidates must take the [**True Heart—A Way to Selflessness**](#) journey: completing it with the final 8-hour all night Eucharistic Adoration and Consecration.
- Adult Candidates begin the daily practice of the Examination of Conscience in part two of **Forty Weeks** and Young Adult candidates at the end of **True Heart**.
- All Candidates have a regular sacramental life of weekly Sunday Mass and Monthly Confession
- All Candidates agree to pray daily by name for all their fellow candidates
- All Candidates are asked to pray a Rosary once a week
- All Candidates attend a 60-minute meeting with their SSC group weekly



SSC Spiritual Disciplines for Full Members

- Weekly Sunday Mass
- Weekly One-Hour Meeting (Limit to one hour)
- Daily Examination of Conscience
- Daily Mass & Communion as is possible
- Monthly Confession
- Monthly one-hour Eucharistic Adoration (more is optimal)
- Weekly Personal and/or Sacred Story Community Rosary
- Individual Consecration to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart
- SSC APOSTOLATE: Monthly Service to Those in Need
 - Each SSC should select an apostolate to which they commit themselves and do a minimum of one-hour (individual or group) service.
 - The apostolate could be to the materially or spiritually poor
 - A priority Spiritual Apostolate is outreach to non-practicing adult and young-adult Catholics to invite them to Sunday Church with you.
 - Corporal Works of Mercy (visiting the sick, shut-ins, prisoners).
- Invite Fallen-Away Catholics to the *Whole-Life Confession* Journey or Eucharistic Adoration
- Commit to guide new SSC candidates through the **Forty Weeks** and/or **True Heart**