



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS FAMILIA ET VITA

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Vatican City, March 17, 2017

Dear friends in Christ,

It is my joy, on the occasion of your *20th Annual God's Squad Men's Conference*, to offer every reassurance to you all for the wonderful service offered by each of you in your unique mission and spirituality as Catholic fathers within the world.

Heartened by your singular response to this, God's calling, may I therefore, encourage you in all your endeavours as you seek to sanctify your homes, your family life, your place of work, and the people with whom you come into direct contact in your day to day work or ministries.

One of the signs of having embraced the Gospel of Our Lord is the zeal for souls; a zeal which translates itself into drawing others to Christ.

The Joy of the Gospel, which seeks always the sanctification of our lives, our families, and even our society, inspires those who have embraced their call to holiness to reach out to others with a "spirit of power, love and self-control". You are therefore, not alone. The Holy Spirit is and will be with you in all your endeavours.

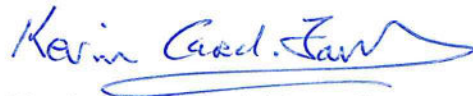
Rest assured that as Lay Faithful in our world, Jesus Christ Our Lord, has chosen you to be the "light of the world", the "salt of the earth" (Matthew 5: 13-14).

To all participants of this year's *God Squad's* conference, direct therefore, and without fear, all your work, your home, and the affairs of this God given world according to the principles of the Gospel. Seed hope, reconciliation, love and mercy wherever you are or go. Be Apostles of Christ's love.

As with St. Joseph, the Guardian of the Holy Family, may your call to make of your home and families a *domestic church*, take root by the holiness of your authentic Christian vocation as fathers and husbands, and from there, spread into the wider community, as well as on all whom you meet.

Through the powerful intercession of St. Joseph -Patron of the Universal Church, of Workers and of Fathers- may God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it evermore to greater fulfilment in your lives.

With assurances of my prayers,



+ **Kevin Cardinal Farrell**
Prefect