



Missionaries of the
Holy Spirit
in the Family

MHSF Chapters: What's Required?

Roles & Tasks of Leaders
Costs of Formation
Necessary Resources

A Caveat about Leadership

One essential point when it comes to bringing MHSF to your parish or community comes down to having the right people ready to lead your group. For MHSF, this does not mean that someone must be theologically trained, have former experience serving the Church, or that they even need to feel “holy enough”. What we are asking of those who help lead our chapters is as simple as your personal willingness to surrender your marriage or your priesthood, and your own life to the Lord of the Universe. He will take care of the rest. These are the actions of the great saints, and this is from where fruit is born.

For us, leadership is not the equivalent of a set of skills- like motivating and encouraging a group- but it can be taught, and we can all grow in being leaders in our own sphere of influence. Leadership is ultimately about imitating the Leader, Jesus Christ, and translating that into our own unique circumstances.

Leading and facilitating an MHSF group is something we take as a serious responsibility, and one which can be (and should be) done with intentionality and with joy. We will help accompany you along the way so that you have the opportunity to see this role as one of great grace in your life.

Thank you for your discernment, and for your willingness to say yes to growing in holiness together!

- *Chance & Lora Unger*

Standards for MHSF Lead Couples

Standards:

- Each lead couple will be a Catholic in good standing, aiming for a life deeply rooted in the Sacraments of the Church
- Will be married >1 year
- A willingness to be open and vulnerable with your spouse and other families in your chapter
- To be generally sociable in your community or parish and enjoy being with other families
- Open to leading a group in simple prayer, small group discussion, and in building and maintaining fruitful relationships with new individuals or families.

Commitments:

- Attend and complete MHSF Summer Training
- Attend monthly meetings with your MHSF Chapter (although these will vary in type throughout formation) to the best of your ability.
- Placing orders for books & resources (you will be reimbursed) once per year.
- Deciding and facilitating a consistent time and location of your monthly meetings.
- Scheduling/discussing with a priest to have adoration and confession offered at each gathering.
- Being the main point of contact with families in your chapter
- Effectively communicating with the pastor at each parish about the use of space, needs for adoration & confession, or other logistics that will be helpful
- Helping facilitate your chapter's MHSF Retreat (w/ direct aid from MHSF co founders)

(An example of a monthly meeting might look like having dinner at 6:30pm, teaching/group discussion at 7:15pm, and Adoration/Confessions begin at 8:30pm)

How we will aid you along the journey:

- Two years of accompaniment directly from MHSF Cofounders, including:
 - Quarterly check-ins, involving time for prayer, discussion, and addressing any unique questions or needs for you and your group
 - Brief audio resources to prepare before each MHSF Session
 - MHSF Video Series to accompany formation
 - Direct access as needed
 - Practical and logistical help with monthly gatherings, retreat, and other commitments
- Quarterly spiritual direction (optional)
- MHSF Workbook & Resources to distribute to your group

Roles of priests with MHSF

General Commitments:

- MHSF monthly meetings last for three hours split up into dinner (first hour), teaching/group discussion (second hour), and Adoration and Confessions (third hour). We would love you, as much as possible, to be present at each meeting over the course of the two-year formation. We have found a particular power and grace is present when a priest is regularly present at the meetings.
- We are also aware how busy a priest's schedule can be. In the event you cannot attend a monthly meeting:
 - a. Be in communication with the MHSF Lead Couple
 - b. With the help of the Lead Couple, arrange someone who can teach the curriculum and facilitate the group discussion during the second hour of the gathering
 - c. Invite a priest who can expose the Blessed Sacrament and hear Confessions

(An example of a monthly meeting might look like having dinner at 6:30pm, teaching/group discussion at 7:15pm, and Adoration/Confessions begin at 8:30pm)

How we would like to aid you along the journey:

- Chance, Lora, and Fr. Holdren will be available for any questions that arise, and for practical help you may desire in connecting with your couples.
- Providing the MHSF Workbook & Resources to use with your group
- Offering extra resources including:
 - Brief audio resources to prepare before each MHSF Session
 - MHSF video series to accompany formation
 - Practical and logistical help with monthly gatherings, retreat, and other commitments

Cost of Formation

MHSF is an incredibly valuable experience for families, and just like any other type of formation there are costs to allow for that to happen. Participation in MHSF will include some fees, which we have outlined below. These fees for missionaries help cover the costs of book and print materials, fees for programs, retreat costs, and some general administrative fees.

Below is a list of formation materials that come as a part of being involved with MHSF:

- **MHSF Workbook (Print and Digital)**
- **Online Content:**
 - Monthly Formation Emails
 - Formation Videos
 - Audio Formation
- **Year One Reading Resources:**
 - I Believe In Love (Jean C.J. d'Elbée)
 - In the School of the Holy Spirit (Jacques Philippe)
 - Spousal Prayer (Deacon James Keating)
- **Year Two Reading Resources:**
 - Fruitful Discipleship (Sherry Weddell)
 - Familiaris Consortio (Pope St. John Paul II)

Total fees for the two years of formation will cost \$400 per couple. (Over the period of formation, this adds up to about \$8/month *per person*.)

This fee includes all costs of materials received, retreats and events, and all the above items (and more) over the time of formation. Once an MHSF chapter's couples have been finalized, payment can be made either:

- By the local parish on behalf of each couple,
- by each couple separately, or
- with aid from other groups (such as local Knights of Columbus, etc.)

There have been a variety of ways other families have offset any financial burdens and joined MHSF. If such a burden exists, please reach out to us.

Thank you for making this a prayerful part of discernment and helping us create a sustainable model of MHSF!

Needed Resources for a Chapter

To help you organize the necessary components for an MHSF chapter, below is a basic checklist to guide your preparation (mentally or practically). Any given month, each of the following will be necessary for each MHSF gathering. *(All details of such are covered during MHSF Summer Training and through accompaniment from MHSF co-founders.)*

Necessary Components:

- ☐ Lead Couple(s)
- ☐ Priest(s)
- ☐ Participating Families
- ☐ Group communication medium (calls, texts, email, or messaging apps)
- ☐ MHSF Formation Content (Formation Workbook, Books, Online Resources, etc.)
- ☐ Meeting Location (Local parish recommended)
- ☐ Prayer Location (Local parish recommended for Eucharistic Adoration & Confessions)
- ☐ Food & Drink (potluck style most commonly used)