Trinity House Community: A Vision for Renewed Faith & Culture
Our Mission
To renew faith and culture by inspiring families to make their homes into a little taste of heaven.

Our Work

We INSPIRE families by sharing the vision at Trinity House Café. Our top-rated ministry has been serving thousands of guests since 2014. We plan to share our vision for renewed faith and culture through this public model of a Christian home.

We TEACH families how to make their homes into a little taste of heaven. We’ll start with parish workshops that teach our five-step plan for building a Trinity House, and then add talks, retreats, and a book.

We EQUIP families with tools to build their Trinity Houses. We’ll start with a weekly e-letter, blog, and Christian living products, and plan to add podcasts, videos, online learning, a quarterly journal, and subscription boxes.

We ENCOURAGE families by connecting them with other Trinity House families. We’ll start with a St. John Leesburg Community Chapter and add chapters as we grow. Some chapters may grow strong enough to support their own café to inspire more families.

Our Vision
A network of Trinity Houses proposing the Church’s vision for a culture of life.
Trinity House Community Leadership

Soren Johnson, Director

Soren founded the Trinity House Community with his wife, Ever. Soren has over 18 years of leadership experience, including teaching and communications positions at Catholic secondary and university levels, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Diocese of Arlington. From 2008-2011, he served as Senior Vice President at Prison Fellowship International, and from 2004-2008 and 2011-2019 as Director of Communications and Director of Evangelization for the Diocese of Arlington. Soren holds a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and an M.A. in Theology from St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. He has been published in the Washington Post, Richmond Times Dispatch, Columbia, and the Arlington Catholic Herald, and has extensive media and public speaking experience. Born and raised in West Chicago, IL, he now enjoys family life with Ever, Ever Therese, Owen, Berend, Virginia and Charlie in Leesburg, Virginia.

“We are excited to be taking the step to full-time ministry together. Today’s Christian families are hungry for tools to help them live out the faith. We invite you to come alongside us in prayer, partnership, and support.” Ever & Soren

Ever Johnson, Director

Ever Johnson, Director

A proud mom of five children ages 7-16, Ever is co-founder of Trinity House Community and Manager at Trinity House Café. Previously, she worked for ten years as George Weigel’s Research Assistant at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. At EPPC, she assisted with research and translations for Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II and organized the Tertio Millennio Seminar in Krakow, Poland. Ever holds a B.A. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin. During and after college, she worked four sessions of the Texas State Legislature as well as at the American Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland. Ever holds an M.A. in International Relations from the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies and an M.A. in Theology from the Dominican House of Studies. Ever was raised in a large Catholic family of restaurateurs in Fort Worth, TX. She has been published in Magnificat and given many talks for parish groups.
The Problem

For every one person who joins the Church this year, six will leave. Why is faith dying out and culture becoming so toxic?

Impersonal Lifestyles

Today’s lifestyle is focused on pursuing our own interests, work, activities, things, and entertainment. Being together at home, caring for each other, enjoying family culture, and reaching out to neighbors, has been replaced by the home as merely a place to sleep and keep our stuff. Relating with and serving other people, our highest good, is no longer a priority. We long to spend time with and be directly cared for by loved ones, but they seem too busy to meet our deepest needs. As a result, we remain personally underdeveloped and learn to be self-interested too.

Dying Faith

In the life of the Trinity, each person lives for the other. God’s life of being for others overflows as a gift to us – first through our creation in that image and then through our restoration to it by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But when our lifestyle means our loved ones rarely put us first, and we do not readily experience the fulfillment of interpersonal communion, it makes it hard to believe in a God who lives for others. It becomes difficult to pass on the faith. Without prayer and sacraments, the grace needed to be other-centered wanes.

Toxic Culture

As traditional home, community, and faith life fades along with the rich, personal relationships that ground human happiness, an inhumane environment is created. Other people come to be seen as a means or an obstacle to getting what you want. This lifestyle undermines the person and family’s hard-wiring in the image of a God who lives for others. As the possibility for a meaningful and happy life recedes, our culture surges with anxiety, incivility, loneliness, depression, poor health, addictions, and suicide.
The Solution
Families making their homes into Trinity Houses can bring back the faith and renew our culture.

Trinity Houses
Parents who experience our workshop learn how to make their home into a “Trinity House.” By grounding their family in prayer and sacraments, they are able to access the grace to be other-centered in the image of the Trinity. With the help of our tools, they put practices in place to develop individual members, build a rich household economy and family culture, and create a habit of sharing their faith-filled life with neighbors and friends. Today’s self-interested lifestyle is gradually replaced by an interpersonal way of life that is centered on being with and for other people.

Enlivened Faith
As families experience the joy of God’s life with and for others, children receive the faith by experience. God, the saints, and why you want to be like them makes sense now. Family members pray together, study scripture, partake of sacraments, regularly worship together, and become active members of their church in order to be strengthened for love in action. The family’s fulfilling, active, and effective life of faith becomes a beacon for neighbors. A life inspired by faith is once again an attractive force for good. The Church begins to heal and grow.

Healthy Culture
As Trinity Houses begin to overflow with the graces of divine life, the Christian family is strengthened, young men and women inherit a resilient, vibrant faith, community needs are met, belief in a God who gives himself for others spreads, and people begin to desire to live God’s life for others too. Trinity House Community Chapters based in parishes encourage families on this journey. As people are drawn together by grace, our culture’s toxic symptoms dissipate and are gradually replaced by signs of the new springtime of the Gospel and a culture of life.
The Trinity House Ministry

Renewing faith and culture by inspiring families to make their homes into a little taste of heaven.

1. Inspire: Trinity House Café(s)

The café shares our vision for the Christian household – grounded in a life of faith, caring for people and spending time together with a warm welcome, attentive listening, good food, and a rich culture of sharing art, music, books, educational events, and family activities.

2. Teach: Workshop & Books

Our “Heaven in Your Home” workshops, talks, retreats and books teach families how to make their homes into a little taste of heaven—renewing the family’s ability to pass on the faith and make a positive contribution to a healthy culture.

3. Equip: Tools & Products

Our weekly e-letter, website, social media, blog, podcasts, videos, online learning platform, journal, Christian living products and subscription boxes equip families with practical tools to translate the workshop into daily life.

4. Encourage: Community Chapters

Our parish-based Community Chapters encourage families to continue building up their Trinity Houses and sharing this way of life with other families. Our hope is that some chapters will grow strong enough to support their own chapter house café, spreading the vision to more families in their communities.
The Workshop
How does a family make their home into a Trinity House?

The Five Levels of a Trinity House

5. Sharing a Faith-Filled Life with Neighbors and Friends
4. Enjoying a Vibrant Family Culture
3. Building a Productive Household Economy
2. Attending to the Development of Each Unique Member
1. Rooting the Family in God’s Life through Prayer and Sacraments

What are some practices that set a Trinity House apart?

• The family and home is consecrated to the Holy Trinity, providing a shared commitment to a life of interpersonal communion. The prayer corner facilitates family prayer, and features a Trinity icon. Participation in the life of the Church is emphasized.

• Family dinners and meetings emphasize personal presence over a life of busyness and distraction, with a focus on the development of each unique member, exploring relationship, communication, personality, spiritualities, charisms and healing.

• Each family member’s gifts contribute to creating a productive household economy for the care of all.

• Family traditions take root around observing the liturgical year, creating a vibrant family culture to enjoy and share.

• Trinity Houses welcome neighbors and friends. Community service is emphasized.
Foundations
How have our experiences prepared us to undertake this new phase of the ministry?

2001-2005

- Ever and Soren Johnson married in 2001, begin building family of seven
- Ever pursues M.A. in Theology and continues 10 years as Research Assistant to George Weigel, biographer of Pope St. John Paul II
- Soren begins 18-year career in communications, prison ministry, and evangelization

2006-2013

- Ever and Soren found the non-profit in 2006 to respond to the call for a new evangelization
- The ministry launches a popular 6-week seminar on Catholic Social Teaching and sponsors numerous community and culture-building events
- Ever and Soren share the vision for Trinity House Café and raise $125K in start-up funds

2014-2019

- Trinity House Café opens in October 2014
- Trinity House serves the community daily with food, drinks, books, gifts and events, earning top ratings for five years straight
- The Trinity House vision for renewing faith and culture beginning in the home is born from daily experience of hospitality in the public square
**Timeline**

*How will we grow into the expanded ministry over the next few years?*

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**Full-Time Launch**

Oct. 1 — Dec. 31, 2019

- Debut refreshed café décor, more gift shop space
- Launch new website and blog
- Launch “Heaven in Your Home” Workshop on Oct. 5th at St. John the Apostle in Leesburg
- Launch weekly e-letter, featuring tools to equip families to build up their Trinity House
- Launch first Trinity House Community Chapter
- Schedule 2020 workshops
- Continue to share vision with individuals and groups

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**2020 – 2021**

- Expand reach of workshops to several dioceses, reaching 5,000 parents through workshops, talks and retreats
- Expand ministry through podcasts and videos
- Expand café’s Christian living product offerings and start subscription box service to help families observe liturgical year
- Launch 10 new Trinity House Community Chapters
- Write *Make Your Home a Trinity House* book
- Cultivate franchisees for Trinity House Cafés

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**Serving the Church for Decades to Come**

- Exponential Annual Growth in:
  - Families who have been inspired to make their home a Trinity House
  - Families equipped to build with tools that appeal to every personality
  - Families encouraged by other families in Community Chapters
  - Young men and women entering adulthood with resilient and vibrant faith
  - Individuals reached through families and café ministries

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How will we grow into the expanded ministry over the next few years?
Trinity House Testimonials

“Trinity House brought me back to the faith. It presents the faith in such a welcoming and beautiful way.”
– A woman in her 30s who reached out to share her testimony

“Trinity House demonstrates the power of hospitality in the public square, a ministry of presence, of sharing a meal with people.”
– Jennifer Fulwiler, best-selling author and Sirius XM radio host

“Trinity House Café is an exciting and encouraging model of the local Church going on the offense in an unassuming yet effective and attractive way. As a platform for evangelization literally located at the corner of Church and Market Streets, Trinity House embodies the call to be a Church not in ‘maintenance mode,’ but rather in a permanent state of mission.”
– George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow and William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies at the Ethics and Public Policy Center

“Trinity House’s ministry is playing the long game, addressing the roots of culture.”
– Tom West, Purcellville, VA
Trinity House welcomes and serves guests 54 hours a week, 309 days a year. Every year:

- over 25,000 guests experience the ministry at Trinity House
- guests purchase over 1,000 Christian books and gifts at the only Christian shop within 25 miles; visitors help themselves to over 1,500 free Christian books
- over 20 area church groups hold small group studies or other events at the café
- hundreds of families with kids enjoy the playroom, story time, mom’s coffee hour, or just playtime with friends
- we host over 75 live music nights, including many evenings of live Christian music
- more area teens and college students find us a welcoming place to relax and do homework
- we host two or three art exhibits as well one of the largest displays of Eastern Orthodox icons in the nation
- the café receives awards such as “Most Loved Kid-Friendly Restaurant” by Hulafrog or “Top Five Coffee Shops” by Inside Leesburg
- we have maintained our 4.5-star rating on Yelp, underscoring our effectiveness in welcoming, listening and serving guests from every and no faith background