



CHAPLAIN'S *report*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *In service to One. In service to all.*

LEARNING THE FAITH, LIVING THE FAITH ♦ 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326, USA

The Coherence of Love and Sacrifice

BY FATHER JONATHAN D. KALISCH, O.P. | DIRECTOR OF CHAPLAINS AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus,” St. Jean Marie Vianney said. Many of our brother Knights have had the privilege of serving as members of an honor guard, ushering, venerating and praying as the incorrupt heart relic of St. Jean Vianney made its way across the U.S. this year. Thousands of priests, seminarians, consecrated religious and lay faithful prayerfully encountered the saint’s heart and sought renewal in their own lives. As one pastor of a church dedicated to St. Jean Vianney told his parishioners in the presence of the relic, “May my priesthood be forever changed from this day forward.”

The national tour was held in conjunction of the 200th anniversary of the saint’s arrival in Ars, France. The little town once emanated with a secular mentality and utter indifference to God — so godless that no priest was willing to be assigned there. It is striking that this town forged over the course of 41 years of tireless and dedicated service to the Gospel the patron saint of priests.

One hundred years after Vianney died, St. John XXIII reminded priests of the coherence between love and sacrifice, a coherence that is necessary to produce faithful fruits. “Almost everyone knows his answer to the priest who complained to him that his apostolic zeal was bearing no fruit: ‘You have offered humble prayers to God, you have wept, you have groaned, you have sighed. Have you added fasts, vigils, sleeping on the floor, castigation of your body? Until you have done all of these, do not think that you have tried everything’” (*Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia*, 72).

As the Church recalls the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us encourage our brother Knights and their families to seek that deep unity and coherence of the love and sacrifice that the holy heart of St. Jean Vianney inspires. May the summer rest bring about a renewal in our own dedication to serve and show forth the love of God the Father especially amidst every indifference and trial ahead.

Vivat Jesus!



The heart of St. Jean Vianney displayed at St. Jean Vianney Parish in Goodyear, Ariz. (Image by Jesus Valencia)

Before the Lord in Heartfelt Repentance

FROM A HOMILY FROM ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI | JUNE 7, 2019

This is no ordinary time for the Church and for the Order. It is a time when, as never before, both the Church and the Order need your leadership.

It is plain for all to see that the Church is in the midst of a global crisis of credibility, a crisis generated by the abuse of minors by clergy and by a lack of accountability on the part of bishops. It is also plain for all to see that, in many parts of the world, the Church is facing a crisis of belief among its own members. Nearly 37% of American Catholics are seriously considering leaving the Church because of the abuse crisis and its mishandling by Church authority. Young people are leaving the Catholic Church in droves, not only because of the abuse crisis, but also because they have not been formed in the faith.

Today more people than ever wrongly believe that they can find happiness without God, without Jesus Christ, without a community of faith, without the sacraments. More than a few think that being “religion free” is essential to their freedom.

All this and more profoundly affects the Knights of Columbus which rightly situates itself in the heart of the Church and continues to serve at all levels as “the strong right arm of the Church.” Declining Mass attendance and Church membership challenge the Order.

Either we can accept these facts with fatalistic indifference, and in so doing assume that our Order will become a shadow of itself, or else we can decide that in God’s grace we are going to do something about it. ...

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Christian Manhood

When a man enters the seminary, the first thing to be looked at is his humanity. Is it whole, integral, formable, capable of attaining human and Christian virtue, capable of relating well to other people, capable of empathy toward those in need, able to exercise leadership, able to communicate well and wisely to others? ... The basic element of leadership and service — at home, at work, and in the Church — is the quality of one's humanity. And in this Catholic men's fraternal organization, the largest in the world, leadership requires of you a sound and virtuous Christian manhood

Not long ago that proposition would almost have been taken for granted, but not these days in which our culture is deliberately blurring the lines of sex and gender and denigrating the identity and roles of men, husbands and fathers, much to detriment of family life, our children, our Church and our culture. This has nothing to do with machismo, an aggressive male bravado that speaks more of insecurity than of strength. It has everything to do with being the man, the husband, and the father that the Holy Spirit is calling you to be and intends you to be, especially in this hour when, as never before, you are called to be servant-leaders. ...

Progress in the Christian Life

Not a one of us, myself included, should imagine ourselves to be a finished product. On the contrary, we are all a work-in-progress, but the operative word in the Christian life should be progress. Are we making progress in becoming virtuous Christian men who embrace our faith wholeheartedly, who bear witness to it, who attract others to it and help them live it? Or, are we running in place, complacent, perhaps taking a victory lap? Where can we turn to find out which it is? ...

One place is the Gospel that was proclaimed at this Mass. It is a Gospel scene that is indelibly etched in my heart and mind because in it Peter is confronted by the Risen Lord for his three-fold betrayal. The Savior does not wag his finger at Peter and say, "How dare you deny me when I needed you the most? What kind of a man are you to deny me in front of a casual bystander?" ... When Jesus persists, asking him three times "do you love me?" it dawns on Peter, nay, it grips him in the depth of his being, that Jesus is calling him to deep repentance of his sin of betrayal as the condition for leading and guiding the flock of God.

I say that this scene is etched on my soul, because, like Peter, I must continually go before the Risen Lord in abject, heartfelt repentance if I would have any chance at all of leading and serving the Church after the manner of the Good Shepherd. I would recommend the same for you, dear brothers, at the outset of this fraternal year. Hear Jesus asking you, "Do you love me?" and in that question hear him inviting you to understand any and all the ways in which you have broken his commandments, summed up by Jesus in terms of charity — love of God and love of neighbor.

A good place to start in any leadership role is repentance. Before I received Holy Orders and before I began any assignment, I made a long retreat, the centerpiece of which was sacramental confession. Confession is still the centerpiece of my spiritual life, for nothing good happens unless I make worthy and frequent use of that sacrament.



I'm suggesting, brothers, that the same is true for you. It's great to celebrate but first open your hearts to the Father of Mercies and to the Savior's open heart, in a sincere and unburdening confession of your sins, confident that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will be forgiven.

In preparing for sacramental confession, ask yourself about your life of prayer. Is it rooted and built upon Sunday Eucharist? Does it include a daily Rosary? Do you take time to pray in private and read the Scriptures regularly? Do you ask for Divine Mercy each and every day? Do you go to Confession often? Are you working on that dominant vice that is the source of so many other vices? What are the virtues you need to acquire? ... With whom do you need to reconcile and for what reason? By prayerfully asking yourselves such questions, you will respond to the Lord's question "Do you love me?" and you will be renewed, as a man and as a Christian.

Abyss of Virtues

If we were to recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart, we would address the Savior's open and loving heart as "the abyss of all virtues." The word "abyss" doesn't mean a chasm into which good things disappear, but rather the bottomless source of every virtue, both human and Christian — the theological virtues (faith, hope, and love) and the pivotal moral virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance). From these virtues stem every other virtue that we need to acquire if we would be good men, strong leaders and humble servants.

Let us remember, brothers, that Father McGivney founded us to be knights, Knights of Columbus. A knight is a person of virtue and valor, a person who not only looks out for others but is ready to do battle for that which is important and good. But the first place where you and I need to do battle is our own souls. There is the perennial battle between good and evil, truth and lies, and much of the crisis in the Church is due to laxity as regards this battle. It's due to moral laxity, to ready compromises with evil, with moral retreat. One of the most important things we can do in this hour of crisis and in this hour of need for our beloved Order, is — as St. Paul said — "to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). Winning the fight in our hearts and souls and bodies takes us a long way toward victory in the battle we must wage against evil, unbelief and complacency. ...

Let us unite in beseeching the Sacred Heart of Jesus and asking him for the graces we need to be those men, those leaders, those Knights who make a visible difference this fraternal year in the Church, in the Order and in society.

Vivat Jesus!



PUT YOURSELF IN THE DISCIPLES' SHOES

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM
SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*Jesus said to his disciples,
"I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you."*

— Gospel for June 9, Pentecost Sunday, Jn 14:23B-26

Try putting yourself in the disciples' shoes at hearing these words at the Last Supper. They probably felt anxious and confused. This month, we celebrated Pentecost and trained our focus on this promise which Jesus made to each one of us: that he would never leave us; that he would send the Holy Spirit as our guide, advocate and helper. Your body is in fact a temple of this same Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor 6:19). As disciples of Jesus and beloved sons of the Heavenly Father, let us be known as men who are constantly drawing closer to the Holy Spirit and unlocking the Spirit's power in our lives.

This Month's Challenge

This month, I challenge you to deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit by praying the words "Come, Holy Spirit" as you begin your daily time of prayer, your workday or an activity at home. Second, I challenge you to invite a friend or family member (who is not active in their faith) to join you at Mass or at eucharistic adoration.

This Month, Welcome the Sacred Heart

"Today everything which concerns the Sacred Heart of Jesus has become familiar and doubly dear to me. My life seems destined to be spent in the light irradiating from the tabernacle, and it is to the Heart of Jesus that I must look for a solution of all my troubles."

— Pope John XXIII

This month, we ask that our chaplains encourage Knights and their families to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The steps are simple: Bless an image or statue of the Sacred Heart, lead the family in consecrating themselves to the Sacred Heart, and then place the blessed item in its place of honor.

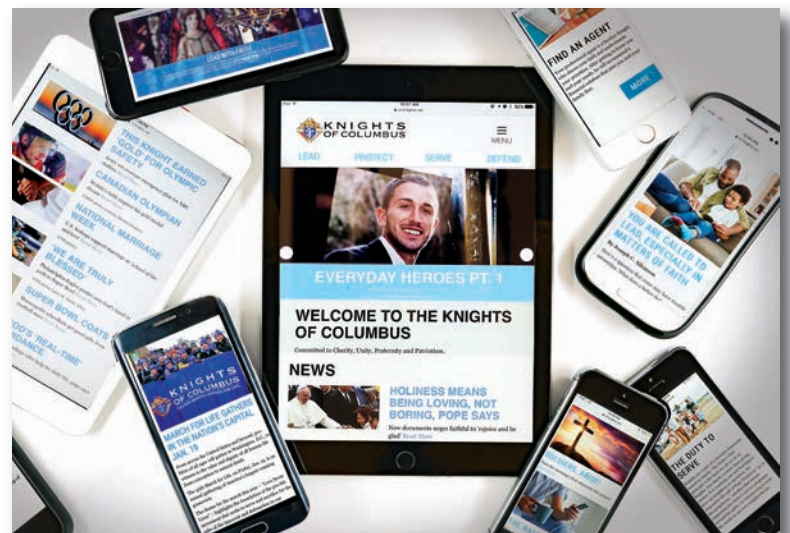
A Note on Membership

Our research on membership has shown time and again that the single most effective way to invite a man to join the Knights of Columbus is for him to be invited by his pastor. *You* are — without a doubt — our Order's best recruiter.

As a council chaplain, we hope you can help us support membership by talking about it at your parish. You can especially share that members can now join online. Here's a sample pitch to help you personalize your own:

As you may know, I'm a member of the Knights of Columbus here at our parish. The Knights are a Catholic men's organization that supports our parish, builds up Catholic family life, and reaches out to those in need. That means if you are an adult male, and are sitting in this church, you can join today.

The Knights now have a webpage called "kofc.org/joinus" — where you can join in seconds with just a few clicks. Or you can talk to me, or any of my brother Knights in the parish.



Upcoming Activities

JUNE

Celebrate fathers during or following all Masses celebrated June 16-17. Be sure to preach on the Church's understanding of marriage and fatherhood on the days leading up to the event.

Mark the June 22 feast day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, who were imprisoned and eventually killed for their faithfulness to the Church's teaching. In imitation of these saints, encourage your parishioners and brother Knights to consider volunteering in prison ministry.

Celebrate the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 28. Offer to bless images of the Sacred Heart for families to display in their homes.

JULY

Support your council's newly elected officers and appointed program chairmen and directors as the fraternal year begins.

Celebrate the holidays of Canada Day and Independence Day with Masses of thanksgiving.

AUGUST

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance during this year's Supreme Convention to be held in Minneapolis. You can keep up with the K of C Supreme Convention by following the hashtag #KofC or by tuning in to EWTN and other Catholic stations.

Celebrate special Masses on the anniversaries of our founder's birth, Aug. 12, and death, Aug. 14. Also, distribute *prayer cards* (#10502A) to all the members of your parish.



Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

The below prayer is from St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

It may be offered by priests, Knights, families and parishioners after enthroning an image of the Sacred Heart in their homes.



O Sacred Heart of Jesus, to thee I consecrate and offer up my person and my life, my actions, trials and sufferings, that my entire being may henceforth only be employed in loving, honoring and glorifying thee. This is my irrevocable will, to belong entirely to thee, and to do all for thy love, renouncing with my whole heart all that can displease thee.

I take thee, O Sacred Heart, for the sole object of my love, the protection of my life, the pledge of my salvation, the remedy of my frailty and inconstancy, the reparation for all the defects of my life, and my secure refuge at the hour of my death.

Be thou, O Most Merciful Heart, my justification before God thy father, and screen me from his anger which I have so justly merited. I fear all from my own weakness and malice, but placing my entire confidence in thee, O Heart of Love, I hope all from thine infinite goodness. Annihilate in me all that can displease or resist thee. Imprint thy pure love so deeply in my heart that I may never forget thee or be separated from thee.

I beseech thee, through thine infinite goodness, grant that my name be engraved upon thy heart, for in this I place all my happiness and all my glory, to live and to die as one of thy devoted servants. Amen.