



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 Case for Culture Change

EXCERPTS FROM AN ADDRESS BY ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI | JUNE 7, 2019



Archbishop Lori preaches a homily during a special Mass for state deputies and their wives, June 2019. Photo by Mike Ross.

We have to change the culture of the Order such that in every council, every district, every state, every program, every activity, every decision the spirituality of men is uppermost in all that is said and done in the name of the Order.

We are aiming at a profound change that will make us true to who we are and at the same time responsive to the world's pastoral needs. There are lots of rules of thumb for culture change, many of you know them, and they are easily found on the internet, but for our purposes, I would suggest six things:

1. It's critical to work on your own spiritual life, your own life of prayer, your conversion from sin, a renewal in virtue, a searching examination of one's own humanity as the basis for one's encounter with Christ, one's service and leadership.
2. Culture change is never effected by just one person no matter how great a leader he may be. It requires a team effort. ... If we are to change the culture you will have to build a team that is committed for the long haul, over the administration of successive state deputies, to making the Knights, in the spirit of Father McGivney, responsive to the spiritual searching and aspirations of those men who rightfully should be members of the Order.

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Get Ready for the K of C Convention

Experience the Knights of Columbus 137th Supreme Convention live from Minneapolis!

The 137th Supreme Convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 6-8, 2019.

Busy with parish obligations and can't make it this year? Here's how you and your brother Knights can follow the action at home: Visit kofc.org for news and photos. And follow our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook accounts for a close-up look at everything that's going on.

Live video coverage will be provided by EWTN. The network will begin broadcasting the events at 9:30 a.m. CDT with the Opening Mass. The convention's Opening Business Session, featuring the Supreme Knight's Annual Report, begins at 1 p.m. The States Dinner starts at 7 p.m.

SiriusXM Radio's The Catholic Channel will also air the events. Streaming will be available through SiriusXM.

We hope you'll be able to join us!
#KnightsCon19



This means getting your team together for prayer, for retreat, for adoration. It means talking about these matters in a totally fraternal manner. Of course you have to talk about the practicalities, but in fact nothing is more practical than praying about and discussing what is most basic to our lives, to our Church and to the Order.

3. Tap into the spiritual heritage Father McGivney left us, namely, the spirituality of our three principles: charity, fraternity and unity, coupled with love of country. Sometimes, I fear, the principles are regarded as three great ideas that find their way into our degree ceremonies and our rhetoric. But in fact, if you study them closely, you will find that they are an ingenious summary of the Gospel we hope to spread. We can't take it for granted that everyone see this or that everyone understands the principles or even knows what they are. It's not that they haven't been proclaimed, explained and exemplified. They surely have! But have we done so in a way that prompts men to say, "That's for me! That's what I've been looking for! That's how I want to live!"? Fidelity to who we are as Knights is the way forward.
4. Someone once said that integrity is choosing courage over comfort and surely that the choice of comfort over courage is at the heart of the crisis that is currently besetting the Church. Integrity is an essential element in healthy culture change. A leader who does not have integrity can change the culture all right, but he will change it for the worse or maybe even deform it. Integrity means conducting your office and that of your team according to the highest ethical standards and having the courage to make changes where those standards are breached. It also means having the courage to say what needs to be said when complacency and even laziness are the order of the day. Integrity takes us and our brother Knights beyond our comfort zone. Changing the way our meetings are conducted, getting a club-like council to open up, speaking with prospective members, putting faith and holiness at the forefront as we engage in charity — all this is critical to culture change done with integrity.
5. Father McGivney created the Knights as a lay organization. The laity are in fact the primary agents in the new evangelization. That said, you need good chaplains. ... Priests who will challenge us to become missionary disciples, who will open doors for us, the doors of Scripture and the sacraments, the doors of our parishes and dioceses, the doors of hospitality for those men who need to come in and join us in our journey of faith.
6. When your state team and your district team and your council leadership see the Knights as a way for themselves and their fellow men to grow in their faith, to grow in holiness, to spread the Gospel, then the programs and services offered by the Knights will be well-received, especially Faith In Action. These programs won't seem to come out of the blue, but they will be seen rather as ways of helping the Order, from top to bottom, to be an agent of evangelization and a means for men to grow in holiness. This doesn't mean there won't be glitches or a need for adjustments, only that a oneness in purpose and mission will help make these programs and initiatives bear the good fruit of the Gospel.



State deputies take part in presentations given at the Omni Hotel, New Haven, as part of the mid-year organizational meeting. Photo by Mike Ross.



Reasons for Hope

We are at a crossroads, brothers, and a lot is riding on what happens — not in some misty future, but now and in the immediate future. In a word, the pressure is on.

What I have identified today is more ambitious than any goal or program. But I do not hesitate to lay out the case for culture change based on the Church's mission of evangelization and the identity of the Order. I do not hesitate because I stand with you as men who are filled not only with faith but also hope, who keep our eyes fixed on the Risen Lord and are open to the Holy Spirit, men in whom the Lord Jesus himself can speak, act, change and transform. To him be the glory, power and dominion, now and forever!

Vivat Jesus!

To read Archbishop Lori's complete address, visit www.archbalt.org.

Archbishop Lori prays over the gifts during Mass for Knights of Columbus state deputies, June 2019.



THIS AGE OF DISTRACTION

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM
SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*“Gird your loins and light your lamps and
be like servants who await their master’s return
from a wedding, ready to open immediately
when he comes and knocks.*

*Blessed are those servants whom
the master finds vigilant on his arrival.”*

— Gospel for Aug. 11, Lk 12:35-37

Semper Paratus — Latin for “always ready” — is the motto of the U.S. Coast Guard, but it could also serve as a motto for you and me in the Christian life. In this Gospel passage, Jesus calls us to constant vigilance. My brothers, we cannot allow our perimeter to be breached by temptations to anger, greed, lust and other sins. We do not know when we will be called to account. We all can recall someone whose sudden death reminds us that tomorrow is not guaranteed to anyone. May our master find us vigilant on his arrival!

This Month’s Challenge

This month, I challenge you to exercise daily vigilance with a simple examination of conscience at the end of each day. I also challenge you to keep watch with your council through the Faith In Action Holy Hour program, or by spending some time in Eucharistic adoration on your own.

Questions for Reflection

Is looking at your phone the first and the last thing you do each day? In this age of distraction, how can you sharpen your vigilance and focus for what is truly important? Did examining your conscience every day help increase your vigilance in your life?

“Greater love has no man”

Kendrick Castillo couldn’t wait to be a Knight of Columbus — he was a senior in high school in Denver and loved volunteering at K of C events with his dad.

And then May 7 happened. That day, two shooters came into Kendrick’s school.

Kendrick charged the gunman, pinning him to the wall. Two other classmates disarmed the assailant, but not before shots were fired. Kendrick was fatally wounded.

During a memorial service that drew 3,000 people, Kendrick’s father, John, a member of Southwest Denver Council 4844, spoke about his son’s life. John’s remarks are featured in the July/August 2019 *Columbia* magazine. To read the issue, visit www.kofc.org/columbia.



*Kendrick (middle) volunteers at a K of C breakfast with his dad and friends.
(Photo courtesy of Joseph Nguyen)*

August is a Time to Remember the Order’s Founder and Pray for his Intercession

Father Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus, was born Aug. 12, 1852, and died Aug. 14, 1890, two days after his 38th birthday.

This August, we ask that you join us in calling upon Father McGivney’s intercession. You might encourage your brother Knights and parishioners to invoke him by his titles Apostle to the Young and Protector of Christian Family Life.

A great number of answered prayers have been reported by those who ask for Father McGivney’s intercession. These favors suggest that Father McGivney, from his place in eternity, is concerned about many problems that we deal with as pastors, chaplains and priests. Most reported favors fall in the four areas of employment and finances, substance abuse, family reconciliation and return to the faith — all things he himself was concerned about as a parish priest.

Planning the Months Ahead

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 Supreme Convention using the hashtag #KnightsCon19 or by tuning into EWTN.

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.

SEPTEMBER

Encourage devotion among your brother Knights by observing the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 11; the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Sept. 23; and the feast of the Archangels, Sept. 29. A *prayer card* (#9484) for the prayer for peace is available at kofc.org and can be ordered for your parish's use.

Hold a youth Mass to welcome local students starting a new school year. The Mass could be followed by confession, as well as a Q & A discussion led by a local Catholic speaker. Be sure to ask your council's youth leader to help you assist with planning the event.



Prayer for the Canonization of Father McGivney

The month of August marks the anniversary of both the birth and death of Father McGivney — it is the perfect time to begin the practice of praying through his intercession with your brother Knights and parishioners.

God, our Father, protector of the poor
and defender of the widow and orphan,
you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney,
to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead
the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of his life and virtue
may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely,
fulfilling his commandment of charity and
building up his Body which is the Church.

Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us
to greater confidence in your love so that we may
continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast.

We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant

Father Michael J. McGivney on earth
according to the design of your holy will.

Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present
(here make your request).

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Please report all favors received to the Father McGivney Guild.
Visit their website at www.fathermcgivney.org.*

