



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

Chaplains: Don't Be Content With the Disconnect

BY SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LORI

Remarks from the Chaplains' Meeting at the 137th Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 8, 2019



Archbishop Lori concelebrates Mass with hundreds of clergy during the convention. Photo by Matt Barrick.

I think I have some firsthand experience with the challenge that faces the Order (or indeed any organization that has a home office that relates to a field that includes many far-flung and diverse jurisdictions).

Put simply, there can be a disconnect between the home office and the field. You may have even heard that chancery offices can be disconnected from parishes and that parishes can be disconnected from diocesan central services. To be sure, those who work in “central” can produce programs and set expectations that are both unrealistic and unworkable, such is human nature. But sometimes parishes ignore or unenthusiastically implement diocesan programs even after they have been thoroughly vetted by the presbyterial council, the pastoral council and even focus groups.

The same thing can happen to K of C programs. Those at the home office can consult, field test and promote programs that are soundly rooted in the Church's mission and in the spirituality of the Order but we sometimes find that they are ignored or half-heartedly implemented by state jurisdictions and certainly in some of our local councils. The disconnect between the home office and the field is not unique to the Order. I trace its origins in the Church as far back as the Acts of the Apostles!

Yet, we, as spiritual leaders and pastors of the Order, shouldn't be content with that.

Experience shows that while K of C programs need to be adapted to local situations, ignoring them or implementing them half-heartedly

never bears good fruit. When councils decide not to have anything to do, for example, with Faith In Action, or claim that it is beyond their ability to implement, and instead continue to do the same things in the same old way, they are probably sealing their own fate — they are headed toward extinction. Unless we stress faith formation, we won't attract that younger demographic.

Younger men are looking for more than a “clubhouse experience.” As a brother Knight in Maryland told me, when councils and jurisdictions wholeheartedly embrace Faith In Action, growing membership is not a problem; young men and families want to take part. ... Driven by zeal for souls, they were looking for ways to light the fire of the Gospel in the hearts of those they served and we, as chaplains, should have no less zeal in our hearts for those we serve. ...

Another area is faith formation. The Order offers a plethora of resources for faith formation. As chaplains, you and I play a big role in helping our brother Knights and families, many of whom did not receive sound catechesis, to grow in their knowledge and love of the faith so that they can hand it on to their children and bear witness to it in daily life. ...

Thank you most sincerely for your service to the Order. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Father McGivney, I pray that the Lord will bless you in your service to his people.

Vivat Jesus!



TRYING TO AVOID THE CROSS?

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?”

— Gospel for Sept. 8, Lk. 14:27-28

In my over four decades as a priest and more recently a bishop, I’ve been involved with a number of building committees for a new church or school construction. One of the first things we would often do is “dream big.” Then, reality hits with one simple question: What are we willing to spend? Jesus is asking each of us a similar question about our faith lives. In our lifelong journey to become saints, are we making a habit of “sitting down” daily, being aware of the cost, and fully preparing ourselves to pay it? My brothers, in our lives, above all other things, may we always prepare to carry our crosses and give our entire lives to Christ.

This Month’s Challenge

This month I challenge you to learn more about the life of one of the martyrs and how they were prepared to pay any price to follow Christ. Secondly, I challenge you to participate in the *Into the Breach* program. Or, read *Into the Breach* on your own with a particular eye toward how we can best prepare to carry our crosses.

Questions for Reflection:

What cross is Christ asking you to carry in your life? Are you willingly taking up the cross and seeking to follow Christ or trying to avoid the cross? By reflecting on the lives of the martyrs, in what concrete ways can we grow to imitate their total commitment to Christ?

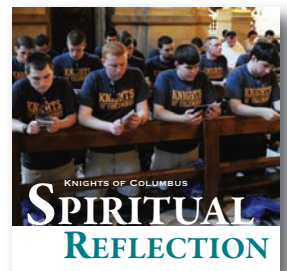
Every Chaplain Should Support These Three Essential Things

During the annual convention, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori asked that chaplains support councils in doing these three things:

1. Get familiar with Bishop Thomas Olmstead’s *Into the Breach*, an exhortation to holiness that resonates with men and reflects in a profound way the spirituality of our Order. *Into the Breach* and *Complete My Joy* — Bishop Olmstead’s exhortation to husbands and wives — can easily be used during a retreat or day of recollection for local councils.



2. Organize a spiritual reflection program. It’s in the reach of every council, has lots of flexibility and can be adapted to pastoral needs. Every council should organize a retreat day or a full-fledged retreat.



3. Lead families in the Consecration to the Holy Family. Most of our brother Knights are fathers and grandfathers. They love their families and want what is best for their children and grandchildren. They are also concerned about the disintegration of the family and the bad effects that is having on both the Church and society. It ought to be of concern to ourselves and to our brother priests. Doing the consecration of the family ought to be a “no brainer” — Knights and their families should lead by example by consecrating themselves and, with a little prayer and persistence, have this done more broadly in parishes.



For details on these programs, visit kofc.org/faithinaction. Click on the icons for “Faith, Community, Family and Life” to learn more.

Knights, Here's a Definition of a Gentleman

BY CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Cardinal John Henry Newman, one of the most prominent converts from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism, will be canonized Oct. 13. A renowned theologian, he defended liberal education in his lecture series "The Idea of a University." During the series, he offered a definition of a "gentleman" — a definition sorely needed today. Invite the men in your parish and Knights in your council to take a step back from a culture plagued by online bullying and learn from Cardinal Newman's words.

It is almost a definition of a gentleman to say he is one who never inflicts pain.

This description is both refined and, as far as it goes, accurate. He is mainly occupied in merely removing the obstacles which hinder the free and unembarrassed action of those about him; and he concurs with their movements rather than takes the initiative himself. His benefits may be considered as parallel to what are called comforts or conveniences in arrangements of a personal nature: like an easy chair or a good fire, which do their part in dispelling cold and fatigue, though nature provides both means of rest and animal heat without them.

The true gentleman in like manner carefully avoids whatever may cause a jar or a jolt in the minds of those with whom he is cast; — all clashing of opinion or collision of feeling, all restraint or suspicion, or gloom, or resentment; his great concern being to make everyone at their ease and at home. He has his eyes on all his company; he is tender towards the bashful, gentle towards the distant, and merciful towards the absurd; he can recollect to whom he is speaking; he guards against unseasonable allusions or topics which may irritate; he is seldom prominent in conversation and never wearisome. He makes light of favors while he does them and seems to be receiving when he is conferring.

He never speaks of himself except when compelled, never defends himself by a mere retort, he has no ears for slander or gossip, is scrupulous in imputing motives to those who interfere with him, and interprets everything for the best.

He is never mean or little in his disputes, never takes unfair advantage, never mistakes personalities or sharp sayings for arguments, or insinuates evil which he dare not say out. From a long-sighted prudence, he observes the maxim of the ancient sage, that we should ever conduct ourselves towards our enemy as if he were one day to be our friend.

He has too much good sense to be affronted at insults, he is too well employed to remember injuries, and too indolent to bear malice. He is patient, forbearing and resigned, on philosophical principles; he submits to pain, because it is inevitable, to bereavement, because it is irreparable, and to death, because it is his destiny.

If he engages in controversy of any kind, his disciplined intellect preserves him from the blundering discourtesy of better, perhaps, but less educated minds; who, like blunt weapons, tear and hack instead of cutting clean, who mistake the point in argument, waste their strength on trifles, misconceive their adversary, and leave the question more involved than they find it. He may be right or wrong in his opinion, but he is too clear-headed to be unjust; he is as simple as he is forcible, and as brief as he is decisive. Nowhere shall we find greater candor, consideration, indulgence: he throws himself into the minds of his opponents, he accounts for their mistakes. He knows the weakness of human reason as well as its strength, its province and its limits. If he be an unbeliever, he will be too profound and large-minded to ridicule religion or to act against it; he is too wise to be a dogmatist or fanatic in his infidelity. He respects piety and devotion; he even supports institutions as venerable, beautiful or useful to which he does not assent; he honors the ministers of religion, and it contents him to decline its mysteries without assailing or denouncing them. He is a friend of religious toleration, and that, not only because his philosophy has taught him to look on all forms of faith with an impartial eye, but also from the gentleness and effeminacy of feeling, which is the attendant on civilization.

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The Five Things Chaplains Should Focus On

During the annual convention, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori shared five things state chaplains should to focus on to fulfill their role. As state chaplains work to do this, we ask that chaplains of local councils keep these five items in mind and do their part to achieve them.

1. Communicate with local chaplains, encouraging them to take an active role in their respective councils. In particular, we want them to communicate who the K of C is today, to emphasize Faith In Action and to prepare their brother priests to respond to faith-formation requests from local grand knights.
2. Encourage the state leadership team and district deputies to fully implement Faith In Action and give presentations on it.
3. Meet with local ordinaries and with our state deputies to see how the K of C can assist in the evangelization of our dioceses.
4. Meet with local priests at diocesan and clergy gatherings and speak about the spiritual programs of the Knights and seek the support of our brother priests as these programs are rolled out locally.
5. Encourage our brother priests to promote new membership and online membership in the K of C as a way to rebuild and restore trust in the Church.

Planning the Months Ahead

SEPTEMBER

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

Mark the feasts of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Sept. 23, and the Archangels, Sept. 29.

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.

OCTOBER

Celebrate the canonization of Cardinal John Henry Newman and four others on Oct. 13. Lead Knights and parishioners in prayers and meditations written by Cardinal Newman (see page 4) or offer words of guidance from his lecture series.

October 13 also marks the anniversary of the final Marian apparition to the children of Fatima. The occasion can be celebrated simply, with a public rosary, or elaborately, with a Marian procession or similar celebration organized by the members of your council. Prior to the anniversary, be sure to share the details of the miraculous apparition with your council and parish, remembering that many Catholics — even those in your parish or council — may not be aware of the significance of Our Lady's message.

Celebrate the legacy of St. John Paul II by leading a parish novena to end on his feast day, Oct. 22. During each day of the novena, distribute *prayer cards* (#4983). Alternatively, plan a pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C., or share resources that proclaim John Paul II's message for families, such as the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162).

NOVEMBER

On the solemnity of All Saints, encourage Knights in your council to attend Mass together, witnessing to the devotion and brotherhood that are integral to the Order.

Remember deceased Knights, family members and parishioners during a memorial Mass. Also, sponsor a cemetery cleanup that ends with a prayer service for the deceased.

THE PILLAR OF THE CLOUD

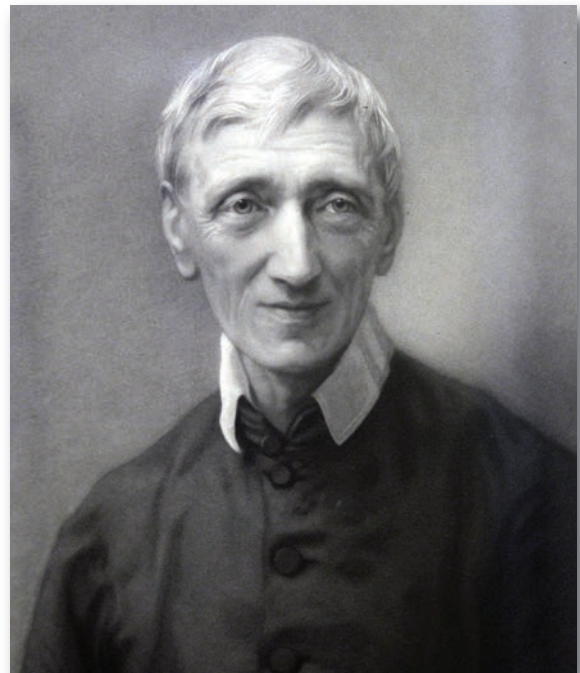
BY CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Lead, kindly Light, amid th'encircling gloom,
lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home —
lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene — one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on.
I loved to choose and see my path, but now
Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: remember not past years!

So long Thy power hath blest me; sure it still
Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
the night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

*Composed June 16, 1833. From www.newmanreader.org.
Newman Reader — Works of John Henry Newman.*



Blessed John Henry Newman is seen in a portrait provided by the Catholic Church in England and Wales. (CNS photo/courtesy of the Catholic Church of England and Wales)