



# 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

## In Our Founder's Footsteps

*With my new assignment, I will be constantly reminded of Father McGivney's mission and our religious heritage*

### Archbishop-designate William E. Lori

Supreme Chaplain



When I learned that Pope Benedict XVI appointed me archbishop of Baltimore, my thoughts turned to our founder, Venerable Michael McGivney. I prayed that he would continue to intercede for me in my role as supreme chaplain and now as shepherd of the nation's oldest diocese. I commended to his prayers my fellow chaplains, who serve the Order so faithfully, as well as the priests in Baltimore and Bridgeport, where I have served for the past 11 happy years. In the same breath, I asked our founder to pray for the supreme knight and for all Knights and their families, giving thanks for how the Order serves and strengthens the Church in her mission of spreading the Gospel anew.

#### IN SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

After this prayer, it occurred to me that Father McGivney's final preparations for priestly ordination took place at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. There he grew in the human and priestly virtues that were so evident in his ministry. There he developed the strength of character, wise leadership and holy determination that were essential ingredients in the founding of the Knights of Columbus 130 years ago. And it was there, in the Cathedral (now Basilica) of the Assumption in Baltimore, that Father McGivney was ordained to the sacred priesthood in 1877 by then-Archbishop James Gibbons.

Since the basilica is connected to the archbishop's residence, I will have a daily reminder to give thanks for the gift of Father McGivney's priestly vocation and pray with renewed fervor for his canonization. Each time I am in the basilica, I will be reminded of the fruitfulness of Father McGivney's priestly service. I have no doubt that his continued intercession will aid my service to the Archdiocese of Baltimore and to the Order.

I often think about how God provided for the Church through Father McGivney's ministry. The Order he founded is a source of great strength and vitality for the whole Church. Just as Father McGivney envisioned, the Church is strengthened by Knights who live their faith so as to be

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better husbands, fathers and parishioners who contribute to the common good. Just as Father McGivney did not hesitate to address by word and deed the issues confronting the Church in his day, so too do the Knights speak eloquently and forcefully in defending the right to life, the truth and dignity of the vocation of marriage and family life, the priesthood, and religious liberty.

In the spirit of Father McGivney, the Knights put the Church's teaching and sacramental graces into action by serving those in need and by helping the Church to sustain her mission of faith, worship and service. It is easy to see the vision and the hand of Father McGivney in the ways the Knights of Columbus serves the Church. And any family that experiences security and peace of mind because of the Order's insurance and financial services also has our founder to thank.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

Although Father McGivney lived in an era very different from our own, there are lessons that we can learn from his day and age. Around the time of Father McGivney's ordination, Archbishop Gibbons spoke of the waves of immigrants who were building a young nation and contributing greatly to the growth of the Church in the United States. The archbishop also spoke of the God-given freedom that the Church enjoyed in the United States as a condition for its rapid growth and increasing strength. Gibbons' leadership no doubt influenced Father McGivney when he returned to Connecticut. McGivney championed the cause of immigrants and ably represented the Church's teaching in civic life, despite widespread anti-Catholicism. He exhibited the same sort of confident and prudent leadership that marked the Baltimore prelate who ordained him.

These lessons must not be lost on me as I prepare to serve the Archdiocese of Baltimore with its diverse Catholic population and as I continue to be involved in the U.S. bishops' efforts to defend religious freedom. As Catholic leaders and citizens, both Cardinal Gibbons and Father McGivney were keenly aware that they were stewards of a precious heritage of recognizing and respecting religious liberty. Archbishop John Carroll, the first archbishop of Baltimore and the brother of Charles Carroll, the only Catholic to sign the Declaration of

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# For Greater Glory

*The Story of the Cristiada  
Now a Major Film*

Independence, led the way in establishing the Catholic Church in a new nation "conceived in liberty." Living in the shadow of America's first cathedral founded by Archbishop Carroll, I shall be reminded of this heritage every day.

Now, as I prepare to begin my service in Baltimore, I ask three favors of the Knights of Columbus family:

First, I ask your prayers for the canonization of Father McGivney. We owe him much, and one way to express our debt of gratitude is to pray daily that he will soon be raised to the dignity of the altar. Second, please pray for religious liberty. How appropriate for us to pray the rosary for this important cause during the month of May. Let us ask Mary to intercede for us as we seek to defend and promote religious freedom in the United States and around the world. Lastly, I ask for your prayers for me and for my service to the Church in Baltimore, and I sincerely thank you for truly being "the strong right arm of the Church!"

*+William E. Lovin*

Thousands of brave men (many of whom were Knights) and women resisted the Mexican government's persecution of the Catholic Church in the 1920s during the Cristiada, also known as the Cristero War.

They took a stand when that was the most difficult thing they could do, and their courage and devotion have echoed down through the decades. Their story is told in the film *For Greater Glory*, which will be released on June 1 in cities throughout the United States.

It's rare that the Order endorses a film, but *For Greater Glory* tells our story and that of our members, of the

Knights of Columbus martyrs, of the fight for religious liberty, and of our Order's involvement in support of the Catholic Church and religious freedom. This is a story that is important to the Knights of Columbus and our members.

This major Hollywood production cast includes Peter O'Toole, Andy Garcia, Eva Longoria and Eduardo Verástegui. The film's trailer and a listing of local theaters showing the film are available at [ForGreaterGlory.com](http://ForGreaterGlory.com).

"*For Greater Glory* is a powerful film that provides a compelling account of a forgotten era of our continent's history," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson." In celebrating the centrality of religious freedom and man's need for God, it tells a story of enduring relevance, and is 'must-see' viewing for all who care about faith and liberty today."

Please work to promote this film within your council and your parish.



*Father Christopher (Peter O'Toole) faces a firing squad comprised of federal soldiers.*

## Polish Knights Embrace Guadalupe

Thousands of Catholics throughout Poland continue to gather for the services held as part of the Order's Our Lady of Guadalupe prayer program. The jurisdiction's framed image is scheduled to visit all 39 Polish councils.

"The goal of the tour of the portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe is to convey the message of life because the Virgin Mary is the guardian and patron of the creation of life," said Stanisław Dziwiński, the jurisdiction's coordinator for the Marian prayer program. He added, that this message was strongly emphasized in all of the parishes hosting the event with prayers being devoted to the unborn; to families; to expectant mothers; to the sick; and to all men, women and children.

These days, he added, are organized for the protection of life and during these services oaths were taken for the protection of life.

The program began in Poland Oct. 8, 2011, at Council 14004 in Radom. By March 31, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe had been the focus of prayer programs at 19 Polish councils, with a schedule set for visits to the remaining councils. During the council visitations, the image was taken to parishes and other locations within the council's immediate area for prayer



*Two members of Starachowice Pope John Paul II Council 14023 act as an honor guard for the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the prayer program.*

services. The portrait also was taken to the Provincial Hospital of Tychy and the Polish Theater in Bielski-Biala for a diocesan youth forum.

At the university church dedicated to St. Hedwig, Queen of Poland, in Rzeszów, university presidents, Podkarpacie Parliament members, the Vice Marshal and Vice General of the Podkarpacie Province, local government leaders, police and firefighters, came together for a prayer ceremony. At this event, Bishop Kazimierz Górny of the Rzeszów Diocese, led a concelebrated Mass during which the Vice General of the Province of Podkarpacie made a pledge in front of the portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe and placed the whole Podkarpacie province under Our Lady's care.

The Mass celebrated in Ludźmierz include a prayer service composed for the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This service was broadcast over the Internet by TV Podhale, and included music inspired by the music of the mountain regions.

It is estimated that as of the beginning of April more than 150,000 people took part in the Marian prayer programs in Poland.

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practical (that is, practicing) Catholics in union with the Holy See. This means that an applicant or member accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with the precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church.

# '10 Keys to Success as a Chaplain'

## #3 *Involve members of the council in the sacraments and prayer.*



**Father John P. Grace, O.S.A.**

Director of Chaplain  
Programs & Development

Pope John Paul II was a man of prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist was the center of his day.

What does that say about the statement of our third key?

We are a Eucharistic people. We say that it is the center of our lives and we know it to be so. But the first directive of this third key says that we should: "Promote the Eucharist and Mass attendance, and help members deepen their understanding of its unique and central role in the Catholic faith..." So, if it is the center of our lives and we know it to be so, why should we have to promote it amongst our Knights?

In an apostolic letter of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, in which he proclaims the Year of Faith to begin on Oct. 11, 2012, we are asked to profess, celebrate, live and pray our faith. For us as Catholics, all this depends on, and is centered on, where we stand in relation to the Eucharist. It is obvious that attendance at Mass on Sundays is not what it used to be. Some would argue that many Catholics no longer understand or believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This may offend some pious ears, and maybe we don't want to hear or believe this. However, if this is a case in fact amongst some of our Knights, then surely there is cause for alarm.

As the supreme knight addressed a combined meeting of state chaplains and state deputies in Nashville last November, he stated: "The emphasis on Christian principles, centered on the Eucharist, is to shape the Order for the future."

Simply said, our future lies in our faith formation which is nourished by the Eucharist, and conversely a Eucharist which is enlivened by a new understanding and living of our faith. This is very much in keeping with two Church highlights for this year, the Bishops' Synod which will deal with the New Evangelization and the "Year of Faith" proclaimed by Pope Benedict. Hopefully we will deal with these two topics at a later date, but it suffices to say now that the Knights are in a privileged position to foster and participate in both of these Church initiatives.

There are many avenues open to us, and here are a few practical suggestions. As a priority, the chaplain can encourage the Knights' attendance at Mass, particularly Sunday Mass. Ask Knights to become active in the liturgy of the parish as extraordinary ministers of the holy communion, lectors, ushers, choir members and maybe servers during the daily Mass. Encourage council leaders to bring together Knights of

Columbus families in an expression of the Order's dedication to strengthening Catholic family life as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, by sponsoring special corporate communion days. The family corporate communion will signify to the parish the strength and presence of the council within the parish community. This should be followed by a family breakfast at some convenient place. Some councils hold this corporate communion on the fifth Sunday of the month, which occurs four times during the year. For example, this year there are five Sundays

in January, April, July and December. It might be easier to arrange for the Knights special attendance as a group on this fifth Sunday.

Many parishes have Eucharistic adoration. Some have it on a daily basis, others on a weekly or monthly basis. Knights should be highly involved in this very special devotion.

The Third Degree ceremonial has been re-written and it relates directly to the eucharist and priests. It includes a special message and teaching on the Eucharist given by our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop-designate William Lori. If you have not witnessed the new Third Degree, you might like to be present at

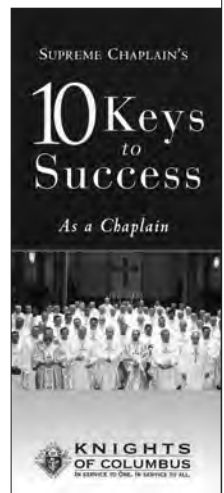
one soon as it gives you an encouraging new vision of what fraternity entails for the Knights.

We will continue with this third key in the next issue. In the meantime, may this Eastertide be one of renewed life with many blessings. I pray that all the state conventions may be occasions of renewed enthusiasm for a greater charity, a closer unity and a more dedicated fraternity for us all.

God bless and keep you all.

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*Copies of 10 Keys to Success as a Chaplain (#4940) can be ordered from the Supply Department by using a Requisition Form (#1)*







## RSVP Donations Increase in 2011

Even in an economic downturn, Knights of Columbus RSVP support for vocations is up. Specifically, Knights raised and disbursed more than \$3 million to 2,628 seminarians and postulants in 2011 through RSVP. In 2010, Knights reported donating \$2.9 million to help 2,697 students.

The program offers an opportunity for local units to provide financial and moral support to people studying to become a priest, brother or religious sister. Most units donate \$500 to the student for his or her personal use. RSVP also urges participating groups to show moral support for the student by e-mailing, writing letters and inviting them to K of C functions.

Participating units that qualify are eligible for a \$100 rebate from the Supreme Council for every \$500 donated, with a cap on rebates for one individual at \$400. In 2011, refunds totaled nearly \$600,000. In addition to the Supreme Council refund, qualifying units receive a plaque honoring them for their efforts.

Since the start of the RSVP, nearly \$53 million has been raised and donated to seminarians and postulants; refunds from the Supreme Council total \$9.7 million.



*Seminarians at the Pontifical North America College attend a Mass at which they were installed as acolytes in Rome March 4. U.S. Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis installed 55 new acolytes. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)*

## ‘A Guide to Praying the Rosary’



“A Guide to Praying the Rosary” (#4772) is a full color pamphlet that explains how to pray the Rosary. This Guide (sized to easily fit into a pocket, pocketbook, or a prayer book) includes Scripture passages and images associated with the mysteries of the rosary, the prayers of the Rosary and a method of praying the rosary. The guide, offered in lots of 100 for \$4, can be ordered by sending an e-mail to [cis@kofc.org](mailto:cis@kofc.org) or by calling 203-752-4267. This item is also available through the Supreme Council Supply Department.