



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 Fortnight for Freedom

We turn to the Lord amid the challenge to defend religious liberty against secularism

Archbishop William E. Lori

Supreme Chaplain



In my first weeks as archbishop of Baltimore, I find myself surrounded by history. I live in the shadow of the Basilica of the Assumption, the nation's oldest cathedral, whose cornerstone was laid in 1806. Beneath the basilica are buried many archbishops, including John Carroll, the nation's first bishop. On the walls of my residence are portraits of my 15 predecessors, many of whom were pivotal in the growth of the Church in the United States and in defending the freedom and reputation of the Church amid an anti-Catholic culture.

As I walk around my new home, the words of Cardinal James Gibbons, who served this archdiocese for more than four decades before his death in 1921, ring in my ears: "I belong to a country where the civil government holds over us the aegis of its protection, without interfering with us in the legitimate exercise of our sublime mission as ministers of the Gospel of Christ. Our country has liberty without license and authority without despotism."

Cardinal Gibbons defended the proposition that one could be both a loyal American and a good Catholic. Now we are called to be loyal Americans

precisely by being good Catholics. The words Blessed John Paul II spoke when he visited Baltimore in 1995 remain true: "The challenge facing you, dear friends, is to increase people's awareness of the importance for society of religious freedom; to defend that freedom against those who would take religion out of the public domain and establish secularism as America's official faith."

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES

During his visit here, Blessed John Paul II prayed in a small private chapel in my new home. Many former archbishops of Baltimore have offered Mass and prayed in the same chapel, and this inspires me when I consider the current challenge we are facing in defending religious liberty in the United States and throughout the world. The prayerfulness of my predecessors reminds me that this struggle will not be won by only planning and political action. Something more is needed.

In the Gospels, Jesus teaches that he is the vine and we are the branches. Just as a branch cannot survive when cut off from the vine, he says, "Without me you can do nothing" (Jn 15:5). We need to take this to heart in our struggle to defend religious liberty. If we want to preserve, uphold and foster religious liberty as understood and taught by the Church, and hold fast to the legacy of the Founding Fathers of the United States, then we need to pray diligently as communities, as families and as individuals.

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For Greater Glory

The Story of the Cristiada Now in Theaters

Featuring an all-star cast and retelling the forgotten history of one of the most intense persecutions of the Church *For Greater Glory* is now showing in theaters across the United States. This major motion picture about the Mexican government's persecution of the Church during the Cristero War in the early 20th century is of particular relevance to Knights of Columbus, as the Order was one of the most outspoken organizations defending the Church in Mexico at that time. Likewise, several of the martyrs killed for their faith during the persecution were members of the Knights. The film's cast includes Academy Award nominees Peter O'Toole, Andy Garcia, and Catalina Sandino Moreno; and Hollywood stars Eva Longoria, Oscar Isaac and Eduardo Verástegui. To view the trailer and find a showing near you, visit www.ForGreaterGlory.com.



The execution of St. José María Robles Hurtado is depicted in the upcoming movie For Greater Glory, which tells the story of Cristero War in Mexico. Father Robles was a member of Council 1979 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Supreme Knight Addresses 8th Annual National Catholic Prayer Breakfast

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson addressed a burning issue for Catholics nationwide — religious liberty — during the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast. The supreme knight was one of the keynote speakers for the event which gathered more than 800 people.

"I venture to say that, never in the lifetime of anyone present here, has the religious liberty of the American people been as threatened as it is today," said Supreme Knight Anderson. "We must remind our fellow Americans, and especially those who exercise power, that religious liberty — the freedom guaranteed

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Supreme Chaplain Installed as Baltimore's Archbishop

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With this in mind, the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty has suggested what we have a "fortnight for freedom." This is to be a special period of prayer in the two weeks leading up to the Fourth of July. During this time, the Church will celebrate a number of feasts days — including the feasts of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, who courageously laid down their lives when King Henry VIII arrogated to himself the leadership of the Church.

And there are many other ways that we can observe this fortnight for freedom in our liturgies: Petitions for the preservation of religious liberty can be offered at Mass; special prayers that have been composed for this time can be prayed, perhaps as a conclusion to the general intercessions; votive Masses for civil needs can be offered; and homilies on the Church's teaching regarding religious liberty can be delivered.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

The fortnight for freedom is an ideal time to grow in our understanding of what the Catholic Church teaches about religious liberty.

We should make it a point for 14 consecutive days to thank God for the freedoms with which he has endowed us and commend to the Lord those who have died in defending our liberty. Freedoms erode when they are taken for granted by citizens. Religious freedom erodes when, in the face of an increasingly secular culture, believers stop going to Church and cease to bring convictions born of faith into family life, daily work and social settings. Conversely, when we consciously thank God for our freedoms, we will be more apt to protect them.

The fortnight for prayer will be an opportunity for every Knight and his family to set aside a little time each day to pray for religious liberty. Consider praying a family rosary, other devotional prayers or Archbishop John Carroll's "Prayer for Government." You might also set aside some time at dinner to discuss religious liberty? Ask family members to read parts of the bishops' document titled "Our Most Cherished Freedom" (published in the May 2012 issue of *Columbia*) and be prepared to talk about it in light of current events.

Finally, what if we used spare moments during our day to pray for religious liberty? It might be as simple as having a prayer card in your pocket that you can pull out at a moment's notice.

Years ago, Mother Teresa visited the seminary I attended, Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. We all expected her to tell us about what she and her sisters were doing for the poorest of the poor around the world. Instead, she told us about the parable of the vine and branches. She helped us see that anything important requires prayer. So please, pray for religious liberty — at church, in K of C council meetings, at home and when you are alone.

+William E. Lovin

PRAYER BREAKFAST FROM PAGE 1

by the First Amendment — has been essential to the founding, development, and improvement of the American Republic."

"Let us be clear: we value religious liberty not only because it protects our personal autonomy," he continued. "We value religious liberty because of the good which religion brings into the life of the individual believer and into the life of our nation. So this is a time for choosing — choosing whether as Catholics we will stand together to keep open the doors of religious liberty. If we do so, then we will make possible the next great awakening in America that will bring us closer to building that culture of life and that civilization of love about which John Paul II so often spoke. May we, like Blessed John Paul II, be not afraid in our choosing."

America's Catholic bishops — and organizations such as the Knights of Columbus — have been strong and vocal in their defense of the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion. This has come in the face of a series of government actions designed to curb religious liberty — such as in the Hosanna-Tabor case in which the limits to religious liberty sought by the federal government were rejected 9-0 by the Supreme Court, and more recently with the HHS mandate, which forces employers to offer health insurance plans which would cover sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs and contraception.

Relics of K of C Mexican Martyrs begin U.S. tour in Houston

The relics of six Knights of Columbus priests, martyred during the period of anti-Catholic persecution in Mexico in the 1920s and 1930s, began a pilgrimage of the United States in Houston on April 27.

Surrounded by a large Fourth Degree honor guard, as well as bishops and priests from throughout Texas, the relics were present at the co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston for the opening Mass of the Texas State Convention. Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas served as celebrant and homilist for the Mass, and used the example of the martyrs to illustrate the importance of the need today for Knights to stand up for religious liberty.

The six priests — Fathers Pedro de Jesus Maldonado Lucero, Miguel de la Mora de la Mora, Jose Maria Robles Hurtado, Luis Batiz Sainz, Rodrigo Aguilar Alemán, and Mateo Correa Magallanes — were all martyred for their faith by the Mexican government during the religious persecution in Mexico in the early 20th century.

"For many years, this period of history has been all but forgotten on both sides of the border," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "This year, with the release of both a major motion picture and a book on this subject, the story of the struggle for religious freedom in Mexico will begin to be told. It is our hope that the pilgrimage of these relics will remind us all of the sacrifices made on behalf of religious liberty on this continent less than 100 years ago. It is a timely reminder that — from Ancient Rome to 1920s Mexico to today — persecution does not stifle the faith, but emboldens it."



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.

The 3rd Key to Success

Pray the Rosary and Promote Vocations



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

Director of Chaplain
Programs & Development

Last month we discussed the promotion of the 3rd “Key for Success as a Knights of Columbus Chaplain” in which we touched on the Eucharist and its central role in the Catholic faith. Along with devotion to the Eucharist, this third element also includes:

- Encourage recitation of the rosary, both at council meetings and as the core of prayer life at home.
- Promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

The recitation of the rosary has been important to Knights from the early days of our Order, and it is one of the first steps of every Catholic gentleman entering the ranks of the Knights of Columbus. We are encouraged to carry the rosary with us at all times. We are also encouraged to recite it “at council meetings and as the core of prayer life at home.”

Some non-Catholics may question the manner in which we venerate Mary. The rosary is offered to us because Mary, as his mother, leads us to Christ. The purpose is that Mary might conform us to the image of her Son, to make humanity Christlike. Through the rosary, she leads us to Christ right from the moment of her annunciation through her coronation in Heaven.

Many councils recite the rosary before the council meeting begins, others during the meeting itself, and some just offer one decade as an opening prayer.

When and where I grew up, the rosary was recited in the home every day, after the evening meal. What a blessed way to form the household in the faith. The mysteries are explained, the creed and other prayers are learned and recited together, and the family is gathered in a prayer accessible to all ages. In our home we recited the rosary every evening, even if visitors were present. My father began the rosary, each of the five children recited a mystery, and my mother concluded. I could say that I knew how to recite the rosary even before I began school life thanks to my good parents.

The last section of this key asks us to “Promote vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.” This surely follows from the previous point. Indeed, how true are the Lord’s words: “Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” Last year, in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Benedict XVI said: “Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life are first and foremost the fruit of constant contact with the living God and insistent prayer lifted up to the ‘Lord of the harvest,’ whether in parish communities, in Christian families or in groups specifically devoted to prayer for vocations.”

Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and religious life are a scarce commodity in too many places today. This is certainly not helped by social and public attitudes in our environment. The decline of attendance at the Eucharist celebrations, lack of prayer life at home, direct attacks against God, Christ and the Church, efforts to abolish any mention of God in public places, the determination of some to control conscience rights and curtail religious freedom, all militate against parish community life. We are conscious of all this. However, we need to be very vigilant concerning the

effect all this has on impressionable youth, and the resultant effect on vocations. Yes, we need to pray, and we need to promote vocations.

The Knights of Columbus has packets of vocation material available at the Department of Fraternal Services. These are made available to all our councils. Grand knights should have received the vocations packet for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, this year on Sunday, April 29.

Every council needs to be involved in the RSVP program. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said: “I ask especially that your council take part in the RSVP program, which is a wonderful way to bring direct and much needed support to seminarians and those in religious formation. It is your obligation to make sure that each man and woman in your area who is pursuing a vocation has the benefit of Knights of Columbus support.” Every seminarian and those in religious formation should be supported by one of our councils.

The councils in the Philippines have taken on the complete support of many seminarians during their training throughout the past decades. More than 150 of these men were ordained to the priesthood. Six of these are bishops! All of them are engaged as council chaplains. Well done, Knights of the Philippines!

Remember that without the priest there is no Eucharist, and without the Eucharist there is no Catholic Church. We are a Eucharistic community, so let us be conscious of our obligation and privilege as Knights of Columbus to be fully engaged in the promotion of vocations, recalling once again that we are “the strong right arm of the Church.”

God bless and keep you all.

Rev. John P. Grace, O.S.A.

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

john.grace@kofc.org

(203) 752-4263

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

Chaplains Meeting during 9th Philippines National Convention

Clergy from throughout the Philippines attended a special session on the spiritual development of Knights in a meeting held prior to the convention’s opening session. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addressed the chaplains and thanked them for their ministry and dedication to the Order. Father John Grace, O.S.A., Director of Chaplain Programs and Development, addressed the chaplains about their role in the councils and their work with members.

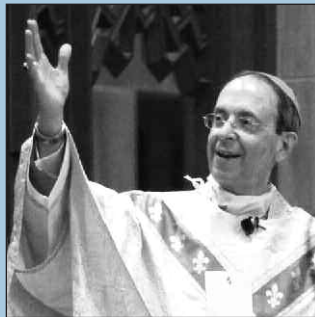




Archbishop Lori Begins Leadership of America's Premier See

Serving as main celebrant of a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, and joined by papal nuncio Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò and a number of American prelates, Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, was installed May 16 as the 16th bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the nation's premier See.

He is the first Supreme Chaplain to be raised to the rank of archbishop, and in his homily he offered special recognition and thanks to the Knights of Columbus for the Order's "spirit of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, which is a source of immense strength for the Church locally and universally." He also recalled that the founder of the Knights of Columbus, Father Michael J. McGivney, was ordained in 1877 in Baltimore's Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (now a basilica), and he holds the title of Venerable as his cause for canonization proceeds at the Vatican.



Archbishop Lori expresses his gratitude to all those who helped make his Mass of Installation such a moment of grace for him and the Church in Baltimore.

A member of the Order for more than 25 years, Archbishop Lori belongs to Msgr. James F. Murphy Council 4716 and Assembly 140, also named for Msgr. Murphy, both in Bridgeport, Conn. He was elected Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus in April 2005.

Addressing the standing-room-only crowd that filled the massive cathedral, Archbishop Lori alluded to the current challenges to religious freedom in the United States, stating, "Now we must be loyal Americans by being bold and courageous Catholics!"

He also asked all those throughout the archdiocese to pray "that in God's grace, I will be a wise and holy bishop who seeks to model my life and ministry on the Good Shepherd."

In the front pews at Mass were the archbishop's mother and father, Francis and Margaret Lori of Louisville, Ky., and about 40 other family members who traveled about 600 miles by bus from southern Indiana to Baltimore. Also

among the estimated 2,000 Mass attendees were representatives from 150 parishes and 70 Catholic schools, from among the archdiocese's 500,000 Catholics.

The official installation ceremony took place when Archbishop Viganò read the Apostolic Mandate from Pope Benedict XVI proclaiming Archbishop Lori the new ordinary of Baltimore.

The evening before the installation Mass, Archbishop Lori presided at a Solemn Vespers service at the Baltimore basilica, where he visited the tombs of past Church leaders, including the first U.S. bishop, John Carroll, and the second U.S. cardinal, James Gibbons. He was accompanied by Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, his predecessor in Baltimore, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, with headquarters in Rome.

In both his homilies at Vespers and the Installation Mass, Archbishop Lori highlighted the sacred tradition of the Church by which the Catholic faith is passed on through generations and across centuries, and mentioned the current challenges to religious freedom. The archbishop is chairman of the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty which was formed last September to address growing concerns over the erosion of freedom of religion in America.

Archbishop Lori said that the Church defends religious liberty against government encroachments not for political reasons, but "because we are lovers of a human dignity that was fashioned and imparted not by the government but by the Creator." In addition to protecting its doctrine, religious freedom allows the Church to serve the spiritual welfare of all people and the temporal needs of the poor in accordance with the teachings of the Gospel, he noted.

Born in Louisville, Ky., in 1951, he grew up in southern Indiana. In 1977 he was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and served in pastoral assignments before being named secretary to Cardinal James Hickey. He later was named chancellor of the archdiocese, moderator of the curia and vicar general. In 1995 he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Washington, and on March 19, 2001, he was named by Pope John Paul II as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., where he served until his present assignment.