



# 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

## Pilgrimage for Life and Liberty



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori preached a powerful homily, which was met with a sustained, standing ovation (above). More than 100 Fourth Degree Knights formed an Honor Guard for the pilgrimage. (right)



On Sunday, Oct. 14, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore led thousands in prayer for life and liberty. The “Pilgrimage for Life and Liberty” drew a standing room-only crowd at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Lori served as principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass and led the assembled faithful in praying the rosary on the first day of the USCCB’s Novena for Life and Liberty.

He was joined in prayer by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano — apostolic nuncio to the United States — and by more than 50 concelebrating priests.

A massive American flag hung from the Knights Tower of the National Shrine welcomed the pilgrims. The Knights of Columbus provided a large honor guard, and Knights from throughout the region

joined in the pilgrimage to stand in solidarity with their bishops and the supreme chaplain at the Mass. The event was broadcast by EWTN.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori warned: “Increasingly, anti-life and anti-family rules are being imposed on people of faith. Our ‘right to choose’ — our right to choose to practice the faith we profess — a right guaranteed by the First Amendment — seems to mean little or nothing to many who wield power.”

He continued: “As believers and as citizens we must robustly engage in the political process by voting with a properly formed conscience and by continually letting our elected officials know that we expect them to protect the God-given rights of life and liberty.”

Archbishop Lori cited Pope Benedict XVI’s words on the Year of Faith in which the pope said: “Faith opens our eyes to human life in all its grandeur and beauty. ... A Christian may never think of belief as a

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## Share Your Year of Faith Activities

The Year of Faith, proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI, began on Oct. 11, 2012, and will end on the Feast of Christ the King, Nov. 24, 2013. It marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The work of Vatican II set the Church on the path of the Good Samaritan — with faith expressed through acts of charity — a journey that it has continued into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It’s a path that the Knights of Columbus has wholeheartedly embraced. Councils throughout the Order are now planning events to mark and celebrate the Year of Faith. We are interested in what your council may be planning and will possibly share your events with other Knights through this newsletter and other publications. Please send any information and photographs on your Year of Faith events to [knightline@kofc.org](mailto:knightline@kofc.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

# The Gift of Faith

*In sharing God's truth and love, we also share the gift of faith we have received with others*

**Archbishop  
William E. Lori**  
Supreme Chaplain



At this time of year, the question of what to give family members and friends for Christmas looms large. Although many of us will find ourselves scrambling to purchase those last-minute gifts, this column is not for the beleaguered shopper.

Rather, it concerns a gift of lasting significance. It is not a gift we can give on our own but only on behalf of another. It is a gift that changes everything. I refer to the gift of faith.

We reflect on this gift during this Year of Faith, especially in this season of Advent as we look ahead to Christmas. We all know family members, friends and colleagues who no longer follow the precepts of the Church, such as attending weekly Mass and going to confession at least once a year. We may also know people with little or no religious upbringing, including young people with talent and good will but no spiritual moorings.

It would be nice if we could wrap the gift of faith in a box and cover it with festive wrapping paper and bows. It would also be nice if the recipients of this gift reacted to it with at least some of the enthusiasm that they've saved for their favorite electronic device. But giving faith to another is not quite as simple as going online, purchasing an item and having it shipped; it is at once more beautiful and challenging.

## STARTING WITH OURSELVES

We begin by remembering that we can't give what we don't have. If we want to impart the gift of faith to others, we have to make sure that our own faith life is well ordered and vibrant.

Pope Benedict XVI declared the Year of Faith so that we may open our hearts anew to the person of Christ and rediscover the depths of his love for us. Faith is the key that unlocks that love in our lives and fills us with hope and joy. And in the light of Christ's love, we also rediscover all that the Church believes and teaches on faith and morals — not as a burden, but rather as words of spirit and life, as answers to life's most pressing questions.

The second thing to remember is that we are not giving the gift of faith on our own. God, in his gracious mercy, allows us to be partners with him in giving this gift. This means that if we want to play a role in rekindling the faith of those around us, we have to pray. Prayer brings life to our faith and brings to light those things that stand between us and Christ. Prayer is that moment when Christ's heart speaks to our heart and enables us to see the world and ourselves anew. And prayer is where we receive the strength, courage, wisdom and insight to communicate the faith in the way the Lord would want us to.

Rekindling our faith through prayer is the first step. But what else is necessary? The answer is charity, the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. How can we hope to lead others to faith in the Father of mercies, the Son who is love incarnate and the Spirit of truth and love, unless we bear witness to this love in our lives? It is often the loving example of those who follow Christ and are active members of his body, the Church, that attracts even the most hardened secularist to give faith a second look.

## SERVING AS GOD'S INSTRUMENTS

Blessed John Paul II called us to "a charity which evangelizes." By this he did not mean that we should dispense charity to others in exchange for their making a profession of faith. Rather, our works of charity are to be living signs of God's love and an open invitation to meet in faith the Christ who was born in Bethlehem and gave himself in love on Calvary. At one level or another, most people realize that their lives make no sense without love. We are called to bear witness to the truth that Christ came to love us all with the same love with which he has loved his Father for all eternity.

At some point, of course, a gift has to be given. This may seem risky when there is fear that a gift will be misunderstood or rejected. But hear the Lord say to you, "Be not afraid!" Don't be afraid to invite someone who has lapsed in their faith, who is searching for meaning or who seems closed to religious faith to attend Mass with you and your family.

We also need to be knowledgeable about what our faith teaches so that we can lovingly, accurately and patiently respond to questions and objections. And we need to pray to the Holy-Spirit for the grace to help us recognize the opportune moment to have a heartfelt, reasonable discussion about the faith.

If the gift of faith is rejected, or not immediately accepted, you don't have to send it back. With persistent prayer, the gift may be received at a later time. Think, for example, of how long and hard St. Monica prayed for the conversion of her son, St. Augustine. Moreover, if God grants us the grace to rekindle someone else's faith, we should then hope and pray that he or she "re-gifts" that gift to someone else.

As I celebrate Mass this Christmas, I shall remember the intentions of the entire family of the Knights of Columbus at the altar of the Lord and pray that we shall be the Lord's instruments in helping many to open their hearts in faith.

## Supreme Knight and Deputy Supreme Knight Attend Canonization



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, Deputy Supreme Knight Dennis Savoie (right) and Lieutenant Governor Graydon Nicholas (center) were among the thousands attending the canonization ceremony in Rome for St. Kateri Tekakwitha. St. Tekakwitha is the first Native American saint. Nicholas, an attorney and judge, is the first Native American to hold the office of Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. He is a member of Bishop Dollard Council 1942 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

**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.

# Leading by Teaching and Example



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

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

In last month's newsletter, we took an initial look at the sixth "Key to Success as a Knights of Columbus Chaplain," which asks us to lead by example and effective teaching.

We did not touch on the second item, which says that we should: **"Make your views known without trying to take control of council activities. Allow the men to respond out of respect for you and your teaching office, rather than attempting to dominate."**

Once again, it is important to remember that the Knights of Columbus is a lay organization. This has given rise to certain misunderstandings both on the part of the Knights and the clergy. However, the council members must be in total union with the parish and the pastor. Most often, the pastor is the chaplain of the local council.

The chaplain can have a great influence on the council, without trying to control it, and the council can be of great spiritual, ministerial and social strength for the parish. Some priests are wary of the Knights and in some rare instances there has been friction between a council and a pastor. In parishes, again in rare cases, some pastors may have tried to completely control every aspect of the local council. Some councils have not reflected the Order's goal of being the "strong right arm of the Church" in their parish, and a few others may have held themselves completely independent of the parish where the council is situated. I believe that every parish stands to benefit greatly from the presence of a Knights of Columbus council. It is also beneficial to both the council and the parish that parish facilities be used for the monthly general meeting. This provides a greater tie for the council to the parish, and greater visibility for the Knights to their fellow parishioners and potential new members.

We are all aware that problems can arise. We wish to address these situations and bring a new element of spirituality and cooperation so that there may not be any antipathy or lack of understanding. Some priests may have had an unfortunate past experience with a council or individual Knight, but that is not a reason to condemn or reject the Knights of Columbus.

At a General Audience in 2012, Pope Benedict XVI called on the

faithful "to be aware of the great gift that priests represent for the Church and the world. Through their ministry the Lord continues to save mankind, to make Himself present, to sanctify. Give thanks to God and above all remain close to your priests with prayer and support, especially in moments of difficulty, that they may increasingly become pastors in keeping with God's heart." I believe the Knights desire to implement this change fully. As chaplains, we also realize this and respond with our priestly commitment to their good will.

Our teaching role should take on a new emphasis during this Year of Faith. The Knights look to us for guidance and really respect our teachings. As this is being written, the state deputies and state chaplains are due to meeting in Dallas this November. A new agenda for this special Year of Faith will be offered to all our jurisdictions. The help of the local chaplains will be much appreciated in order to implement the program.

We are about to celebrate the blessed feast of Christmas, and I wish to extend to all our readers heartfelt good wishes. May it be a joyous and holy season, full of peace and bringing many blessings to yourselves personally, to your parish, your council, your family, and especially to the poor and the lonely.

With all the festivities, and the big effort on behalf of certain elements of our society to keep Christ out of His own feast day, we could easily end up with a holiday instead of what the feast is, a Holyday. Remember, the Holy Days were celebrated centuries before the holidays came to the fore. As festive as they may be, let us not put "ornaments" in the place of Christ on His own feast day. Please wish people a "Merry Christmas" and not "Happy Holidays."

It can indeed be an exhausting time, but I think we all agree that it is a most rewarding season as well, especially when we know that so much is being done to help others, particularly the children and those who are less fortunate than others.

Pray for us and guide us, Father Michael McGivney, that we may continue to be imbued with your spirit.

God bless and keep you all.

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private act. Faith is choosing to stand with the Lord so as to live with him."

Encouraging the faithful to take the pope's words to heart, Archbishop Lori said: "Yet, dear friends, secularism is able to make such inroads against life and liberty primarily because so many people have set aside their religious faith by ceasing to practice their faith or by compartmentalizing it in their lives, like elected officials who say they are personally opposed to intrinsic evils, such as abortion, while doing everything in their power to promote them. If we want to turn back the powerful incursions of secularism against the dignity of human life and the freedom to practice our faith ... then we must heed the call of Pope Benedict XVI to engage in the new evangelization, to stand with Christ, to know our faith, to love our faith, to share our faith, to invite those who have stopped practicing the faith to return home to the Church and to reach out in truth and love to those who are searching for truth and love."

Following Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed on the altar during the recitation of the rosary.

Archbishop Lori serves as chairman of the U.S. bishops' committee for religious freedom and led the pilgrimage.



*As the liturgical procession departs the sanctuary, Archbishop William Lori is preceded by the personal representative of the Holy Father to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, apostolic nuncio, who attended the pilgrimage.*



## Knights of Columbus and the Year of Faith

In announcing the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI called for a “renewal of the Church ... through the witness offered by the lives of believers.” The Year of Faith began on October 11, 2012, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the promulgation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and will run to November 24, 2013, the Feast of Christ the King.

The Order’s Year of Faith program is based on the four categories outlined by Pope Benedict in his document *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith) — *Faith* PROFESSED, *Faith* CELEBRATED, *Faith* LIVED and *Faith* PRAYED. Work with your council officers in participating in this program.

### **Faith PROFESSED**

For Knights, learning more about our faith allows us to better witness to Christ in our lives, our families, our charitable work and within our councils. Our Order provides many resources to help Knights, their families and their fellow parishioners deepen their faith.

- **What Is the New Evangelization?** — Read and distribute copies of this new Catholic Information Service booklet (#401).
- **Christifideles Laici** — This papal document, *On the Vocation and Mission of the Lay Faithful*, is especially relevant to Knights. Lead a retreat on *Christifideles Laici* or to base one of your council meeting messages on it.
- **Familiaris Consortio** — Read the Catholic Information Service booklet (#318) on this papal document, “On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World,” which provides an introduction to the meaning and importance of Catholic family life.
- **Columbia** — Read the Supreme Chaplain’s monthly column when you receive each issue; discuss it with your fellow Knights as part of monthly council meetings.

### **Faith LIVED**

Our first principle as Knights is charity — love of God and love of neighbor. By focusing our efforts on those who most need our help, Knights can live out their faith in a very practical and public way.

- **Food for Families** — Collect and distribute food to needy families, especially around Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.
- **Coats for Kids** — Provide new coats to needy children during winter months.

### **Faith CELEBRATED**

As Knights, our faith motivates our charitable and spiritual activities. In this Year of Faith, we have opportunities to gather together for events that celebrate our faith and strengthen our solidarity with our priests and bishops.

- **Corporate Communion** — Designate a Sunday each month for Knights and their families to sit together at Mass and have a meal afterwards.
- **Pilgrimage** — Make a prayerful visit to a cathedral or shrine to attend Mass or a devotion, especially Eucharistic Adoration.
- **Clergy Appreciation** — During March (Founder’s Month), work with your council to host a Clergy Appreciation event and urge your fellow clergy members to attend

### **Faith PRAYED**

As Knights, prayer is our source of unity and strengthens our spirit and our good works. We should pray in our personal lives, and with our parish and council.

- **Year of Faith Prayer Booklet** — Distribute copies of this collection of prayers (#10083) and the Year of Faith prayer card (#10086).
- **Marian Prayer Program** — Participate in the Orderwide program honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- **The Rosary** — Pray the Rosary at a council meeting or special event and distribute rosaries.

Each council that completes at least one item in each of the four focus areas above and submits the Year of Faith reporting form (#10084) will receive a print of a Holy Family icon, suitable for display. To qualify for the incentive, requirements must be completed by November 24, 2013.

Visit [kofc.org/yearoffaith](http://kofc.org/yearoffaith) for more information.