



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

‘Habemus Papam’

Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio elected pope, takes name Francis

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and the 1.8 million members of the Knights of Columbus extend cordial best wishes and prayers to our newly elected pope. The election of Pope Francis - the first pope from the American hemisphere - highlights the fact that America is the continent of baptized Christians, and a place of central importance to the faith today. Pope Francis is well known also for his emphasis on charity - the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. Both in our efforts for evangelization and in our charitable work, we will strive with him to bring the light of Christ to the people of our continent during his historic pontificate.



Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

The Ministry of Peter

As Successor of Peter and Vicar of Christ, the pope guides the Church on earth in a spirit of unity

Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain



You may have seen, as I have, the footage of Benedict XVI, now pope emeritus, departing the Vatican on Feb. 28. There was live television news coverage of his final audiences, his farewell to the cardinals, his helicopter lifting off from the Vatican heliport and then

landing at Castel Gandolfo, and his brief address on the balcony of the residence there.

With breathtaking humility, this man of such erudition and talent said simply, “I’m no longer the supreme pontiff of the Catholic Church — or I will be until 8 o’clock this evening and then no longer. I am simply a pilgrim beginning the last part of his journey on earth.” And then, at the stroke of 8 p.m., we saw the Swiss Guards depart and the doors of the residence close. After that moment, the Chair of St. Peter stood vacant.

‘UPON THIS ROCK’

As Benedict XVI took his leave, there was one particularly touching scene that struck me: The driver who would take the pope to the heliport was crying as he greeted Benedict and kissed his ring. Along with our



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

gratitude and prayers for Benedict XVI’s loving service to the Church, there is also a mixture of sorrow.

Although I had the privilege of seeing and even meeting with the pope emeritus, those were relatively rare occasions. Most of the time, I was separated from the Holy Father by six time zones and thousands of miles. Yet as Benedict XVI departed, I experienced a sense of aloneness. This prompted me to reflect on the importance of the ministry of the Successor of Peter in my life as a bishop and in the life of every Catholic.

Although most Catholics never have the opportunity to see the pope

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in person, he is still an exemplary model for the practice of our faith. After all, it was Christ who declared Peter the rock on which the Church is built (cf. Mt 16:18). And it was Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who boldly recognized Jesus' identity and declared, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16).

For more than two millennia, Peter has continued to speak the truth about Jesus to the whole world through his successors. Every time a priest preaches a homily or offers instruction in the faith, and every time parents teach the faith to their children or a catechist forms adults or children in the faith, they are standing secure on Peter's confession of faith.

Jesus gave the keys of the Church to Peter, making him shepherd of the whole flock. He entrusted to Peter as leader of the Apostles the power of "binding and loosing" — the power to govern the Church and to forgive sins (cf. Mt 16:19). This power has been transmitted to Peter's successors, the popes, and to the successors of the Apostles, the bishops. As I go about my own ministry as a bishop — teaching the faith, celebrating Mass and the sacraments, and guiding in truth and love the archdiocese entrusted to my pastoral care — I do so in union with the Holy Father.

UNITED IN CHRIST

As Peter's successor, the pope "is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and the whole company of the faithful" (*Lumen Gentium*, 23; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 882). We look to the Holy Father's leadership to maintain that unity of faith so essential for the preaching of the Gospel. As universal pastor with authority over the whole Church, the pope confirms and strengthens my ministry as a bishop.

Standing with Peter, I am called to be the "visible source and foundation of unity" in my archdiocese. Standing with Peter, bishops everywhere are united and able to strengthen each other in ministering to the Church throughout the world. Standing with Peter, every Catholic has a sense of the importance of his or her baptismal call to embrace a vocation to love and to be a witness to Christ in our contemporary world.

A dramatic expression of the unity between pope and the college of bishops took place 50 years ago when Pope John XXIII convoked the Second Vatican Council. And we see this unity every time bishops journey to Rome to meet together, such as during the recent Synod of Bishops dedicated to the promotion of the New Evangelization.

We also express our unity as a Church during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, during which we always pray for the pope and the local bishop. In times of transition, the absence of these prayers should prompt us to pray even harder for worthy successors to lead and guide the Church.

The news of the pope's resignation and the process of electing a successor inevitably put the Church very much in the public spotlight. Since that spotlight often focuses on the challenges and problems that the Church faces, we may be discouraged by some of what we see in the media coverage. But through it all, it is important for us to keep our eyes fixed on Christ, the Good Shepherd, who never leaves his flock untended.

As the new pontiff begins his Petrine ministry, we pray especially for his holy witness, because it is holiness that opens for us the source of the Church's life and vitality: Jesus Christ and the power of his death and resurrection. May the Holy Spirit guide and bless our beloved Church in the days ahead.

Knights of Columbus-Marist Poll Finds American Catholics Praise and Respect Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Just a week after his retirement took effect, a new Knights of Columbus-Marist poll finds that American Catholics give high marks to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

More than three-quarters of Catholics (77 percent) and more than 8 in 10 practicing Catholics (82 percent) have a very positive or positive impression of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's years as pope.

American Catholics have very positive views on Pope Benedict's impact on their lives, the direction of the Church, and the moral direction of the world.

Nearly 7 in 10 Catholics (68 percent) and more than three-quarters of practicing Catholics (77 percent) say Pope Emeritus Benedict had a "very positive" or "positive" impact on their life. Only 13% of Catholics and 12% of practicing Catholics saw a negative impact.

Additionally, 70 percent of Catholics and 75 percent of practicing Catholics believe he had a "very positive" or "positive" impact on the direction of the Catholic Church. Only about two in 10 said his impact was "negative" or "very negative" (21 and 19 percent respectively).

About two-thirds of Catholics (65 percent) and about 7 in 10 practicing Catholics (69 percent) said he had a "very positive" or "positive" impact on the moral

direction of the world. Fewer than a quarter (23 and 22 percent respectively) disagreed and saw his impact as "negative" or "very negative."

Pope Emeritus Benedict's use of Twitter was also very popular among Catholics. Two-thirds of Catholics and practicing Catholics (67 and 66 percent respectively), said they "liked the idea" of the pope using Twitter to communicate. Only a quarter of each group disagreed (25 percent for Catholics and practicing Catholics).

Overall, nearly 7 in 10 Catholics (69 percent) and three-quarters of practicing Catholics (75 percent) have a "very favorable" or "favorable" view of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. By contrast, only 16 percent of Catholics (and 14 percent of practicing Catholics) have an unfavorable view.

"The data indicates clearly that American Catholics have a deep respect for Pope Benedict XVI and a great appreciation for his pontificate," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "That so many felt he had a positive impact on their lives, their Church and their world speaks volumes to the good that he was able to do as pope."

The findings come just days after the Cardinals — gathered in Rome Emeritus to elect the new pope — sent Pope Benedict their "gratitude" for his "Petrine ministry" and "example of generous pastoral care for the good of the Church and of the world."

The national survey of 2,000 American adults including 515 Catholics was conducted from March 2 through 5. The margin of error for Catholics is +/- 4.3 percentage points.



(CNS photo/
Dario Pignatelli, Reuters)

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.

Be Present at Times of Joy and Celebration



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

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

The February column examined the 7th Key to Success as a Knights of Columbus Chaplain, which asks that we exercise an apostolic ministry among the Knights and their families as a friend, teacher and sanctifier of

souls. While more could be said on this topic, we will move on to the second part of the 7th Key that states: “*Be present in times of joy and celebration, as well as sorrow and solace.*” This month we will deal with “*joy and celebration.*”

This follows from the opening statement to being an integral part of our apostolic ministry. All of us who are or have been parish priests know what it is to be integrally united and involved in the lives of the families within the parish. At times this involvement can be as a friend or more regularly as a teacher, but always it’s as a sanctifier of souls. We can never lose sight of the fact that we are consecrated priests. When we talk of our position within the Knights, we are always conscious of our dedication as chaplains who are present “in times of joy and celebration, as well as sorrow and solace.”

The words “be present” plead with us. It would seem that it is a command, but I believe it should be seen as a heartfelt invitation from our brother Knights with open arms, hoping that we will respond. Those councils that strive to be “the strong right arm of the Church” not only spend their time at council meetings and dedicating serious efforts to serve others in doing charitable works, they also gather together “in times of joy and celebration.” There is a phrase I sometimes use: The serious efforts of our Order and the distribution of work are carried out at council meetings, but community is formed at events such as charitable activities, social events, festivals and celebrations. These are all integral parts of who we are as Knights.

Is it not true to say that in some parishes the only opportunity for the community to come together for some entertainment, a festive party with some food being served or just a Lenten fish fry, is that which is offered by the Knights of Columbus? The parishioners respond to these invitations. The same is true where state conventions are concerned. Business is enacted during the meetings, but community is formed during the social events. These are certainly “times of joy and celebration.” This is when we get to mingle with fellow Knights and their families, members from other parts of the state or, on the larger scale, with brothers and sisters from all over the K of C world. Believe me, our brother Knights are very happy indeed when the chaplains are present on these occasions. This is also where trust is built up with us. This trusting relationship is so very important when Knights need to approach their chaplain on a personal matter. Confidence must be built.

Yes, I am aware that this is not confined to the Knights and their activities. It can occur in any parish. However, those parishes that have a Knights of Columbus council established in their midst are being offered a unique opportunity to help transform a parish congregation into a parish community. There is a difference. Our people are asking us to reach out to them, not just from the pulpit but as we join with them in moments of lesser intensity as they recreate themselves in a hall or around a dining table. There are numerous occasions where the Knights organize different kinds of celebrations, outings and evenings together with their families. These would seem to be opportunities for strengthening our love for one another and our unity as we celebrate in a true spirit of fraternity.

I was in the process of writing the above for this April column when I received an email from friends in the parish back in California where I had served. I feel I *have* to print it here and now:

“Well, Roy could not keep his hand down when they asked for a volunteer to run our very first Lenten Fish Fry dinners here at our parish. One guess on who is doing all the paper work etc. What a commitment. We had no idea what a job this would be. However, it has created so much community in our parish it is absolutely wonderful. First night was chaos as we were expecting 100 people and 250 showed. It was truly the miracle of fishes and loaves of bread. Second week, more organized and 275 attended. Last Friday we served 300 — and this is all in two and a half hours.

“Our pastor is so very happy. He showed up with his apron on and served the parishioners their dinner. ...

“We are tired but that is OK and we wish that you were here for these dinners; you would love the conversation and good feelings that are present in our new hall on Friday nights. A few of our old parishioners have been to dinner twice and they are also coming to our St. Patrick's Party. Thank God for the Knights and all the volunteers who have come forward to help.” (Comment: Thank you, Maureen, for this item of really good news).

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 during this Year of Faith, and as we celebrate the Easter spirit.

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Year of Faith ‘A Family Prayer’ Cards Available

In his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI expressed his desire that during the Year of Faith “we will have the opportunity to profess our faith in the Risen Lord in our cathedrals and in the churches of the whole world, in our homes and among our families, so that everyone may feel a strong need to know better and to transmit to future generations the faith of all times” (8). To foster the development of the faith “in our homes and among our families,”

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, authored a special prayer for families that is presented on “A Family Prayer” card (#10086). It is hoped that offering this prayer together with their children will help parents begin to fulfill the duty described by Pope John Paul II: “By reason of their dignity and mission, Christian parents have the specific responsibility of educating their children in prayer,

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A FAMILY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation to love.

In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your Son and the Holy Spirit.

Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness and joy.

Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer composed by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, Supreme Chaplain. The cover image of the Holy Family is a drawing by Giovanni Bakista, based on a painting by Sassotobello. The original print is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. Used with permission.



CIS Booklets

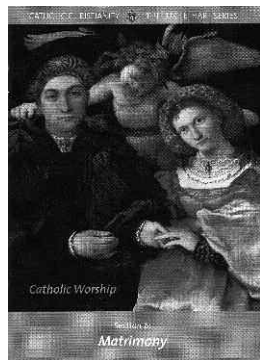
Holy Orders & Anointing of the Sick

This booklet deals with two sacraments: Holy Orders and the Anointing of the Sick. All baptized people are called to contribute to the work of salvation. In the Church, priests of Jesus Christ are dedicated to the service of communion. The booklet examines the question what is a priest? The letter of St. James says that if someone is sick we are to call the priest so that they can pray over the sick person anointing him or her with oil in the name of the Lord. The text examines what Catholics believe about the sacrament of anointing.



Matrimony

The vocation to matrimony is given by God the Father which “unites man and woman in an unbreakable bond of love and peace.” The Church also teaches that “outpouring of love in the new covenant of grace is symbolized in the marriage covenant that seals the love of husband and wife....” Professor Peter Kreeft explores the Catholic Church’s theology of marriage, the state of marriage today and the virtues of the married state.



Produced by the Order’s Catholic Information Service (CIS), these booklets are part of the Luke E. Hart Series based on the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. To get your free copies or listen to them in MP3 format, visit the CIS Web site, www.kofc.org/hart. (Also available in Spanish.) Request printed copies by writing: CIS, PO Box 1971, New Haven, CT 06521-1971.

Encourage Renewal of Marriage Vows

Families are the base that the Knights of Columbus rests on, and the vow of marriage exchanged between a man and a woman in love is the foundation for each family. Encourage your council to consider an annual marriage vow renewal program to offer couples a chance to remind themselves of their sacred commitment to each other and their place in God’s plan. Help plan a marriage vow renewal program for your council or perhaps the entire parish. It can be a Mass or prayer service that offers married couples a chance to renew their vows. The Supreme Council Supply Department offers “A Covenant Renewed” certificate (#2745) for couples renewing their marriage vows. This certificate, suitable for framing, makes a nice commemorative gift and is available for 25 cents from the Supply Department.

Chaplain’s Column

One way that you as a council chaplain can help provide information concerning Catholic doctrine and liturgy is through a Chaplain’s column in the council bulletin or on its website. Since not all members attend council meetings, those who are absent can be reached through a having a monthly column. Talk with your grand knight and bulletin/website editor to determine a deadline for copy and the approximate number of words that you should provide each month.

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introducing them to gradual discovery of the mystery of God and to personal dialogue with Him” (*Familiaris Consortio*, 60). Please encourage your council to make use of these prayer cards and distribute more copies to council members and others so that this prayer will be offered in Catholic homes throughout your community. Your grand knight should have received a mailing with a sample of the prayer card as well as a postcard that you can use to obtain 100 complimentary cards. Larger quantities can be ordered by your council grand knight or financial secretary; the cards are available in batches of 100 at a nominal cost of \$3 per batch to defray shipping costs. “A Family Prayer” cards (#10086) are available in English, Spanish and French.