



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

Mary and the New Evangelization

The Blessed Virgin Mary leads us to her son and is a model for the Church's mission and life of worship



CNS photo / Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier

Archbishop William E. Lori

Supreme Chaplain



May is a beautiful month. As the season of spring comes into full bloom, the month of May is marked by confirmations, first holy Communion, Mother's Day, graduations and so much more. May is also a time to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many parishes schedule May crownings or special times to recite the rosary as we fittingly associate this lovely time of

year with the beauty and grace of God's mother, Mary.

Of course, devotion to Mary should be a regular part of our faith lives. Sometimes, though, people claim that popular prayers dedicated to Mary somehow cloud the centrality of Christ in our lives or obscure the overarching role of the Church's liturgical and sacramental life. I assure you that the opposite is true, for the Blessed Virgin Mary always leads us to Christ and provides us with the model for the Church's life of worship. Furthermore, Mary is inseparable from the Church's mission of spreading of the Gospel.

'TO JESUS THROUGH MARY'

In his *Treatise on True Devotion*, St. Louis de Montfort taught that we are led "to Jesus through Mary." He wrote, "You never think of Mary without Mary's interceding for you with God. You never praise or honor Mary without Mary's praising and honoring God with you."

Praying the rosary is one way I have experienced Mary drawing me closer to Christ. As I proceed through each decade, meditating with Mary leads me to Jesus and helps open my heart more widely to the mysteries of Christ's life.

Think of it this way: Christian perfection consists of becoming like Christ. This is not something we can take for granted. To attain this goal, we need to pray each day and spend time reflecting on who Jesus is and what he did and said to save us. No one was more closely associated with those saving events or more closely conformed to the will of Christ than Mary. The more our hearts are consecrated to Mary, the more they will be consecrated to Christ our Redeemer.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Renewing Our Spirit



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

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

Spring is in the air, at least over here on the East Coast. The change from the bleakness and cold of winter to the newness that

spring ushers in is something like the dramatic change in the liturgy of the Church from Lent through Holy Week to Easter and Pentecost. We feel a new energy of the spirit welling up within us, and we are encouraged to embrace all the opportunities the Lord offers us on a daily basis and as we plan for the future.

In the homily preached by Pope Francis during the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday, he spoke directly to us as priests. Of course we can also consider his words in relation to our role as Knights of Columbus chaplains. This was his final statement: "Dear priests, may God the Father renew in us the Spirit of holiness with whom we have been anointed. May he renew his Spirit in our hearts, that this anointing may spread to everyone, even to those "outsiders" where our faithful people most look for it and most appreciate it. May our people sense that we are the Lord's disciples; may they feel that their names are written upon our priestly vestments and that we seek no other identity; and may they receive through our words and deeds the oil of gladness which Jesus, the Anointed One, came to bring us."

His words tie in so well with the final part of the seventh point of the Keys to Success as a Knights of a Columbus Chaplain which says that we need to be present also in times of "sorrow and solace." This is one of the truly strong points and very commendable elements of the Knights. As they are there to welcome new members into a council or assembly, the Knights also show up in great numbers to pay their final respects to one of their fellow Knights or to be present at the vigil or funeral of a Knight's family member. The true color of our brotherhood is manifested at these times. Of course this is particularly evident where the Fourth Degree is concerned and when the members in regalia are present. Many families request the presence of the Knights in regalia, and even though these requests may be numerous and taxing in some areas, Sir Knights always try to respond.

May I add my voice to those grateful families and say thank you, my brothers, for a service we deeply appreciate. I often think that the Knights in the Fourth Degree regalia

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Secondly, Mary provides us the pattern of the Church at prayer. To understand this, we need to reflect on the fact that Mary prayed with the Apostles as well as on the way in which she remembered all that happened in the life of Christ. Mary was present with the beloved disciple John at the foot of the Cross. From the Cross, Jesus entrusted John to Mary as her son, and he entrusted Mary to John as his mother. Scripture says, "And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (Jn 19:27). Later, Mary prays with the Apostles in the upper room in anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit. She surely also joined the Apostles in prayer at the earliest celebrations of the Eucharist. Even today, the Eucharist is never celebrated without invoking Mary's holy name.

THE CHURCH'S MEMORY

In several places, St. Luke's Gospel tells how Mary carefully treasured in her heart those events she witnessed in the life of Christ (see Lk 2:19, 2:51). This gives us the sense that Mary's heart was like a repository where she could return again and again to encounter and ponder what Jesus said and did.

With the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the Church's own memory and life of worship has become like Mary's heart, a treasure house of the living memory of Christ and his mysteries. Overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, the Church in her liturgy "remembers" all that Christ did to fulfill his Father's promises. Like Mary's memory, the Church's memory is alive in the Holy Spirit, such that when the Church remembers events in the life of Christ, they are present before us. We, in essence, can share in these mysteries, becoming actors in the great drama of our salvation. Whenever we go to Mass and truly enter into the Scriptures proclaimed and the eucharistic sacrifice, Mary's memory sets the pattern.

Not surprisingly, then, the Blessed Mother is intimately connected with the mission that Christ entrusted to the Church — namely, to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. St. Louis de Montfort notes again that the Christian faithful ask that Mary, "exalted as she is above all the angels and saints, intercede for us before her Son in the fellowship of all the saints, until all families of people, whether they are honored with the title of Christian or whether they still do not know the Savior, may be happily

gathered together in peace and harmony into one People of God" (*Treatise on True Devotion*).

In accord with this teaching, Blessed John Paul II referred to Mary as "the Star of the First and New Evangelization." And we, the family of the Knights of Columbus, have become familiar with how the Americas were evangelized through the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego. In the years following Mary's visitation on Tepeyac Hill, the Gospel spread rapidly throughout the New World.

From time to time, as supreme chaplain I am privileged to bless the rosaries that are distributed to members of the Knights of Columbus. As May dawns upon us, let us resolve to increase our devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, by praying the family rosary and by asking Mary's help in all of our needs. Most especially, let us ask her to intercede for the Church that her mission of evangelization may be blessed with fresh energy and effectiveness in this Year of Faith.

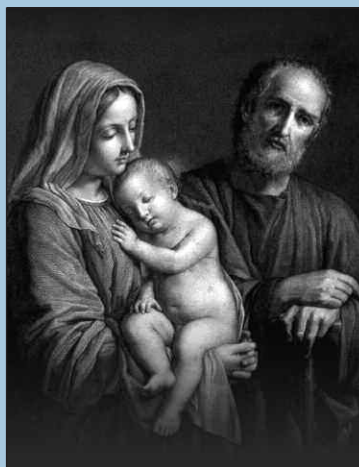


Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, accompanied by Administrative Assistant to the Supreme Knight Stephen Feiler and Father John Grace, O.S.A., blesses Knights of Columbus rosaries at the Order's printing and supply facility in New Haven.

'A Family Prayer' Cards Available

In his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, Pope 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, 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. 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.



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 Balestra, based on a painting by Sassoferrato. The original print is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. Used with permission.

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.

Knights of Columbus Files Formal Comment on HHS Mandate

In addition to Supreme Knight's letter on behalf of the K of C, thousands of individual Knights and their family members also filed comments

In early April, the Knights of Columbus filed formal comments with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, calling on the administration to rescind the unpopular healthcare mandate that will force Americans of faith to cover medical services that violate their consciences without regard for their First Amendment rights.

The letter, signed by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, urged "the administration to rescind the mandate altogether and chart a new course." It adds: "If, however, the administration refuses to do so, we urge it to expand the religious exemption so that objecting individuals and organizations do not lose their conscience rights and are not forced to cooperate in actions that genuinely violate their religious beliefs and moral convictions. Our nation's history of bipartisan respect for the consciences of its citizens instructs us to do no less."

In the letter, the Supreme Knight noted that even with the proposed changes, the mandate still fails to protect the rights of religious believers because "individuals and entities that object to paying for abortion-inducing drugs, contraception and sterilization must pay for these interventions either directly or indirectly, and they must initiate coverage for

these interventions, either directly or indirectly." It continued: "The mandate specifically fails to exempt individuals, even though the First Amendment expressly protects individual religious belief and practice. The government places itself in the untenable position of deciding that some consciences are fit for protection while others are not."

The letter points to a way forward and joins the U.S. bishops in recommending "that the approach found in the Church Amendment to the Public Health Service Act (the Church Amendment)" be adapted to the current mandate. The Church Amendment protects health care providers so that no individual or entity is required to violate his or her religious beliefs or moral convictions as part of a government program. It adds that the Church Amendment passed in 1973 on a 92-1 vote with the support of such notable progressives as then-Senator Joseph Biden and Affordable Care Act architect Senator Edward Kennedy.

The full text of the letter is available at www.kofc.org/Mandate.

In addition to the letter from the supreme knight, thousands of individual Knights of Columbus and their family members have also filed comments.

Year of Faith activities

To help Catholics learn more about their faith, Saratoga Council 246 of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., provided copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* to the families of the six parishes they serve. The copies were free and available to anyone interested, but an envelope was included to collect donations that went directly to the individual parishes.

This year, Knights of St. Joseph the Worker Assembly in Albuquerque, N.M., participated in a Blue Mass that gave thanks to and honored the men and women of the local police and fire departments as well as the military, Corrections Department, Homeland Security, FBI and EMS. The Knights of Columbus provided the Color Corps at the Mass and afterward helped to usher and serve food to attendees.



In December 2012, Wardsville-Osage (Mo.) Council 8399 adopted a program of prayer called "Seeking Christ for our Nation." The council is encouraging its parish and others in the area to hold an appropriate monthly Mass. In January 2013, over 250 people attended the first Mass, and special prayer cards were distributed to those in attendance.

The Knights of Holy Cross Assembly in Germantown, Tenn., kept busy during this Lenten

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are there as models of St. Joseph and St. Paul. St. Joseph was present, to watch over others constantly, without saying a word. St. Paul is always portrayed with a sword, symbolic of the Word of God. We are aware that some priests do not care to see the Knights carrying swords in church. However, I offer this suggestion: take a look at the statue of St. Paul in St. Peter's Square in Rome, where he indeed has a large sword in his hand, and even the pope says Mass close by. (This statue was restored through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus in 1985-86.)

Here is a message I received from friends of mine in California recently. It sums up what I have been saying: "My wife and I had the opportunity of being present at the rosary for our good friend's uncle. We were so surprised and impressed by the prayer remembrance ceremony provided by the Knights of Columbus in the Long Beach area here in California. A group of six 4th Degree Knights in full regalia were present for beautiful prayers and spiritual readings that lasted about half an hour and included a chalice presentation to the family that brought tears to the eyes of most all present. The recognition ended with a sword salute and a wish for his ascent into the Heavenly kingdom where we all hope to go one day. The service was truly an indication of the care and concerns our brother Knights have for one another." (Comment: thank you Lee and Yvonne for this heartfelt account.)

Our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, has certainly touched the hearts of the faithful. In the short period since the announcement of his election,

many of his statements have resonated with us as Knights. During his homily at the Mass of inauguration, he said: "Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness; it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!" Surely this speaks to us as we consider the present key element of solace and sorrow, as we walk with our brothers and sisters in the "spirit and capacity for concern, for compassion ... for love."

As I said last month, circumstances may have differed since Father Michael McGivney's lifetime, but the parish and its families are still in great need of what a dedicated Knights of Columbus council can and does offer.

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

Rev. John P. Grace, O.S.A.
Director of Chaplain Programs and Development
john.grace@kofc.org
(203) 752-4263



Considering that we still face many challenges to religious liberty, the U.S. bishops have announced that there will be another Fortnight for Freedom this year. It will take place from June 21 — the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More — to July 4, Independence Day. Our Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori will celebrate the Fortnight's opening Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore on June 21, and Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate the closing Mass on July 4 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in



Washington, D.C.

All chaplains and their councils are encouraged to plan events to support and celebrate the Fortnight at the local level. Last year, many events had ecumenical or interfaith components, such as prayer services, conferences, and public rallies. Knights and their families can also set aside

a little time each day to pray for religious liberty. Prayer, study, and public action during the Fortnight for Freedom will all help to preserve the fundamental right of religious freedom, for now and the future, for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

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season. From Palm Sunday through Easter, they served as an honor guard during Masses. They also continue ongoing charity by hosting dinners.

Holy Rosary Council 6777 of Milton, Ontario, has taken on a number of initiatives for the Year of Faith. Over 500 books on Catholicism were purchased and distributed to local parishioners, and various texts that encourage prayer and provide information about the New Evangelization have been made available at their church. In addition, prior to every monthly meeting, members gather to pray the rosary.

Thousands of volunteer hours have been devoted, and are still being contributed, to the creation and development of a sanctuary for personal reflection, prayer and solitude in the village of Leavenworth, Wash. There, the members of Leavenworth/Cashmere (Wash.) Council 13597 have united parish and community by bringing the vision of the local pastor to life — a vision that is now known as The Meadows of Our Lady of the Snows. The Meadows is an elaborate and engaging place of spiritual enrichment, an instrument of evangelization. Anchored at its perimeter by the Stations of the Cross, the Meadows includes a Marian contemplative area, an Our Lady of Guadalupe devotional, a Grotto with resurrection cross and tomb, and a special area for outdoor worship services and celebrations. The combined efforts of Knights and their fellow contributors

have ignited a spark that encouraged involvement at all levels from all parishioners, neighbors, and even including tourists passing through.

