



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 Meaning of Patriotism

Authentic love of country demands that we recognize God as the source of our liberties and seek what is good

Archbishop William E. Lori
Supreme Chaplain



On July 4, Independence Day, the United States celebrates the anniversary of its birth and Americans recall the ringing words of the Declaration of Independence, penned by Thomas Jefferson: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” These are words that have

inspired generations of Americans and kindled the aspirations of freedom-loving people everywhere in the world.

This year, the Fourth of July again marks the completion of the Fortnight for Freedom, a two-week period designated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for Catholic citizens to reflect on the importance of religious freedom and to work toward preserving it not only in the United States, but also in so many parts of the world where people suffer persecution for their faith.

LOVE OF COUNTRY

Independence Day and the Fortnight of Freedom have special meaning for the Knights of Columbus. One of the Order's core principles — in addition to charity, unity and fraternity — is patriotism, or love of one's country. While all Knights are called to love their native land, the principle of patriotism is associated in a special way with the Fourth Degree. Every time I am blessed to have an honor guard at Mass or the chance to take part in activities organized by a Fourth Degree assembly, I am reminded of how many Knights and their families have fought and worked to defend freedom.

The Knights of Columbus contributes to the good of society by fostering authentic patriotism, which does not mean that we love our country regardless of right or wrong. Rather, it means that we love our country so much that we want it to embrace what is true and good. We want our country to be a place where human dignity is recognized and respected from conception until natural death, a place where religious freedom is robustly fostered, not just tolerated. Out of love for country we are vigilant, lest our freedoms be unduly curtailed for political reasons.

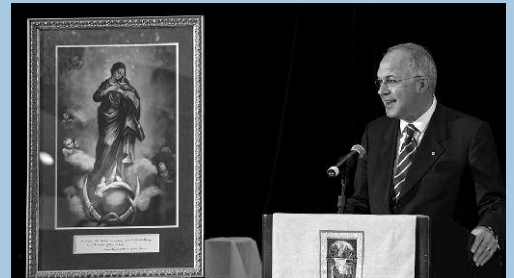
We likewise work to defend marriage and the family because we recognize how these institutions strengthen civil society. This same love of country also prompts us to reach out to those in need and to welcome those who come to our shores seeking a better life, much as our ancestors did.

During the States Dinner at the annual Supreme Convention, we sing not only state and provincial songs, but also the national anthems of all the countries where the Knights of Columbus is present. Each of these songs expresses a love of country. They tell of bravery shown in defense of homelands, and they speak of human aspirations for freedom coupled with the hope of a better tomorrow. In the United States, for example, the Star Spangled Banner calls my native country “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” We all like to take pride in our native land as a place of freedom, and we all have a stake in defending our freedoms. This requires vigilance and courage.

PRACTICING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The fact is, our rights and freedoms are linked. For example, the right to life, religious liberty and freedom of speech are linked intellectually, morally and legally. Life is God's most

Supreme Knight Announces New Marian Prayer Program



Continuing a decades-long tradition, the Knights of Columbus will launch their fifteenth international prayer program this August.

The new program, dedicated to the Blessed Mother under her title of the Immaculate Conception, was announced by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Organizational Meeting of State Deputies in New Haven, Conn., June 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Since 1979, more than 16 million faithful have participated in K of C-sponsored prayer services conducted through this program.

The new program will be the second time the Immaculate Conception is used as the centerpiece for prayer services. The Immaculate Conception was also highlighted from 1981-1982, for the Order's centennial celebration.

The Supreme Council is preparing 300 framed images, copies of the Immaculate Conception painting that hangs in the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec, in Québec City. This image was selected to coincide with the upcoming 350th anniversary of Notre-Dame de Québec parish, the first parish north of present-day Mexico. Each image will be blessed by Pope Francis through the Apostolic Almoner of His Holiness, Archbishop Guido Pozzo.

The program will be inaugurated during the 131st Supreme Convention in San Antonio. At the conclusion of Mass on Wednesday, August 7, State Deputies will participate in a special commissioning ceremony.

The images will then travel Orderwide through local councils which will organize prayer programs for their parishes and communities.

The current program dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe will conclude in August. It has been one of the most successful prayer programs in the Order's history.

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State Deputies Gather in New Haven

State leaders from across three continents gathered in New Haven, Conn., on June 5 for the annual Organizational Meeting of Knights of Columbus State Deputies.

The five-day meeting began with an evening dinner banquet, where state deputies and their wives shared food and conversation with their colleagues from around the globe.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addressed the crowd, expressing his excitement for the new and unique opportunities facing the state leaders in the year ahead.

Also shared was his enthusiasm for the election of Pope Francis, the American hemisphere's first pope, whom he noted had already "won the hearts and minds of millions and millions of Catholics around the globe." The Supreme Knight went on to emphasize that the beginning of the pontificate of the new Holy Father presents Knights with a fantastic opportunity. As members of an important Catholic organization, the newly-elected and re-elected leaders "can stand alongside Pope Francis, helping him to build the Church."

"Pope Francis often says that 'true power is service,'" Anderson noted, "and nothing could be more accurate in describing leadership in the Knights of Columbus.... We have an opportunity and a responsibility to be right here in this historic moment, and we have to be ready in each and every jurisdiction."

The Supreme Knight also spoke of the tragedies that have occurred over the course of the past fraternal year and Knights' response to each of them, mentioning the devastating floods and damage caused by Hurricane Sandy in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut; the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting; the Boston Marathon bombing; and the recent devastation in West, Texas, and Oklahoma.

"Knights have stepped up," Anderson said, "and have been leaders in these communities." Knights, he continued, are called to "truly be our brother's keeper. And we demonstrate that every day."

Part of being our brother's keeper, he counseled, is inviting our brother Catholics to join the Knights of Columbus. "Membership in the Knights of Columbus changes lives," Anderson said. "It helps them to deepen their faith, extend their hand in service, and participate more fully in the life of their parish and the Church."

Referencing the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, the Supreme Knight encouraged each state deputy to strive to make the "gift of self," that doesn't mean "just cut a check, but binds together our communities and makes our neighborhoods work."

The state deputies were invited to New Haven together with their wives, Anderson noted, because the "tremendous effectiveness of the Knights of Columbus is because of our commitment to families." And also because "state leadership is a team effort, first and most importantly between husbands and wives working together to strengthen Catholic families, Catholic parishes, Catholic schools, and our entire neighborhoods and communities."

Establishing his goal for the forthcoming fraternal year, the Supreme Knight closed by saying that he hoped that this meeting would

prepare the state deputies to "build the best year in the history of the Knights of Columbus."

"We will have succeeded," he concluded, "if a year from now you can say this was your best year as a Knight of Columbus."

Over the course of the next five days, the state deputies worked together, learned together and prayed together, enjoying a full program of talks, workshops and special Masses.

State Deputies Called to Extend 'Burning Charity'

Tying his homily to the day's Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori said that the Order's state deputies are called "to extend the burning charity of the Sacred Heart throughout the Church and the world."



"It is most beautiful and most providential" that the Mass on June 7 for state deputies held in St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order, should be celebrated on the feast of the

Sacred Heart, said Archbishop Lori, who is the head of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also remarked on the symbolic character of the ceremonial jewel that the state deputies would receive at the end of Mass. Just as the Sacred Heart is a symbol of the humanity and charity of Jesus, focusing on his "total sacrificial gift for the good of mankind," Archbishop Lori noted, so the ceremonial jewel is a symbol of the state deputy's duty to offer his time and talents for the benefit of the Order, the Church and the community within his jurisdiction.

"All that you do, you must do with charity, with love, for the greater glory of God and for the benefit of others," he told the state deputies, who attended the Mass with their wives.

"In doing this," he concluded, "you will be exercising a charity that evangelizes."

The Mass had many elements that exhibited the international character of the Knights of Columbus, including Prayers of the Faithful read in English, French, Spanish, Tagalog (Filipino) and Polish.

After communion, newly-elected state deputies and their wives were called forward for the conferral of their jewels of office by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and to receive a blessing from Archbishop Lori.

After Mass, Archbishop Lori and the other supreme officers processed to the tomb of Father Michael J. McGivney in the back of the church and led the congregation in the Prayer for the Canonization of the Order's founder. Father McGivney, whose cause for canonization is being studied by the Vatican, holds the title of Venerable Servant of God.

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.

Council Meetings: Opportunities for Spiritual Growth

Key #9: Approach council meetings as an exciting opportunity to provide faith formation and inspiration, not as a chore.



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

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

- Be prepared. Give serious thought to how you'll use your time at council meetings to build enthusiasm for putting faith into action.

Seeing that I dealt with Key #10 for the January 2013

column, we'll now examine Key #9.

We have touched on the topic of "faith formation" and "putting faith into action" various times as we've dealt with the different Keys. It is fundamental to the reason for the presence of the chaplain at council and state levels. I would like to refresh the memories of those of you who may have been following these columns, and for those who have not, let me reprint what I said concerning Key #5 in the issue of August 2012:

"Faith formation on a formal basis has not been an integral element of the monthly meeting for many of our councils. In the September 2011 issue of this Chaplains Report, I devoted the whole column to the new change that had been passed as a Supreme Convention Resolution in August. It specified a time for a chaplain's message on faith formation. The reason for this major change is, as the resolution says, 'for the purpose of providing moral and spiritual guidance and catechetical instruction to the members.'

"Every council, without exception, needs to have formal faith formation, catechetical instruction or a formal spirituality program as a normal part of the council meeting. This takes place towards the beginning of the meeting ... or at a time convenient for the chaplain. However, I wish to emphasize that the council chaplain and the grand knight should ensure that the chaplain's message will never be omitted.

"We are asking for a change of mentality, a new vision, a fresh outlook on making this an important part of each council meeting. This may well be what your council needs for new membership growth and will certainly be a renewal for existing members."

An element that might be missing in a council, and unfortunately is often missing in parish life, is the best "atmosphere" in which to celebrate, to hold meetings, and that is in a true "community" environment. If there is no community spirit, it is very difficult to have a relaxed and enthusiastic group that wants to be together and is willing to become involved. If it is just a matter of "coming to Mass" or "coming to a meeting," you may have people present, but not really an atmosphere in which to celebrate or to become enthusiastic about rolling up their sleeves to serve. The same holds true for the council meeting and faith formation — if the community spirit is lacking, little will be achieved and there will be no enthusiasm for putting faith into action.

Our new Holy Father, Pope Francis, has emphasized this on a number of occasions. Let me quote some of his statements: "When we read the Gospel we see that Jesus gathers a small community around him that welcomes his word, follows it, shares his journey, becomes his family. And with this community, He prepares and builds his Church." "How much do I love the Church? Do I pray for her? Do I feel part of the family of the Church? What am I doing to make it a community in which everyone feels welcomed and understood, feels God's mercy and love that renews life? Faith is a gift and an act that has to do with us personally, but God calls us to live our faith together, as a family, as the Church." "Let us ask the Lord, particularly in this Year of Faith, that our communities, that all the Church, be ever more truly families that live and bring the warmth of God."

If you listen to Pope Francis or read what he preaches, you will

understand immediately that he is speaking directly to us as Knights. On several occasions, he has spoken of what our Order holds so dearly as its core principles — charity, unity and fraternity. Time and again he has asked us to use every opportunity to provide faith formation and inspiration. Our councils are begging us, as their chaplains, to "give serious thought to how you'll use your time at council meetings to build enthusiasm for putting faith into action." They are hungry for spiritual direction and formation. Let's feed them!

My brothers, we have work to do! We have a challenge before us, but we also have a God-given opportunity handed to us by the very members of each council. They have open ears ready to listen and searching hearts, because they are people who are hungry for spiritual formation. Believe it or not, young people are truly searching for an authentic spirituality — one that speaks to them, challenges them and offers them hope for something more than the superficiality of a religion based on relativism. The time has been allotted to us during the monthly meeting, the brothers are ready and willing, the time is ripe, and all that's needed is a chaplain who is happy to accept the invitation and use the occasion!

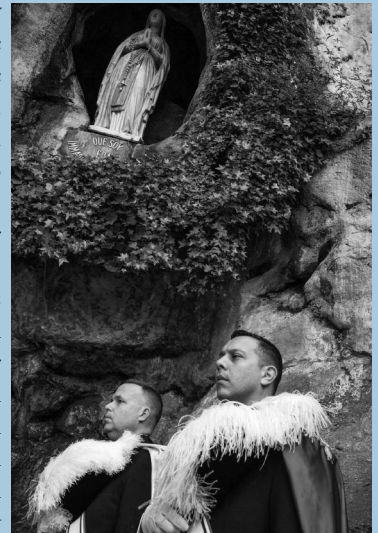
Pray for us, and guide us, Father McGivney, that we may continue to be imbued with your spirit.

Rev. John P. Grace, O.S.A.
john.grace@kofc.org
(203) 752-4263

Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes Deemed Success

More than 500 U.S. military-connected pilgrims take part in three-day international spiritual journey

The Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS) and the Knights of Columbus (K of C) are celebrating the success of American participation in the recent 55th International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. According to Dr. Mark Moitoza, AMS vice-chancellor of Evangelization, more than 500 U.S. military-connected pilgrims made the Memorial Day weekend pilgrimage May 24-26. Their numbers included active duty and retired service personnel, wounded and disabled warriors, spouses and family members. Dr. Moitoza said approximately 160 registered by way of the "Wounded and Disabled Veteran Pilgrimage" package, co-sponsored by the AMS and the K of C.



The pilgrimage provided participants with connections to the militaries of 35 nations. It was a time for healing, both spiritually and physically, in the serene setting and sacred waters of the grotto. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., archbishop for the Military Services, was the principal celebrant and homilist at the



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fundamental gift to us, and religious freedom pertains to each person's relationship with the Creator. After all, the human person is created in God's image and endowed with inherent dignity. A quote on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., reads: "God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are a gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."

I am most grateful to the Knights of Columbus for its staunch support of the recent Fortnight for Freedom. The excellent participation of so many Knights and their families was a source of great encouragement. This was a moment for us to focus yet again on the preciousness and fragility of our God-given liberties and how diligent we need to be in protecting them from governmental intrusions.

BUT WE NEED TO GO FURTHER

The best way to defend religious liberty is to practice one's faith. Religious liberty is under attack by an increasingly secular culture, in part because fewer people are going to church and participating in parish activities. It is estimated that only 27 percent of Catholics in the United States attend Mass each Sunday. Study after study illustrates that those who attend Mass regularly think differently about the serious issues confronting society. Those who attend Mass less frequently tend to blend in with prevailing cultural attitudes about morality. If 75 percent of Catholics went to Mass each week, I don't think religious freedom would be in such danger, at least in the United States.

But there is a deeper reason to cherish religious freedom: It is a gift of God. It is the Lord's way of inviting us to open our hearts to his truth and love, revealed most fully by his Son, Jesus Christ, and communicated to us by the Holy Spirit. We need to protect and cherish our freedom as an act of profound thanks to God. Doing so leads us in the ways of holiness and helps us to become good citizens.

May we, the family of the Knights of Columbus, continue to be at the forefront of defending and fostering religious liberty at home and abroad!

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opening Mass for the American contingent on Friday, May 24, in the Upper Church of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

In his homily, Archbishop Broglio said: "Our pilgrimage in these days is also a time for us to deepen our faith. We come to this wonderful Shrine with many intentions. For some it will be health of mind and body. For others it might be part of a vocation search. Still others ask the Virgin for blessings on their families. We come to this sacred place and pray for all of those deployed in harm's way and we beg our Mother to intercede with her Son so that the world might experience that peace that only He can bring."

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, participated in the pilgrimage and noted, "The Knights of Columbus organized its first military pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1919, and we were honored to return to this important Marian shrine supporting this pilgrimage of faith by our active duty and retired troops who have sacrificed so much for our country. The great love that these service men and women have for God and country sets a wonderful example for all of us who have benefited from their sacrifices in the protection of our freedom."

The pilgrimage was well attended with representation from 35 countries from around the world. More than 20,000 pilgrims attended the closing Mass on Sunday, May 26, at the Basilica of St. Pius X.