



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

Looking Below the Surface

Religious liberty is subtly assaulted by recent court decisions and government mandates

**Archbishop
William E. Lori**

Supreme Chaplain



During the second Fortnight for Freedom, which ended July 4, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its rulings on marriage, and the Department of Health and Human Services issued the final version of its “preventive services” mandate. Both developments were troubling, and both constitute affronts to religious freedom.

On the surface, it may seem as though religious freedom is not seriously threatened. For many people, the HHS mandate seems to be a fight about contraception and



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore speaks during a candlelight vigil for the second annual Fortnight for Freedom observance outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington June 22. (CNS photo/Leslie E. Kossoff)

the intricacies of health insurance plans. And for many, the Supreme Court decisions — which went a long way toward legalizing same-sex “marriages” throughout the United States — seem to be a step in the direction of tolerance.

After all the shouting, we might be tempted to think that things will go back to normal. In other words, our churches will continue to function; our schools, hospitals, and charities will continue to fulfill their mission; no one will go to jail; and it will be business as usual. However, we need to look below the surface. Sometimes, the devil really is in the details.

THREATS CLOSE AT HAND

Let’s begin with the impetus that the Supreme Court gave to same-sex marriage. The court all but struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)

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Pope Francis Receives Supreme Knight in Private Audience



Pope Francis recently met with Supreme Knight Carl Anderson in an audience during a visit by the Order’s leader to Rome. During their conversation, the pope and the supreme knight discussed the Order’s charitable initiatives and the good works done by Knights throughout the world.

(Photo by L’Osservatore Romano)

Fraternal Survey Numbers Reach New Records

Once again the numbers stand to testify to the immense good the Knights of Columbus achieves worldwide. The results of this year’s Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity show how Knights across the world have worked together to change lives in positive ways, setting an all-time record for charitable donations and service hours in 2012.

- State councils, local councils, assemblies, circles, and the Supreme Council total contributions: **\$167,549,817**
- Total volunteer/fraternal activity hours: **70,113,207**
- Total meetings held during the fraternal year: **303,650**
- Number of blood donors: **423,575**
- Visits to sick and bereaved: **5,159,777**
- Estimated hours of fraternal service: **9,209,094**
- Volunteer hours for Habitat for Humanity: **1,456,464**
- Donations to Church activities: **\$49,550,798**

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and signaled to the states that they should consider passing laws redefining marriage to include people of the same sex. The 5-4 majority opinion further opined that those who defend traditional marriage do so because of bigotry. Century after century, civilized societies have held that marriage is between one man and one woman for the sake of children and for the common good. Christianity has even held that marriage between a man and a woman is a sign of the love of Christ for his Church.

Yet, with the stroke of a pen, the Supreme Court has held the content of that teaching to be a form of discrimination. This cannot bode well for men and women of conscience and for religious institutions that continue to teach the truth about marriage. Very likely, we are in for a rough ride.

Proponents of same-sex marriage say that religious freedom is protected because no minister with conscientious objections will be forced to “solemnize” such a union. But we need to look deeper. The legalization of same-sex marriage will have many ramifications for religious freedom. There will be pressure on the Church, for example, with regard to hiring practices, insurance benefits and the use of facilities. We can look for discrimination charges to be brought against those who speak out boldly in defense of traditional marriage. These and other threats are close at hand.

The religious freedom threats posed by the HHS mandate are also imminent. This mandate would require that virtually all employees be covered for certain medications and procedures that are contrary to Church teaching. These include the abortion-inducing drug Ella, reproductive counseling that extends to minors with or without their parents’ knowledge, contraception and sterilization.

Houses of worship and a handful of other religious institutions are exempt. Faith-based universities, hospitals and charities are not exempt, but instead given an “accommodation.” This means that the proscribed services will be provided either through the insurer or a third-party administrator, but these “accommodated” institutions will still have to cooperate at some level in the provision of these so-called services. The final HHS rule made no accommodation whatsoever for conscientious for-profit employers who have moral or religious objections to providing this kind of coverage.

IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM

What’s wrong with this picture? For one thing, the Department of Health and Human Services, using a part of the IRS code that was never meant to deal with the rights of conscience, has divided religious institutions and people into three categories: houses of worship, institutions of education and service, and conscientious individuals who want to run their businesses according to religious principles. If we look beneath the surface, we see what has been lost. In the 40 years since *Roe v. Wade*, the government has recognized the religious freedom of all three groups without distinction under an amendment to the Public Health Service Act. The much-needed legislation, authored by the late Democratic Senator Frank Church, had broad bipartisan support. Now, that has been swept away. By creating a three-tiered structure, the administration is regulating our God-given, constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedom.

And HHS means business. Any religiously affiliated educational or service institution that fails to comply with the mandate faces crippling fines. If a diocesan Catholic Charities, for example, provides excellent health care coverage for its employees but does not include the so-called preventive services, it will be fined \$100 per day per employee. Alternately, if the same Catholic Charities decided not to offer its employees any health care coverage, it would be fined \$2,000 per year per employee. The way

the fines have been structured tells us how intent HHS is on providing these services. Consider how easily the list of so-called preventive services could be expanded to include elective abortion and other procedures contrary to Church teaching.

Fortunately, many conscientious for-profit private employers have filed lawsuits against the HHS mandate; so far these lawsuits are faring well. With the publication of the final rule for non-profits, the lawsuits brought by many church-related institutions will now go forward. We should pray that these institutions will prevail in court, as intense study is currently underway to determine other responses to the final version of the HHS mandate.

Looking below the surface is important, allowing us to defend religious liberty in the public square and the ballot box. Even more important is prayer. I ask all members of the Knights of Columbus and their families to pray — and to pray intensely — for the restoration of religious freedom for U.S. citizens and for peoples throughout the world. May we strive to ensure that the light of truth and the lamp of freedom will burn brightly everywhere!

Save the date! Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013

A pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., celebrating the Year of Faith and the 50th anniversary of the Knights Tower Carillon, will be held on Sept. 8, 2013. The Knights of Columbus funded the construction of the campanile (bell tower) of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the

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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.

Pope Francis and the Knights of Columbus



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

Director of Chaplain Programs & Development

For some time past, we have been considering the “Ten Keys to Success as a Chaplain,” the formal treatment of which we completed last month.

A major goal of the chaplain’s program during these last few years was to give a

greater emphasis to spiritual development at meetings of the councils and assemblies of the Knights of Columbus. Many favorable comments have been made concerning the progress that has been made in a number of jurisdictions. This is encouraging to hear, but much remains to be done.

We pray that more and more of our chaplains will help make council meetings a time when Knights not only plan the charitable and other work of the Order, but also receive the spiritual nourishment that makes performing those acts of charity take on deeper meaning.

I think Pope Francis is a true friend of the Knights of Columbus! He regularly uses the language of Knights’ spirituality and charitable devotion. I am going to quote some phrases and statements our pope has made, and I want you to listen to them with the living ears of Knights, applying what he says as being specifically to Knights. We are proud to be called the “right arm of the church.” These are some of the strengths of that “right arm” that Pope Francis emphasizes:

- “Relationship with God isn’t like a treasure that we keep in a corner of our lives but it must grow. It means trying to live as Christians, trying to follow him even if we see our limits and our weaknesses. The temptation to leave God aside and put ourselves in the centre is always at the door.”
- “Living as children of God, without being discouraged by our missteps or by our sins, feeling loved by him.”
- “We have to be the first to have a strong hold on this hope and we have to be its visible, clear, and bright sign for all.”
- “With our resurrected lives, we have new light and strength in our commitment and our daily efforts. It is a precious service that we must give to our world.”
- “In the Gospel, we are shown the center from which everything must go forth and to which everything must lead: loving God and being Christ’s disciples by living the Gospel.”
- “Advance with determination along the path of holiness; do not rest content with a mediocre Christian life, but let your affiliation serve as a stimulus, above all for you yourselves, to an ever greater love of Jesus Christ.”
- “Love the Church! Let yourselves be guided by her! In your

parishes, in your dioceses, be a true ‘lung’ of faith and Christian life, a breath of fresh air.”

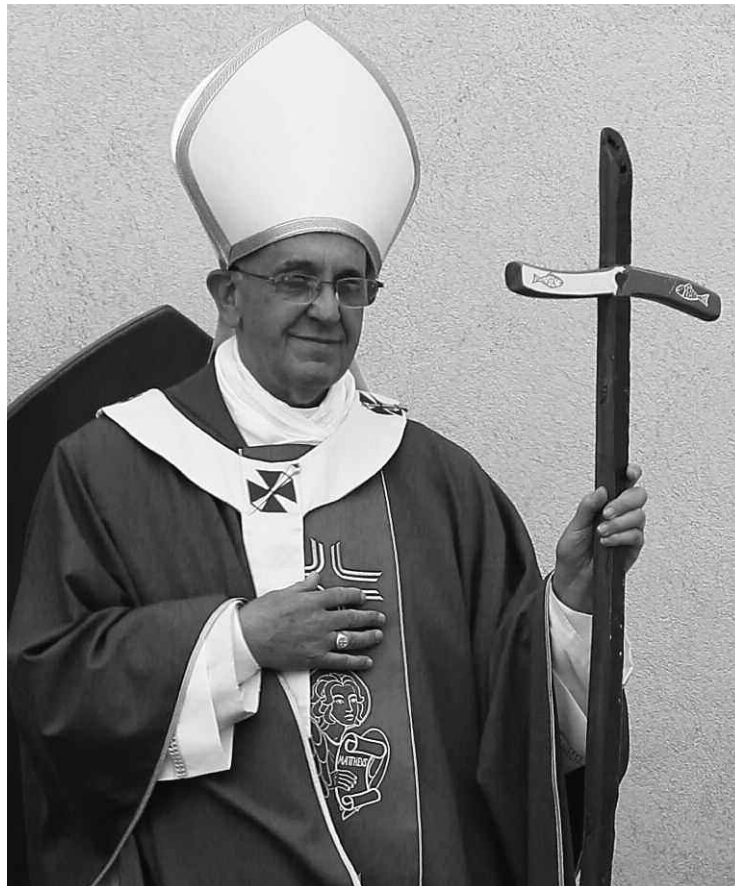
- “Within the Church, there is a great wealth and variety of expressions in which everything leads back to unity; the variety leads back to unity, and unity is the encounter with Christ.”
- “You have a specific and important mission ... that of keeping alive the relationship between the faith and the cultures of the peoples to whom you belong.”
- “May you also be true evangelizers! May your initiatives be ‘bridges’, means of bringing others to Christ, so as to journey together with him. And in this spirit may you always be attentive to charity. Each individual Christian and every community is missionary to the extent that they bring to others and live the Gospel, and testify to God’s love for all, especially those

experiencing difficulties. Be missionaries of God’s love and tenderness! Be missionaries of God’s mercy, which always forgives us, always awaits us and loves us dearly.”

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson wrote recently underlining similarities between Pope Francis and Father McGivney. The complete article can be found at kofc.org, but I quote one sentence here:

“How inspiring for us to have those principles highlighted and reinvigorated by Pope Francis’ call for charity, love, trust, fraternity and brotherhood — and how clearly his words highlight the timeless relevance of our Order 131 years after its establishment by Venerable Father McGivney!”

We have become Knights of Columbus to serve, not to be served. “To seek out and save what is lost.” Our charitable works and projects can only bear fruit, fruit that will last, by living out spirituality based on our principles of charity, unity and fraternity, within the Church and by working directly with the



(CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Church.

Where do we stand as an Order within the Church in today’s world and what has our new Holy Father got to say to us? How does each council respond? We must continue to work 100 percent with our Church to continue to follow our Order’s vision, and we must continue to hear the words of our pope and the Church’s teaching. That must be the source of all our endeavors. Let us be true followers of the example of our founder, Father Michael McGivney.

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
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FRATERNAL SURVEY, FROM PAGE 1

- Donations to community activities: **\$56,839,860**
- Donations to youth activities: **\$18,595,934**
- 10-year cumulative charitable disbursements: **\$1,475,708,267**
- 10-year estimated hours of volunteer service: **673,570,268**

For a more detailed look at our Order's accomplishments in the past year, view the Supreme Knight's Annual Report to the 131st Supreme Convention at kofc.org/convention.

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Immaculate Conception, which was dedicated Nov. 20, 1959. In 1962, the K of C made an additional gift to the National Shrine for the purchase of its carillon of 56 bells. On the day of the dedication (Sept. 8, 1963), Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle expressed his gratitude: "To the members of the Knights of Columbus, in the name of the bishops of the country, I say we are deeply grateful for this wonderful gift. Long after we are gone, this tower and these bells will be paying honor to God and to his Mother."

Shrine Prepares for John Paul II's Canonization

The Knights of Columbus-sponsored Blessed John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., will see an increase in scheduled activities as a result of the Vatican's July 5 announcement of the approval of a miracle through Blessed John Paul II's intercession. Once the timing for the canonization is finalized, the Shrine will announce a series of events leading up to and surrounding the canonization date. Some events will be devotional in nature, while others will be educational highlighting the pope's life and legacy.

"We at the shrine dedicated to this great man join with people around the world in welcoming the news that Blessed John Paul II will soon be canonized," said the shrines Executive Director Patrick Kelly. "Throughout his life, John Paul II was a champion of the rights and dignity of every human person, and his witness and legacy continue to speak important messages to our world today. Similarly, his life of holiness and devotion to God continue to be an example to us all."

Individuals, groups and media interested in learning more about Blessed John Paul II are welcome to visit the shrine, which houses one of the most extensive collections of his relics and artifacts outside of the Vatican. For more information visit jp2shrine.org.

