



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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The Invitation to Fraternity

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Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



The true power of the Knights of Columbus lies in its distinctively faithful fraternity that evangelizes through charitable action. Men bond by doing things together, such as playing sports, attending events or taking part in other activities. Such unifying group activities are at the heart of the way our brother Knights evangelize those around them.

The Knights of Columbus began when Father McGivney, noticing the dearth of young men regularly attending St. Mary's Church, gathered those who were active members of the parish and asked them to build up a faithful fraternity that would attract others. Is it any wonder that the very first Knights were Civil War

veterans who carried over their own experience of fraternity from the physical battlefields of Gettysburg to the spiritual battlefields of post-war America, where fathers and sons were discriminated against because of their faith? Does it surprise you that the priest who inspired these veterans was himself an athlete and a marksman? All accounts of the life of our venerable founder relate how men saw him as an exemplar whom they sought to emulate, listen to and follow.

Catholic men today similarly need to be evangelized and given the opportunity to accept their responsibilities as men of faith. The evangelization of men may not always begin with a long philosophical conversation about the faith; it often begins with an invitation to do something together.

As a college student, I was asked to join the Knights during a pick-up basketball game. As I retrieved the ball from out of bounds, my teammate Frank Nolan realized he recognized me from church. He later asked if I had heard of the Knights of Columbus. His actions reflected what Pope Francis meant when he said, "Fraternity needs to be discovered, loved, experienced, proclaimed and witnessed to. But only love, bestowed as a gift from God, enables us to accept and fully experience fraternity" (*Message for the World Day of Peace*, 2014). I remain grateful to Frank for witnessing to the power of the Knights of Columbus' fraternity, thus making it attractive for me to join.

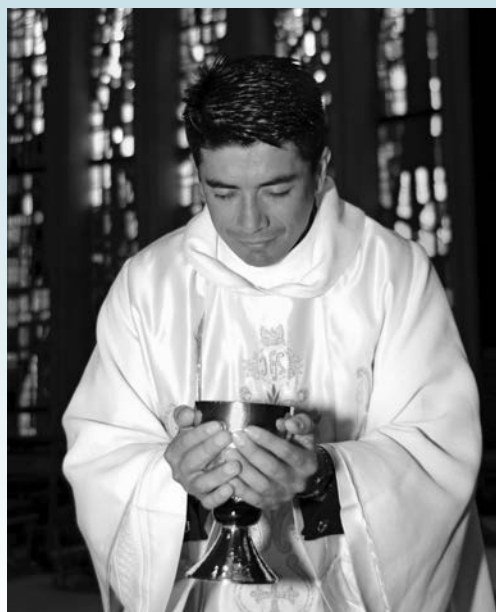
The winter months offer a prime moment to testify to the faithful fraternity of the Knights of Columbus. In conjunction with the Super Bowl or playoffs, councils can offer men's day retreats that center upon sport-related themes, such as how "iron sharpens iron" as men "run the race" of our Christian lives, as described by St. Paul. In addition, the Catholic example of sports legends such as Vince Lombardi, Vin Scully and others can serve to highlight the universal dimension of our faith. Incorporating a competitive activity such as skeet-shooting, cards or another sporting event allows for conversation about the virtues of perseverance, fortitude and fidelity. An invitation to experience such fraternity allows men on the peripheries of the faith to experience the bond of brotherhood that may begin to sustain them for the challenges ahead.

Vivat Jesus!

Top Seven Things That Define a K of C Chaplain

1. He is the "Father McGivney" of his council, supporting Knights in their spiritual journey.
2. He encourages Knights to attend Mass faithfully and to receive the sacraments regularly.
3. He offers a spiritual message at every council meeting. When he cannot attend, he should prepare a message that can be shared by a council officer.
4. He promotes devotion to Father McGivney.
5. He invites all eligible Catholic men of his parish to join the Knights of Columbus, letting them know that membership in the Order can help a Catholic man develop his faith, be a better father and husband, and contribute to the Church and the world.
6. He does his best to make his council known for the faith of its members rather than just its social activities.
7. He helps other priests and bishops understand what the Knights can offer their parishes and dioceses.

For information and materials that can help you live up to these goals, visit kofc.org/chaplains.



“Winning Isn’t Everything — It’s the Only Thing”

*As excitement builds for the Super Bowl, share the inspiring story of Vince Lombardi, an NFL coach who once served as an active member of the Patriotic Degree. The excerpt below is directly taken from *By Their Works* by Stephen Singular, which highlights faithful Catholic men whose membership in the Knights of Columbus shaped their lives. To order the book for your parish or council, visit knightsgear.com.*

Who was Vince Lombardi? The world knew him as the spectacularly successful coach of the Green Bay Packers who once said, “Winning isn’t everything — it’s the only thing,” but there was far more to Lombardi than that. Born on June 11, 1913, he was the son of a butcher, one of five children of Henry and Matilda Lombardi of Brooklyn, New York. And while Vince was known for being a tough-talking football coach, before there was coaching, he had spent two years in a seminary studying for the priesthood; he played football at Fordham University on a defensive line known as the “Seven Blocks of Granite,” and studied law in Fordham’s night school.

He also taught Latin, algebra, and physics at St. Cecilia’s, a Catholic high school in New Jersey, before becoming a coach at West Point and then taking a job as assistant coach with the New York Giants of the National Football League. His achievements in the NFL would inspire tens of millions, as he himself was inspired by his formation as a Catholic and his life as a Knight. He never wanted the easy assignments in football or elsewhere, but sought out the biggest challenges he could find.



Football ... a Metaphor for Christian Life?

“The great Green Bay Packer theologian, Vince Lombardi, liked to say that real glory consists in getting knocked flat on the ground, again and again and again, and getting back up — just one more time than the other guy. That’s real glory. And there’s no better metaphor for the Christian life. Don’t give up. Your pro-life witness gives glory to God. Be the best Catholics you can be. Pour your love for Jesus Christ into building and struggling for a culture of life. By your words and by your actions, be an apostle to your friends and colleagues. Speak up for what you believe. Love the Church. Defend her teaching. Trust in God. Believe in the Gospel. *And don’t be afraid.* Fear is beneath your dignity as sons and daughters of the God of life.”

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia
Cardinal O’Connor Conference on Life, Washington, D.C.
Jan. 22, 2012

Scoring for Charity

Last year, one week before Super Bowl Sunday, Knights of Columbus from California and the Supreme Council joined Football Hall of Famers Anthony Muñoz and Dave Casper, and several other coaches and players, to distribute coats to more than 270 students at an inner-city Catholic grammar school in San Francisco.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Athletes for Christ, the Raiders Foundation, the Jack Del Rio Foundation and the Anthony Muñoz Foundation, the event gave professional athletes and coaches the opportunity to set an example for the students, demonstrating faith in action and what it really means to be a Christian man.

Since the program began in 2009, the Knights of Columbus has distributed tens of thousands of coats in communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. Events have been held not only at schools, but also at military bases and in Native American communities and inner-city neighborhoods, sometimes through partnerships with local police departments.

For information on engaging the men of your council in similar distributions, visit kofc.org/community.



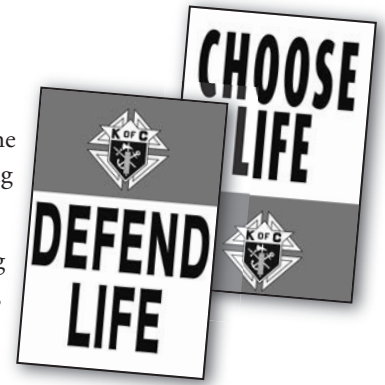
Photo by Spirit Juice Studios

Planning the Months Ahead

JANUARY

Invite council members and parishioners to pray a rosary novena for life prior to the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, Jan. 23. You might invite conclude the novena with a special evening of prayer and adoration at your parish.

Encourage your parishioners and council members to join you in marching in defense of the unborn during the National March for Life on Jan. 27. If you are unable to go to Washington due to parish obligations, offer to say the Blessing for Travelers for your brother Knights before their departure.

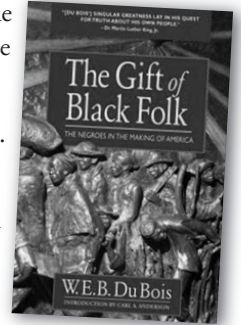


FEBRUARY

Join the USCCB in celebrating Black History Month in your parish and community. Visit usccb.org/issue-and-action to discover resources on celebrating the cultural diversity of the Church and on addressing the racial divide in the United States. Also of interest is W.E.B. DuBois's *The Gift of Black Folk*, available for purchase at knightsgear.com.

Organize a day of prayer and fundraising to support the Order's partnership with the Apostles of Jesus. Through this partnership, the Order helps provide care and shelter for orphaned children in Africa.

Mark the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes by asking your parish to support wounded or ill military personnel attending the 2017 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. By raising \$2,600, your parish can cover the travel expenses for one pilgrim. For information on how to make a donation, visit warriorstolourdes.com.



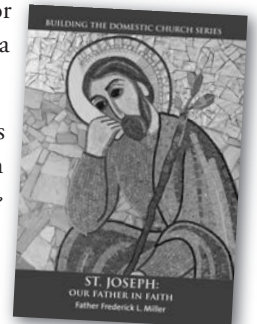
MARCH

Organize a Lenten retreat for parishioners and members of your council. During the retreat, allow the opportunity for prayer, reflection, faith sharing and confession. If time permits, consider leading a full weekend of reflection to offer a greater opportunity for spiritual enrichment, contemplation and meditation on the passion of our Lord.

Honor St. Joseph as patron of the Church by holding a novena from March 11 to March 19, his feast day. Encourage your brother Knights and parishioners to have a deeper devotion to St. Joseph by distributing the Veritas Series booklet *St. Joseph: Our Father in Faith* (#328) and *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* (#10162).

Celebrate the international Knights of Columbus Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child, March 25, by organizing a pro-life Mass or prayer service with your council. Invite all members of the community, including public officials and health care workers, and distribute the *Prayer for Life* (#4665).

Celebrate Founder's Day on March 29 by planning events in honor of Father McGivney's legacy. For ideas on how to involve your parish in Founder's Day and Orderwide Outreach Week events, visit the Council section of kofc.org/service.



Best Practice of the Month — Being a Voice for the Unborn

When in search of true exemplars of the pro-life movement within our own fraternity of Knights, one need look no further than the brothers Father John and Father William Shaw, both priests in the Diocese of Yakima, Wash.

Father John is a member of Toppenish (Wash.) Council 1699, and at 89 years old, he still leads the diocesan ministry to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. Father Bill, 87, is also a member of Council 1699 and serves as the pastor of St. Mary Church in White Swan.

The brothers were recently honored for their decades of ministry at the diocese's Celebration of Faith event, commended for having together served in 24 of the diocese's 41 parishes since their ordination in 1957.

In addition to their service within their parishes, the brothers have adopted an admirable practice in defense of life: On Wednesdays, their typical "day off" from diocesan duties, the Fathers Shaw can be found praying in front of a local pro-abortion facility.

Like Father Bill and Father John, encourage a prayerful commitment to the culture of life in your own council, parish and diocese. Invite Knights and parishioners to join you in praying in front of Planned Parenthood or other pro-abortion facilities. Or, help organize a continuous novena for the recognition of the sanctity of life, asking parishioners to pray five decades of the rosary on different days of the month. Encourage Knights in your council to volunteer on days lacking coverage to ensure continual prayers.

If you or your council has established a similar practice that demonstrates a chaplain's role in enhancing the spiritual life of your parish, please send the information to chaplains@kofc.org.



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®

CHAPLAIN'S
report

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



Human Life: A Masterpiece

“Even the weakest and most vulnerable,
the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor,
are masterpieces of God’s creation,
made in his own image, destined to live forever,
and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

Pope Francis, *Message for the Annual Day of Life*

Show your respect for the unborn, the masterpieces of God’s creation, by challenging your brother Knights to tell the world #WhyWeMarch. Challenge them to use the hashtag at least once on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter, sharing why they attended this year’s national March for Life and other pro-life events.

For information on the annual March for Life, visit marchforlife.org.

Take a look at the Knights in 2016

As we begin the new year, visit kofc.org and take a look at the highlights of the Order throughout 2016! To stay up-to-date on all Knights of Columbus spiritual initiatives throughout the new year, regularly check out all of the information on our website and follow us on social media.