



# 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

# Unity Through Charity in Action

**Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP**

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



“A love which unites,” Pope Francis said in the opening ceremony of the 34th World Youth Day in Panama, “is the quiet love of a hand outstretched to serve, a commitment that draws no attention to itself. It is a love that does not put on airs, a humble love that gives itself to others with an outstretched hand. This is the love that unites us today.”

I wish to share with you the beautiful charitable efforts exhibited by our brother Knights and their families on behalf of pilgrims to World Youth Day in

Panama. While the K of C has existed in Panama for more than 100 years, membership was not growing. Then a priest in Panama, Father Vincente Amable, dreamed that Father McGivney asked him not to let the Knights disappear in Panama. Father Amable then revived the men in Panama Balboa Council 1371 in Panama City. Later, three new councils would eventually spin off from that council.

Knights from these councils served as the volunteers at the FIAT Festival (co-sponsored by the Knights and FOCUS) held during this year’s World Youth Day. Local K of C members and their families staffed the FIAT Festival, serving as the primary logistical partners for the event which drew over 8,000 international pilgrims. These same men provided logistical support for a three-day catechesis offered for Spanish-speaking pilgrims. Many local Knights also supported their local pastors in receiving pilgrims and hosted international pilgrims in their homes.



*Pilgrims show their enthusiasm at the Figali Convention Center which hosted FIAT, the largest English-language World Youth Day event. (Image courtesy Wellington Luck)*



*Father Jonathan Kalisch stands with Tom Perretta, director of membership experience and engagement, and Gabriel Mattatall-Calderon, grand knight of Council 1371. (Image courtesy Wellington Luck)*

These brother Knights exhibited the “quiet love” highlighted by Pope Francis, and this charity in action had a deep impact. Many of the 50 or so men from various backgrounds and parishes had not known each other before working together during WYD. Their individual ‘yesses’ to join a council — and become more involved in their parish through the K of C — led them not only to help lead an international gathering of thousands of young adults, but also to a deeper encounter with other men who sought to build up the Church in Panama.

This is the impact our evangelizing charity can have: the renewal of men and their family to deeper faith. May we as K of C chaplains follow the pattern of Father Amable and reanimate councils, re-engaging our brother Knights in the “quiet love” of faith-filled charitable service. The impact may be greater than you realize.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*To view a recording of the WYD Panama FIAT Festival, go to:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx4cMx\\_ScQU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx4cMx_ScQU).*

## Chaplain's Report Going All Digital

For more than a decade, *Chaplain's Report* has been providing news and information to chaplains. Now, to provide more-timely and easily-accessible information, *Chaplain's Report* will become a digital-only newsletter starting with the next edition.

A monthly email linking to the digital newsletter will be sent to all chaplains. To register or update your email address, go to [kofc.org/myinfo](http://kofc.org/myinfo). By providing information on this page, chaplains will automatically receive the monthly email without having to take any additional steps. Non-chaplains may request a digital copy by visiting [kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up](http://kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up). The newsletter can be read online at [kofc.org/chaplains](http://kofc.org/chaplains). It also may be easily printed directly from this webpage.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we take this next step forward. Questions, feedback and advice? Email us at [chaplains@kofc.org](mailto:chaplains@kofc.org).

Visit [kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up](http://kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up) to sign up to receive future issues of this newsletter via email. Previous issues are archived at [kofc.org/chaplains](http://kofc.org/chaplains).

# Knights Offer the Silence of Sanctity to Young Catholics

By Rosemary Sullivan

The greatest gift the Knights of Columbus may have brought to a national gathering of 17,000 young Catholics in January was an opportunity to experience a deeper silence.

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students' biennial SEEK Conference is usually marked by uncontainable joy for Christ as well as periods of silent reflection, especially at Mass and other times of prayer.

Held in Indianapolis Jan. 3-7, this year's gathering included something special, the incorrupt heart of St. Jean Marie Vianney. The major relic had a profound effect on the participating students, especially during adoration. It also touched the 350 seminarians and more than 400 priests on hand as Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, is revered by Catholic clergy as the model of priestly holiness.

The Fellowship of Catholic University Students, or FOCUS, is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the Gospel with college and university students. FOCUS holds the SEEK conference in order to, as its mission states, know Christ and fulfill his great commission.

In addition to daily Mass, confession, top-notch workshops and speakers, the organizers arranged for daily Eucharistic adoration overseen this year by DiocesanPriest.com. It offered a quiet place for prayer and conversation with God. Each day the chapel was packed and some of those sacred conversations could be seen etched on the faces of those in prayer.

The silence was first felt on Friday evening when the relic arrived at SEEK 2019 as part of a national pilgrimage that will stretch into the spring.

Catholic journalists and reporters have written about the tremendous response of the young people in wanting to venerate the relic. At one point on Friday evening, the chapel had over 3,000 people and could not fit another soul, all in prayer, all in absolute silence.

For me, another moment stands out even more. On Saturday morning, the relic was to be carried in procession and placed in front of the main altar during Mass. But before the priests lined up for the procession, I asked that the relic be placed in the sacristy in order for the concelebrating priests to have time to pray with St. Jean Vianney. What happened was extraordinarily powerful.

The Knight who had been traveling with the relic on behalf of the K of C brought the relic in and placed it on a simple table towards the back of the room. At first, most of the priests were not aware of the arrival of the relic but quickly a wave of silence swept over the room and they approached, asking if they could venerate the relic.

The emotion in the room was incalculable and time seemed to stand still. I was witnessing the priests, praying through the intercession of St. Jean Marie, seeking to strengthen their priesthood. One priest later shared with me that he has been struggling with all that has been in the news about the Church lately and that having the relic here reminded him of the words of St. Jean Vianney: "Do not try to please everybody. Try to please God, the angels and the saints — they are your public."

St. Jean Marie Vianney, known as the holy Curé of Ars, is well recognized as the great apostle of the confessional. On Saturday evening, while over 6,500 confessions were being heard over a two-hour period, St. John Vianney's incorrupt heart was placed where the priests could see it. "Hearing confessions while knowing St. Jean was there praying for me, and for all those seeking God's forgiveness, was incredibly powerful and something that will stay with me long into my priesthood," one chaplain shared with me.



Courtesy Rosemary Sullivan

Another said he was reminded of the "rigorous life of prayer and fasting of St. Jean and how he would spend endless hours in the confessional saving souls for Jesus; something that I, as a newly ordained priest, pray I will always remember."

On March 29, 2007, at a Founder's Day banquet hosted by the Supreme Council, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson stated, "It is at the parish level and in support of parish priests that the Knights of Columbus will continue to make its mark on the Church." As the mother of a priest and as the executive director of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation directors (who oversee DiocesanPriest.com), I would add it would be in the silence as well.

Thank you, members of the Knights, for all that you do to support our priests. Please continue to pray for our bishops, priests, seminarians and all those seeking to hear God's call.

*As the executive director of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), Rosemary Sullivan oversees NCDVD's year-round efforts to support and educate vocation directors in 171 U.S. dioceses and major eparchies, as well as in Australia, Canada, England, Italy, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Scotland and other areas throughout the world. She is the mother of four children, one of whom is a priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.*

*For more details on the K of C-sponsored tour of the incorrupt heart of St. Jean Vianney, visit [kofc.org/vianney](http://kofc.org/vianney).*

## This Month's "Cheat Sheet"

*Need help from the Knights? This cheat sheet can help you discuss your needs at the next council meeting.*

- ✓ See a need in your parish families for greater prayer? Ask your council to promote the Family Prayer Night — [kofc.org/prayernight](http://kofc.org/prayernight).
- ✓ Do the kids in your community need coats? It's not too late to ask your council to organize a Coats for Kids event — [kofc.org/coats](http://kofc.org/coats).
- ✓ Did your parish attend the March for Life? Ask your council to start planning for next year — [kofc.org/life](http://kofc.org/life).

# Practical Resources for Chaplains

**Insurance Products** — Knights of Columbus long-term care insurance can help you pay for extended medical needs. Visit [kofc.org/insurance](http://kofc.org/insurance) for details.

**ChurchLoan** — This service provides secured loans, unsecured loans and refinancing to institutions affiliated with the greater Catholic community in the United States, United States territories and Canada. For information, visit [kofc.org/churchloan](http://kofc.org/churchloan).

**The Online Catechism** — The Knights of Columbus offers the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in an interactive digital format to help everyone more easily learn about the teachings of the Church. Access it at [kofc.org/catechism](http://kofc.org/catechism).

## Upcoming Activities

### FEBRUARY

Mark the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes by spiritually and financially supporting military personnel attending the 2019 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. To donate and learn more about the pilgrimage, visit [warriorstolourdes.com](http://warriorstolourdes.com).

On Feb. 22, the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, lead Knights and parishioners in prayer for the Pope Francis, the successor of Peter.

### 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. For helpful retreat information, visit [kofc.org/reflection](http://kofc.org/reflection).

Celebrate March 25 as the international Knights of Columbus Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child 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, visit the council section of [kofc.org/service](http://kofc.org/service).

### APRIL

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 28, the second Sunday of Easter. Knights in your council can help you plan a Holy Hour or a series of talks on the importance of the Divine Mercy in today's world. *Chaplet of Divine Mercy prayer cards* (#9402) and *Knights of Columbus rosaries* (Rose-1) can be ordered by your council to use during these events.



## EXPERIENCE GENUINE FREEDOM

### A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.*

— Gospel for Feb. 10, Lk 5:10-11

"They left everything and followed him." My brothers, these words shock me every time I hear or read them. If we are honest, we have to admit how hard it is to leave everything to follow Jesus. After all, we are so good at taking stuff with us as we attempt to follow him — our pride, our possessions, our desire for power, more comfort and pleasure. We attempt to drag this heavy luggage along, or sometimes try to sneak little trinkets into our bags to take with us: maybe it's our wandering eyes, our temper, a critical spirit, or our workaholicism. But Jesus and his disciples travel lightly. He invites us to leave everything and follow him. Let's experience this genuine freedom of being his disciple: a freedom which hits the open road with our Lord, free of everything that hinders us.

### This Month's Challenge

This month I challenge you to join other Catholic men who are striving to "leave everything and follow him." Join them for some time of prayer, fellowship and encouragement, possibly during a Knights meeting, breakfast or a drink after work. Secondly, I challenge you to be open with a brother in Christ about some area of your life where you are facing challenges. "Leaving everything" means that we also need to leave behind our pretense and appearances and meet each other as true brothers.



Alex Wright / Photo Lataze



*A statue of Our Lady at the Figali Convention Center which hosted FIAT, the largest English-language World Youth Day event. The event was co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. (Image courtesy Wellington Luck)*

## FROM POPE FRANCIS

### A Love Which Unites

You see, a love which unites is a love that does not overwhelm or oppress, cast aside or reduce to silence, humiliate or domineer.

It is the love of the Lord, a daily, discreet and respectful love; a love that is free and freeing, a love that heals and raises up.

The love of the Lord has to do more with raising up than knocking down, with reconciling than forbidding,

with offering new chances than condemning,

with the future than the past. It is the quiet love

of a hand outstretched to serve,

a commitment that draws no attention to itself.

It is a love that does not put on airs, a humble love that gives itself to others with an outstretched hand.

This is the love that unites us today.

*To Pilgrims in Panama on the Occasion  
of the 34th World Youth Day,*

*Campo Santa Maria la Antigua – Cinta Costera, Jan. 24, 2019*