



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

Prayer, Protection and Trust in God

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St. Joseph remains the model of prayer and trust in God for all men. His mission as the *custos* (protector) of the Holy Family — and by extension, the universal Church — continues in our own day. Pope Francis described St. Joseph as acting “discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand” (Homily, 19 March 2013). In the life of St. Joseph, selfishness seemed wholly absent. Time and again this model of fatherhood exercised his role as protector with an utter generosity. The pope said: “In the Gospels, St. 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.”

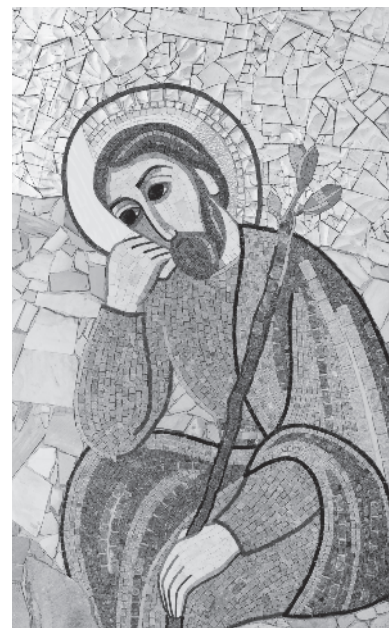
Prayer — that is, conversation with God — was key to St. Joseph’s mission as protector. “Joseph is a ‘protector’ because he is able to hear God’s voice and be guided by his will, and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically; he is in touch with his surroundings; he can make truly wise decisions,” Pope Francis said. In our self-indulgent culture, where so many forms of media continually emphasize a focus on oneself, St. Joseph’s model of prayerful protection strikes a new cord.

Additionally, as Bishop Olmsted reminds us in his Apostolic Exhortation *Into the Breach*, which can be found at intothebreach.net, “Indeed, the greatest protection from pride and self-reliance is turning humbly to God in prayer. The new technologies of social media, where we can constantly display and discuss ourselves, can lead to a type of idolatry that consumes us. Honest prayer will keep us grounded and help us to avoid this temptation.” St. Joseph shows that true masculine strength begins with the humility of beseeching God in prayer.

The month of March offers us several opportunities to reinforce the model of St. Joseph’s fatherhood and the manly mission of protection through prayer. The feast day of St. Joseph is a moment for our brother Knights to rededicate themselves as men of prayer and mercy, which is especially important as we lead up to the celebration of the Knights of Columbus’ Founder’s Day on March 29. Moreover, in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, men can use the Divine Mercy chaplet and novena (ending April 2) as a way to exercise trust in God. Praying with the Divine Mercy image, with its words “Jesus, I trust in you,” opens one’s heart and life to the dimension St. Joseph knew well.

May the example of St. Joseph and the prayerful invocation of trusting God lead our brother Knights to become the true protectors they are called to be.

Vivat Jesus!



Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

The Fruits of the Covenant

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few” (Lk 10:2). As priests, we are faced with the limit of our ministry. We ask ourselves: How can I help more families? Could the Lord grant me a 25th hour today? Could he offer me — as he did with Padre Pio — the gift of bilocation? *Ars longa, vita brevis* (Art is long, life is short).

Like us, St. Paul the Apostle was impelled by his missionary desire to proclaim the Gospel: “Woe to me if I do not preach it!” (1 Cor 9:16). St. Luke tells us that St. Paul was blessed with the friendship of Priscilla and Aquila, a married couple who played a very active role in the post-Paschal origins of the Church (Acts 18). This couple’s mission was “welcoming in their own house the group of local Christians when they gathered to listen to the word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist” (Benedict XVI, General Audience, 7 Feb. 2007). Hence, their home was

a “little church.” At the end of his letter to the Romans, St. Paul explains that Priscilla and Aquila were his “co-workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for his life” (Rom 16:3-4).

Like St. Paul, we need to discover Priscilla and Aquila within the couples in our parish. As the recent synod on the family highlighted, “The family needs to be rediscovered as the essential agent in the work of evangelization” (*Instrumentum Laboris*, 2).

If this is true, parish ministry will not grow by priests sleeping less and working more — such efforts will only produce temporary benefits. But if we work together with the Priscillas and Aquilas of the 21st century — that is, with the families of our parish — as collaborators of the new evangelization, then we will make a lasting difference.

SEE COVENANT, PAGE 2

Divine Mercy: Pledge of Hope and Source of Salvation

Excerpts from a homily of Pope St. John Paul II given in Kraków, Poland, 18 Aug. 2002

From the beginning of her existence, the Church — pointing to the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection — has preached the mercy of God, a pledge of hope and a source of salvation for man. Nonetheless, it would appear that we today have been particularly called to proclaim this message before the world. We cannot neglect this mission if God himself has called us to it through the testimony of St. Faustina.

God has chosen our own times for this purpose, perhaps because the 20th century, despite indisputable achievements in many areas, was marked in a particular way by the “mystery of iniquity.” ... In experiencing this mystery, man lives in fear of the future, of emptiness, of suffering, of annihilation. Perhaps for this very reason, it is as if Christ, using the testimony of a lowly sister, entered our time in order to indicate clearly the source of relief and hope found in the eternal mercy of God.

The message of merciful love needs to resound forcefully anew. The world needs this love. The hour has come to bring Christ’s message to everyone: to rulers and the oppressed, to those whose humanity and dignity seem lost in the *mysterium iniquitatis*. The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization: the civilization of love. ...



With this in mind, I turn to the priests and seminarians: I beseech you, brothers, do not forget that, insofar as you are dispensers of Divine Mercy, you have a great responsibility. Remember also that Christ himself comforts you with his promise handed on through St. Faustina: “Tell my priests that hardened sinners will soften at their words, when they speak of my boundless Mercy and of the compassion that I feel for them in my Heart” (*Diary*, 1521). ...

We must take a loving look around ourselves if we are to be aware of the neighbor by our side who — because of the loss of work, home, the possibility to maintain his family in a decent manner and to educate his children — feels a sense of abandonment, of being lost, of distrust. This “creativity in charity” is needed to provide material and spiritual assistance to neglected children; to refrain from turning one’s back on the boy or girl who has gotten lost in the world of addiction or crime; to give advice, consolation, spiritual support to those engaged in an internal struggle with evil. May this “creativity” never be lacking when a needy person pleads: “Give us this day our daily bread!” Thanks to brotherly love, this bread will not be lacking. “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Mt 5:7).

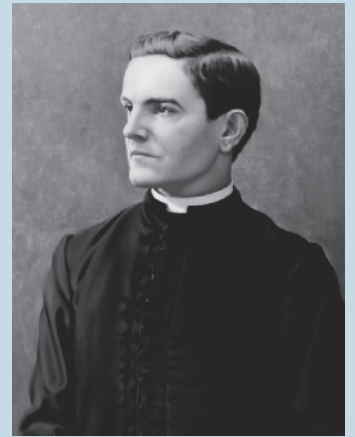
The Legacy of Father McGivney

One of the best ways to celebrate this Founder’s Day, March 29, is to join the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild and encourage others to do the same.

The guild serves as a source of information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The guild distributes informational materials, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Members receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney’s cause for canonization through the *Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter*, which is published five times a year.

Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically guild members and must elect to join the guild. All men and women are welcome to join, regardless of affiliation with the Knights of Columbus.

To join the guild, visit fathermcgivney.org. Requests for information about Father McGivney, materials regarding his cause for canonization and accounts of any favors received through his intercession can also be directed to the website.



COVENANT, FROM PAGE 1

Through this covenant of vocations the spiritual fruit of the parish will grow exponentially. With the presence and encouragement of the priest, the family will be able to shine as the domestic church, and the parish will be blessed with more laborers. A concrete example of this is seen in the collaboration between priests and mentor couples, and in their mission as friends and companions of the journey of sacramental life.

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few” (Lk 10:2). The Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish initiative exists in order to generate synergy between the priest and the family. Synergy means that the parish is not called to replace the family and that the family cannot live in isolation. They will only grow together in support of one another.

Like Priscilla and Aquila, families are called to step in and recover their place as the primary educators and catechists of their children. Like St. Paul, priests are called to challenge families in their missionary zeal.

It is not good for the family to be alone. This is not only one of the most important laws for the renewal of the family ministry, but is also one of the keystones for the renewal of parish life in America and the Catholic Church. Likewise, it is not good for the priest to be alone. Without the faithful ministry of the domestic church, the priest’s impact on the mission of the parish will always be insufficient. Therefore, when priests and families work together, God looks and sees that it is very good.

A member of Dr. Earl C. Bach Council 3340, Father Granados helped establish the Toward a Family Friendly Parish program at St. Mary Catholic Parish in Littleton, Colo. The 12-month program, whose focus is to draw families closer to each other and to their parish family, was the model of the Knights of Columbus’ Domestic Church initiative. *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklets (#10162, available free of cost, only shipping charges apply) can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4214. An online copy of this booklet and additional resources are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive. To order additional items mentioned in this newsletter, please visit knightsgear.com.

Small Change, Much Mercy

As Holy Week approaches, encourage your brother Knights and parishioners to come to the aid of persecuted Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East. Largely ignored by the secular media, these men, women and children are being forcibly removed from their homes, tortured and even killed.



Ask your brother Knights to continue in their efforts to set aside at least a dollar for every day of Lent as part of the Knights of Columbus 40 Bucks for Lent program. All funds raised through this program go to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which directly supports humanitarian assistance and allows the Knights of Columbus to raise awareness for persecuted men, women and children.

For more information, visit christiansatrisk.org.

Best Practices

An admirable practice is sharing with the men in your community what it means to be a practical (that is, practicing) Catholic in union with the Holy See.

Consider writing a column in your parish bulletin or organizing a series of talks explaining how being a practicing Catholic means not only accepting the authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, but also aspiring to live in accord with her precepts. Promote your series to the local community, advertising that it will include simple and straightforward advice on how men can learn about what Catholics believe (be sure to share with them the Nicene Creed, and explain how it succinctly expresses Catholic beliefs). Likewise, share how true Catholic life can strengthen men as husbands and fathers, and be sure to offer support to families facing countless pressures in today's world.

As you share this information, encourage these men to turn to St. Joseph, whose feast day we celebrate on March 19, for help in developing their interior lives and participating in the life of the Church. Ask Knights and all the men in your parish to pray through the intercession of St. Joseph, that they might embrace their vocations with generous fidelity and become models of manly virtue in our society.

RESOURCES FOR LIVING THE YEAR OF MERCY

Two Feet of Love in Action

Helps you consider how to strengthen both charitable works and social justice as part of your faith community (www.usccb.org/twofeet).

USCCB Evangelization and Catechesis

Provides a webpage on the Year of Mercy which includes articles, resources and links (www.usccb.org).

Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization

Offers the official Vatican-sponsored Jubilee Year of Mercy website (www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va).

Catholic Relief Services

Offers a resource center that contains an introduction to the Year of Mercy, downloadable slideshows and handouts, homily helps, faith-sharing sessions, video series and social media information (www.crs.org).



Monthly Suggested Activities

MARCH

- Celebrate Founder's Day on Tuesday, March 29, to honor the legacy of Father McGivney by actively planning events for your community. For ideas on how your parish can join councils around the world in Founder's Day and Orderwide Outreach Week events, visit the "Council" section of kofc.org/service.

APRIL

- Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 3, the Second Sunday of Easter, by leading council members and parishioners in devotions in honor of the Divine Mercy. Encourage the Knights in your council to help you plan ways to celebrate the feast day, particularly significant in this jubilee year, through activities such as a special prayer 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, available in packs of 100 for \$3) and *Knights of Columbus rosaries* (Rose-1, available for \$3 each or for \$2.50 each when ordering 50 or more) can be ordered, should you wish to distribute them during these events.
- Join Catholics throughout the world in celebrating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations on April 17, Good Shepherd Sunday. The purpose of this day is to publically fulfill the Lord's instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Organize a Holy Hour for vocations or lead prayers during your council and assembly meetings, asking the Lord to prompt men and women to respond to the call to a priestly or religious vocation.
- Encourage the members of your council to take part in the Order's Refund Support Vocation Program (RSVP) to help seminarians and postulants with tuition assistance and money for personal expenses and/or emergencies.

Upcoming Jubilee Events

April 1-3 — Jubilee for those devoted to the Spirituality of Divine Mercy

Stop the Christian Genocide

A new online petition urges Secretary of State John Kerry not to exclude Christians from a declaration of genocide at the hands of ISIS, a declaration that could help them by opening up certain legal protections and options that might otherwise be unavailable.

Signers of the petition urge Secretary Kerry "to declare that Christians, along with Yazidis and other vulnerable minorities, are targets of ongoing genocide," arguing that such a declaration meets the criteria established by the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Support this declaration and help the Christians in the Middle East. To do so, sign the petition at StopTheChristianGenocide.org.



Changing Human Destiny

“Mercy has radically changed humanity’s destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of his Only-begotten Son. ... Through the mystery of this wounded heart, the restorative tide of God’s merciful love continues to spread over the men and women of our time. Here alone can those who long for true and lasting happiness find its secret.”

— St. John Paul II

In 2002, then-Pope John Paul II promoted prayers and devotions in honor of the Divine Mercy to Christians around the world, granting a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.

To receive an indulgence, the faithful must fulfill a set of additional requirements:

- Take part in prayers and devotions in honor of Divine Mercy on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday in any church or chapel while in a spirit completely detached from sin
- Recite the Our Father and the Creed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus

A partial indulgence is also granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus an approved invocation.

Prayer of Entrustment to Divine Mercy

This prayer was offered by St. John Paul II on the occasion of the dedication of the shrine of Divine Mercy in Kraków, Poland, 17 Aug. 2002.

Through the prayer, he solemnly entrusted the world to Divine Mercy, praying that the devotion be known to all the peoples throughout the world.

God, merciful Father,
 in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love
 and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.
 We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every
 man and woman.
 Bend down to us sinners,
 heal our weakness,
 conquer all evil,
 and grant that all the peoples of the earth
 may experience your mercy.
 In You, the Triune God,
 may they ever find the source of hope.
 Eternal Father,
 by the Passion and Resurrection of your Son,
 have mercy on us and upon the whole world!
 Amen.