



# 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

### Awaiting the Redemption – Lent 2019

**Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP**

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



In his *Message for Lent 2019*, Pope Francis reminds us that our yearly journey of preparation in which we are conformed to Christ (Romans 8:29), is a “priceless gift of God’s mercy.”

Pope Francis reminds us of the threat sin and death pose to world: “When we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbors and other creatures — and ourselves as well — since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand. ... The mentality expressed in the slogans ‘I want it all and I want it now!’ and ‘Too much is never enough,’ gains the upper hand.”

As we help brother Knights and their families strengthen their faith and pursue holiness, let us reflect with them on how we all can overcome the “rupture of communion with God” that sin effects, can check “the law of the strong over the weak” and the “unbridled pursuit of comfort,” and can conquer “insatiable covetousness.”

Let us encourage our brother Knights in the pursuit of fasting (which helps us, as Pope Francis says, to turn “from the temptation to ‘devour’ everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts”), prayer (“which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy”) and almsgiving (“whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us”).

Lent remains a time when many seek to return to the sacraments and regular practice of the faith. By taking the time to spiritually prepare and form the men of your council, you are equipping them to become witnesses of faith and charity. This investment of your time will inspire Knights to reach out to other men during the Fish Frys, Stations of the Cross and Lenten charitable activities to those on the peripheries, ultimately helping others return to the sacramental practice of the faith.

May the promise which Lent holds for each of us deepen and renew our faith as we grow closer in conformity to Christ.

*Vivat Jesus!*

### Opportunity to Venerate Incorrupt Heart

The major relic of St. Jean Vianney is still on tour in the United States, running through June 2019 and includes stops at cathedrals, churches, chapels and seminaries.

St. Jean Vianney’s strength of faith and devotion to the care of souls serves as a model for prayer, penance and restoration. This opportunity to venerate his incorrupt heart — itself a symbol of his sanctity — offers the Church in America an opportunity for prayer and penance as we work towards healing and renewal for the sins of the clergy.

A tour schedule and various resources on St. Jean Vianney are available on [kofc.org/vianney](http://kofc.org/vianney). Locations and resources are regularly updated with current information and new sites.



### Updating your address

If your email address is unregistered or needs updating, go to [kofc.org/myinfo](http://kofc.org/myinfo).

Non-chaplains who would like to sign-up for the newsletter can do so by visiting [www.kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up](http://www.kofc.org/chaplains-sign-up).

Questions? Email [chaplains@kofc.org](mailto:chaplains@kofc.org).

# This Lent, Put Faith In Action at the Center of Your Parish

*Today, societal pressures on families are great; it's hard for many to find time to engage in preparing for Lent. But Knights can help you by leading these easy-to-implement, yet powerfully engaging, Faith In Action programs in your parish.*



## GOOD FRIDAY FAMILY PROMOTION

As part of this program, Knights attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. Along with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land and other areas where Christians are persecuted for their faith.

Ask the Knights in your council to speak about the importance of attending Good Friday services throughout the Lenten season, especially at Friday Fish Frys and other council events.

## HOLY HOUR

Eucharistic adoration is a way to address the needs of men and their families during Lent. A council-sponsored Holy Hour can include a reflection, communal rosary, various prayers and hymns under your guidance as pastor or chaplain. And when Knights in the council are involved in the meditations and prayers, they are more likely to participate and bring others.

## SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Working with you as pastor, your council can create an opportunity in Lent for prayer and reflection. Such retreats are flexible to meet the needs of all parishes: It could be a “Knights Only” retreat, or an event open to men or families of your parish.

## ROSARY PROGRAM

The program itself emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family. It can involve Knights and their families, as well as other members of your parish. Interested pastors can ask their councils to order kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides and leader books.



*For details on any of these programs, visit [kofc.org/faithinaction](http://kofc.org/faithinaction).*

## This Month's Council Meeting “Cheat Sheet”

*Need help from the Knights?*

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

- ✓ Support the faith development of the families in your parish this Lent through the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk — [kofc.org/kiosk](http://kofc.org/kiosk).
- ✓ Encourage families to give alms during Lent by donating food to those in need through our Food for Families program — [kofc.org/food](http://kofc.org/food).
- ✓ Spring is the perfect time to get outside and build homes for families in need. Find a Habitat for Humanity build near you — [kofc.org/habitat](http://kofc.org/habitat).
- ✓ Help spread awareness and increase prayer for persecuted Christian refugees through the Christian Refugee Relief program — [kofc.org/refugee](http://kofc.org/refugee).

## So It's Lent. Has Your Parish Prepared?

*As a chaplain, you are in the perfect position  
to encourage men to live as faithful Catholics.*

*Below are a few resources that can help you, your council  
and your parish become brothers in the faith.*

**2232 MEN** — Begun by K of C member Father Larry Richards, 2332 MEN brings men to Christ so they can be leaders of the faith in all they do. [2232men.com](http://2232men.com)

**Exodus 90** — Work with a band of brothers as you together live the Exodus regimen for 90 days. Afterward, you'll experience true freedom. [exodus90.com](http://exodus90.com)

**Nineveh 90** — This 90 day prayer campaign promoted by Roman Catholic Man works to train spiritual warriors in their mission of combating sinful habits and to embrace more Godly habits. [romancatholicman.com](http://romancatholicman.com)

**That Man Is You! (TMIY)** — TMIY honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. [paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you](http://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you)



## BE LIKE THE PRODIGAL SON'S FATHER: MAKE THE FIRST MOVE

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

*"So he got up and went back to his father.  
While he was still a long way off,  
his father caught sight of him,  
and was filled with compassion.  
He ran to his son,  
embraced him and kissed him."*

— Gospel for March 31, Lk 15:20

My brother Knights, here we encounter some of the most beautiful words in the entire Gospel: the reunion of the prodigal son with his father. As Jesus describes the scene, I invite you to put yourself in three different sets of shoes. First, imagine that you are the father, seeing your own flesh and blood, your son, coming home. Second, imagine that you are the prodigal son, expecting the worst, but finding that your father is moved with compassion. Third, imagine that you are the hardworking older brother, watching this reunion from a critical distance. We can learn from all three: embracing others with the mercy of the father; running to our heavenly Father like the prodigal; and with the older brother, hearing the father's words spoken to us: "Everything I have is yours" (Lk 15:31).

### This Month's Challenge

This month, I challenge you to be like the prodigal son's father by making the first move: Take the first step toward another person in your life to encourage or forgive him or her. Second, I challenge you to prayerfully write a list of things in your life for which you are grateful.

## Vocations: An Open Dialogue

One of the most important practices of a Knights of Columbus chaplain is to encourage discernment among young Knights and parishioners. Be sure to honestly dialogue about your own journey to the priesthood and share vocational materials through parish bulletins, church message boards and social media.

*One excellent resource for men discerning priesthood is the organization Diocesan Priest. Its website, [diocesanpriest.com](http://diocesanpriest.com), helps men discern, live out the Catholic faith and seek vocational guidance. Check out their great social media feed at [diocesanpriest.com/social](http://diocesanpriest.com/social).*

## Upcoming Activities

### MARCH

Organize a Lenten retreat for parishioners and members of your council. For helpful retreat information, visit [kofc.org/reflection](http://kofc.org/reflection).



Mark the feast of St. Joseph, the husband of Mary, March 19, by sharing the booklet *St. Joseph: Our Father in Faith* (#328).

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 the community 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).

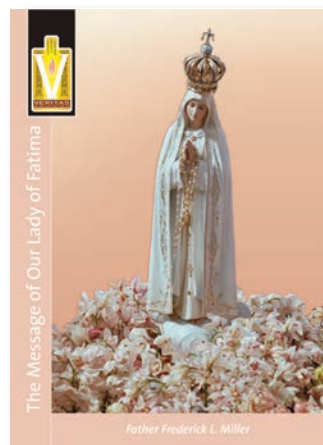
### APRIL

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 from [knightsgear@kofc.org](mailto:knightsgear@kofc.org) to use during these events.

### MAY

Honor the mothers of your local community following weekend Masses on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Invite your brother Knights to invite the parish, especially students from confirmation classes or other youth programs, to support local women's centers or pro-life pregnancy centers.

May 13, the optional memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, is the perfect day to ask your council to lead the parish in a rosary. On the day, distribute *The Message of Our Lady of Fatima* (#341), which your council can order from [kofc.org/cis](http://kofc.org/cis).





**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS®**

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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

## Prayer to St. Joseph, Husband of Mary

*This prayer to St. Joseph was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical Quamquam Pluries. He asked that it be prayed at the end of the Rosary, after the customary Salve Regina and concluding prayer. The prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence (Handbook of Indulgences, conc. 19).*

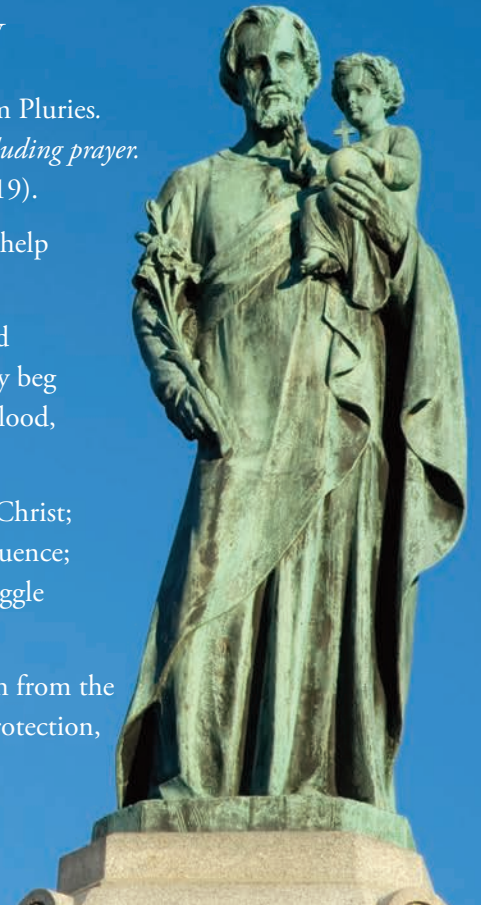
To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;  
O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;  
O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

*Prayer from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org).*



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1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326 + 800-390-0005 + [CHAPLAINS@KOFCC.ORG](mailto:CHAPLAINS@KOFCC.ORG)