



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

Mission and Evangelization

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How busy the months of May and June are for us: first Communions, confirmations, ordinations, graduations, new assignments, council elections, end of year budgets and countless meetings before the summer hiatus! For many of our councils, this is the time to attend various charitable events, remembering that the presence of our brother Knights at these events makes a huge impact.

“Going out” to serve, therefore, is one of the best opportunities for us to witness to the Good News in our fraternal year. But who will have the courage to speak? We pray with our brother Knights for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon each council, and beg that each ministry they serve will be renewed this Pentecost! As Pope Francis said in his June 8, 2014, homily: “Without the Holy Spirit, none of us is able to say: ‘Jesus

is Lord.’ ... It is the Spirit who lets us speak with people in *fraternal dialogue*. He lets us speak with others, recognizing them as brothers and sisters; to speak with friendship, with tenderness, with compassion, understanding the heartaches and joys of others.”

The example of the Blessed Mother and the gifts of the Holy Spirit must support all that our brother Knights do in these days. Pope Francis reminds us about “the Mother Church, who departs in order to serve. Let us remember the other mother, our mother, who sets out in haste to serve. Mother Church and Mother Mary: both virgins, both mothers, both women. Jesus was peremptory with the Apostles: Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait until you have received the power of the Holy Spirit from above (cf. Acts 1:4-8). Without him, there is no mission, there is no evangelization.”

The preparation for Pentecost and the promised renewal of a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit provides the assistance we need. As Pope Francis says, the Holy Spirit leads us down the path of the living memory of the Church. “And he asks us for a response: the more generous our response, the more Jesus’ words become life within us, becoming attitudes, choices, actions, testimony. In essence the Spirit reminds of the commandment of love, and calls us to live it.”

May we encourage our brother Knights to boldly witness to the Gospel in word and deed, and may our Blessed Mother be our guide.

Vivat Jesus!

Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

Work and Family: Enemies or Friends?

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

You need to choose: If you want success at work, you need to renounce to your family; if you want to take care of your family, you need to accept mediocrity at work. Is it true that men and women cannot be good spouses and parents and at the same time good professionals at work? We know, of course, that the missions of fathers or mothers will demand that they renounce some opportunities. But are they condemned to choose between success at home or at work?

Families struggle with work and family life. It seems impossible for them to harmonize work schedules with family demands, or professional life with fatherhood and motherhood. Their days are divided between work time and time for the family. As priests, with so many things to do, we experience something similar: Our work time seems to devour our family time, our time with the Lord.

Against this dictatorship of work commitments, we want to defend time for the family. This is necessary, of course, but it is not enough, as it implies that work and family are enemies — suggesting that the more you work, the less you love your family. Is it possible to think about reconciliation — or better, a covenant between family life and work time? How can we imitate Jesus, who in Nazareth sanctified the synergy between family and work?

The answer of Jesus to the Pharisees regarding divorce can help us understand this question. “From the beginning it was not so” (Mt 19:8).

In this month’s topic of the Domestic Church initiative we read: “Because in the beginning of creation God gave the commandments of work, we want to harmonize work and family life.” The first chapter of Genesis teaches us that God entrusted his creation to the human couple. Adam and Eve were called to guard creation, to cultivate and direct it according to God’s plan. Through their work, the family is called to collaborate with God in the process of transforming the world.

The beginning teaches us, first of all, that the commandment of work has not been given to the individual but to the human couple. Whenever the husband works, he is never alone: He is working for his spouse and children, who are present in all he does. Work therefore is not an individual task. “To work is to work with others and to work for others: It is to do something for someone” (*Centessimus Annus*, 31). Simple reminders, such as a picture of one’s family on a desk, can help working men and women to keep or recover the continuous presence of their family.

The purpose of work is not just that of transforming the world and receiving a salary. Through our work we collaborate with God and we grow in our human identity. As St. John Paul the Great put it, “It is always man that is the purpose of the work” (*Laborem Exercens*, 6). Laziness or mediocrity is not an option for a Catholic worker. He is called to excellence.

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Rediscovering the Mercies of God

Excerpts from a homily given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori, March 2015

When I was a child, the story of Our Lady's appearance to three Portuguese children — Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco — and the three Fatima secrets captured my imagination.

On New Year's Day, 1960, at 5 a.m., my mother found my 9-year-old self outside, on our snow-covered front porch. "What on earth are you doing out here?" she wanted to know. I answered solemnly that I was looking for the newspaper. After all, my third grade teacher, Sister Mary Viator, had told us that the third Fatima secret would be revealed in 1960, and I wanted to be among the first to read all about it. At that point, my mother revealed to me that I had better come in and go back to bed!

My youthful enthusiasm for the Fatima apparitions was not misplaced.

The appearances of Our Lady in 1916 and 1917 to the three young people tending sheep in a remote place that few had heard about were deeply prophetic. The messages that Our Lady confided to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco are no less relevant in our world and in our lives a century later.

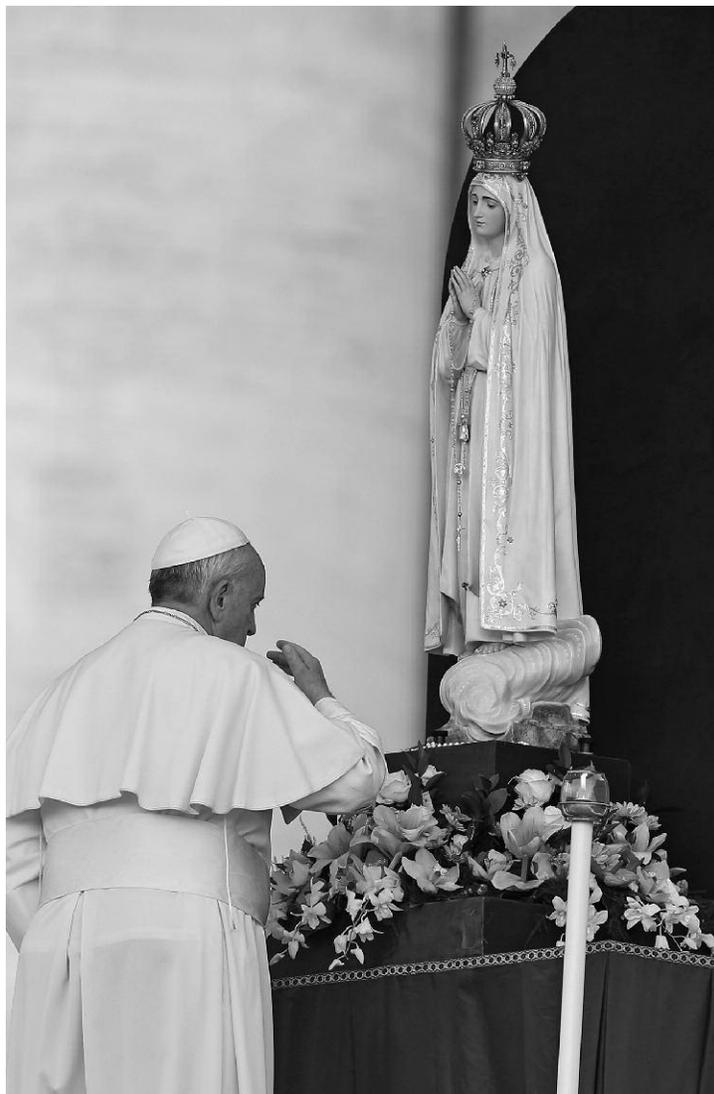
What did she say to them and what does it mean to us as Knights of Columbus?

The first secret which the Blessed Mother shared with the children was, of all things, a vision of the fire, the pain and the despair of hell. Suffice it to say that this vision of an eternity bereft of God was utterly frightening. Why did our Blessed Mother, so gentle and so mild, share such a harsh and frightening vision with these young people?

She did this, I believe, to warn us against taking God and our salvation for granted. Then, as now, many people had come to believe that no matter how they lived their lives God owed them eternal happiness.

And today, so many, including lifelong Catholics, continue to ignore the heart of Jesus' message: "Repent and believe." Many no longer see the need, let alone the urgency, of turning their lives around. Sadly, this is true of Catholics in all walks of life, including my own. Is it any wonder that Pope Francis speaks with such urgency about encountering Christ, about discipleship, about spreading Gospel and about helping those around us to rediscover the mercies of God?

God's mercy is deep and powerful but we also have to be open to it. So let us beseech Our Lady of Fatima, the Mother of Mercy, to pray with us and for us that united with her Son we may open our hearts to God, the Father of Mercies.



Pope Francis prays in front of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican. The statue was brought from Portugal for a weekend of Marian events.

When Our Blessed Mother appeared to the three children, Europe was engulfed in the conflagration of world war. At the time it was thought to be the war to end all wars, yet Our Lady of Fatima warned the world that another unimaginably violent war was in the offing.

Through her, the world was also warned of the dictatorships that would foment worldwide violence, most especially Stalinist Russia. Indeed, two decades later, humanity was again consumed by another global war followed by the long and tense cold war.

In response to these warnings, many faithful Catholics prayed the rosary daily, observed First Saturday devotions and consecrated themselves — and their families — to Mary's Immaculate Heart. Pope Pius XII himself had a very deep devotion to Our Lady of Fatima and consecrated the world and Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Our Lady of Fatima's intercession would later prove providential in raising up Karol Wojtyła to become Pope John Paul II.

On May 13, 1981, an attempt was made to assassinate Pope John Paul II. This saintly pontiff believed that Our Lady of Fatima saved his life. He returned here to thank her and to place the bullet meant to kill him into her crown.

We need to ask for Our Lady's intercession for the world of today — a world that faces new and massive threats with the rise of radical Islamic jihadist groups like ISIS on the one hand, and the rise of anti-religious secularism on the other. In the Middle East, innocent people are being beheaded because they are Christians while in the West, Christians are giving up on their faith and joining the ranks of those who deem religion as either irrelevant or dangerous. On one side of the world we see bloody persecution. On the other side, we see widespread apostasy and, in its wake, the steady loss of religious freedom. Let us earnestly beseech Our Lady of Fatima to intercede for us, so that we might stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians by evangelizing, by spreading the Gospel of Jesus, in which the truth about human dignity and freedom is fully revealed.

I pray that Our Lady of Fatima, the woman clothed with the sun, will open our eyes more widely to the glory of God shining on the face of Jesus, a light brighter than that of the sun, the light of truth and love for which we were created.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Monthly Suggested Activities

May

During May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, consider organizing Marian devotions or offering a series of lectures on Marian theology.

- ◆ Celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13. As the memorial is closely followed by the feast of Ascension on Thursday, May 14 — or in some dioceses, the following Sunday — consider explaining the importance of Our Lady's presence in the early Church and her patient watchfulness for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, celebrated this year on Sunday, May 24.

- ◆ Organize Marian talks based upon the material in the Catholic Information booklet *Mary, Mother of God* (#324), which addresses several questions common among those who have little understanding of Mary's role in salvation history. For more information on this booklet and others in the Veritas Series, please visit www.kofc.org/cis.



- ◆ If parish scheduling does not allow for a full series of talks, consider asking members of the councils to help distribute rosaries or other Marian devotionals to all families of the parish following Sunday Masses throughout the month.

Support your local council members in honoring the mothers of your local community on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10. Invite councils or Squire circles to present flowers to mothers of your parish following weekend Masses, or join your brother Knights in preparing meals or supplies for local mothers in need at women's shelters or crisis pregnancy centers. Offer to bless the food before it is distributed.

June

Encourage the members of your council and parish community to celebrate the solemnities of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, observed by the Church this year on June 7 and June 12.

- ◆ Promote eucharistic devotions among parishioners by asking Knights to help organize a Holy Hour or distribute Holy Communion to the sick or homebound. Ask their assistance in contacting families of homebound parishioners and local hospitals' chaplaincy services with details about your parish's eucharistic devotions and distribution of Communion.
- ◆ Offer to bless images of the Sacred Heart for use by families and Knights in their homes and meeting space.

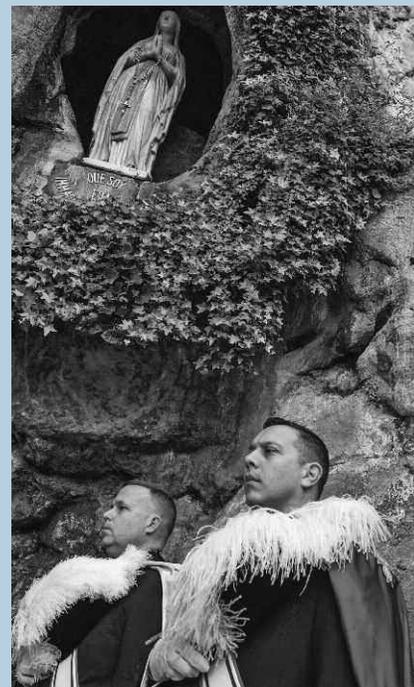
Honor the fathers of your local community on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21. Offer encouragement to fathers in your community by speaking on the gift, privilege and responsibility of fatherhood. For further ideas and support materials, visit the website of Fathers for Good, an initiative for men by the Knights of Columbus, at www.fathersfordgood.org.

Best Practice of the Month

An admirable practice among Knights of Columbus chaplains and councils is that of coming together for regular prayers and devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother. Many Knights accompany their chaplain as honor guards during processions or May crownings in honor of Our Lady, while others have become involved in the various Marian Prayer Programs sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Chaplains can join Knights across the world in spreading devotion to the Blessed Mother by offering regular instruction on Mary's important place in Catholic theology. Consider making Marian lessons a regular activity at your parish or council meeting place, followed by novenas or other devotions to our Lady under one of her many titles.

We would like to produce a listing of other commendable practices that we can consider for possible publication each month. If you or your council has established a practice that demonstrates a chaplain's role in enhancing the spiritual life of Knights and their families, evangelization and outreach, or membership growth and retention, please send the information to chaplains@kofc.org.



Work, FROM PAGE 1

Are we promoting, then, the idolatry of work? Not at all. We read that in the beginning God worked for six days and on the seventh he rested. The family is called to work with God and to rest with God, following his pace. When we rest, we can celebrate the beauty of our job and see that "it is very good." On Sunday we learn the meaning of our work: We work for that which we love, and we love that for which we have worked. On Sunday, the day of the Lord, we should be able to be free — free for the family and free for God. "In defending Sunday, one defends human freedom" (Benedict XVI, General Audience, 6 June 2012).

Family and work will be enemies unless we consider a third element: the celebration, the mystery of Sunday. Only with these three dimensions of our life — family, work and celebration — in a harmonious balance can we avoid both idolatry of work and laziness, and can we build societies with a human face.

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' "Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive" initiative. Copies of the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162) can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4320. An online copy of this booklet and additional resources are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive.



K of C Prayer of Entrustment to Our Lady of Fatima

By Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus

With filial love, we address you,
O Mary, Our Lady of Fatima.
We, the family of the Knights of Columbus,
come to this place hallowed by your
apparitions a century ago,
O woman clothed with the sun.
To you and to your maternal love
we entrust our beloved Order.

Through you, O Mary,
God's only Son assumed our human nature
so as to redeem us of our sins.

Through your maternal love,
Jesus entered the world to show us
the Father's love and to reveal fully
our human dignity.

Look upon us, O Mary.

Pray for us sinners that we may open our
hearts to the message of Fatima by turning
from sin, doing penance and praying for
peace in our troubled and violent world.
By your loving example and intercession,
may we be confirmed
in the Gospel principles of our Order.



The original statue of Our Lady of Fatima before which Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori offered a prayer of entrustment of the Knights of Columbus to Mary on March 16, 2015.

O Mary through whom Jesus,
the very incarnation of the Father's love
came into the world —pray that we may be
strengthened to live the principle of charity.

O Mary, through your Son the enmity of
Satan was crushed, help us to live the
principle of unity for the good of the Order,
the Church and the world.

O Mary, whose love for your children is so
evident in this holy place, help us to be
strengthened in our fraternity in service
to one and in service of all.

O Mary, assumed into heaven, pray that we
may safely journey to our true homeland in
heaven by living the principle of patriotism
and striving to build a civilization of love.

To you, O Mary, we entrust our Order —
every Knight, every family member, every
activity — that we may be pleasing in the
sight of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, who
lives and reigns with the Father in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen.