



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 Christian Man and the Love of the Father

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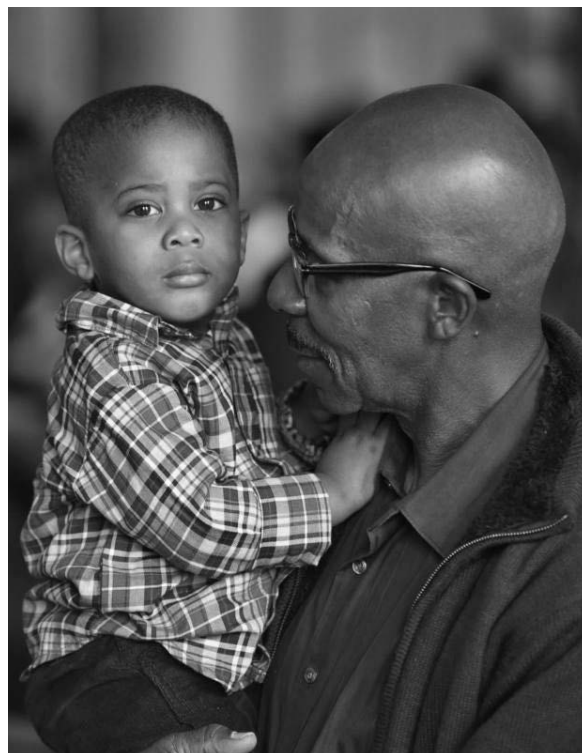


Every man — even those who don't have children of their own — is called to fatherhood. His fatherhood consists of nurturing the vocations of those for whom the Lord has given him care and responsibility. In his recent apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world, *Gaudete et Exultate*, Pope Francis

highlights the central importance of the grace of discernment which “seeks a glimpse of that unique and mysterious plan that God has for each of us” (170).

A father plays a key role in showing his children the love of God the Father, through which they experience, on a supernatural level, the knowledge of the unrepeatability of their own unique lives. Before a man is ever a spouse or a father, he himself is first a beloved son of God the Father. This is the mystery of discipleship our Lord Jesus Christ, especially in the Gospel of John, reveals over and over again. Knowing that he is a beloved son of the Eternal Father gives a man ordered priority to his life and relationships: first God, then his spouse and, finally, his children.

Pope Francis reminds us that God's unique plan for each of us “involves more than my temporal well-being, my satisfaction at having accomplished something useful, or even my desire for peace of mind. It has to do with the meaning of my life before the Father who knows and loves me, with the real purpose of my life, which nobody knows better than he” (170). Reading these words, we cannot help but think of the ways in which our paternal and spiritual fathers assist us on the path of encounter with God the Father. Let us remind our brother Knights of their unparalleled role in revealing to their sons and daughters the treasure of the meaning of their lives in light of the love of God the Father. *Vivat Jesus!*



CNS photo/Bob Roller

A father holds his son during Mass Nov. 13 at St. Peter Claver Church in Baltimore.

Showing Oneself a Strong, Faithful Man of God

Excerpt from Becoming a Real Man of God (#322), by Father Roger J. Landry

Over the past several decades, for many reasons, men have been suffering an identity crisis. Whereas in former days, a son would clearly have grasped his father's instruction, “Show yourself a man,” today such a curt instruction might not be so readily understood. The messages our culture broadcasts about what it means to be a “real man” are inconsistent and confusing. In movies and on television, images of men vary widely from violent, take-no-prisoner pseudo-superheroes, to smooth-talking, machismo-driven womanizers, to sheepish and vulnerable women-fearers who seem to want to be one of the girls more than one of the guys. Professional sports figures often leave men and boys empty of genuine role models, too. Rare is the positive image of ordinary, hardworking men who are faithful to God, to the Church, to their wives, and to their families and friends. Within the Church, as well, it is not as easy as it once was for men and boys to find living examples of what it means to be a “man of God.”

Within this context, it is urgent to return to the question of what it means to be a man from God's perspective and explore his vocation in the Church and in the world. Does man's God-given mission differ from woman's, and if so, how? Are there any role models men can turn to in order to learn how to become the men their Father in heaven calls them to be? How can men today arm and defend themselves against the cultural phenomena that are weakening their identity and diverting them from their God-given tasks?

To read more about the challenges of forming Christian men today, check out Catholic Information Service's Becoming a Real Man of God (#322), a part of the Building the Domestic Church Series, at kofc.org/cis.

Visit www.kofc.org/chaplain to sign up to receive future issues of this newsletter via email.
Previous issues are also archived at this site.

Forming Men as Catholic and Fathers Today

The following text is excerpted from the closing address of Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore to the 2013 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in San Antonio, Texas, in which he confirms the Order's commitment to forming Catholic men and holds up Fathers for Good as a valuable resource. To read the address in full, visit fathersforgood.org.

Look at how men and fathers are portrayed in popular entertainment and in so much of what passes for learned commentary. If you've ever tuned in to *Family Guy* or *American Dad* or *Two and a Half Men*, you know what I'm talking about. Today, men, in their role as husbands and fathers, are often portrayed as insensitive to their wives and the worst possible role model for their children. ... These and other factors tend to make men feel powerless.

Yet the Knights of Columbus can help them tap into a hidden source of strength found in our faith. ... The Knights can remind men and help them to do what *is* in their power to do: to improve their marriages, to be better fathers, to grow in virtue, to serve the needs of others more generously, to be a better citizen. ...

We have to see the Knights of Columbus as a practical way of evangelizing husbands, fathers and their families, of helping them to understand what the culture often rejects — how men and women should relate to one another in complementary ways and how important husbands and fathers are to children. The Knights are also a way of helping men embrace their manhood — not the culture of machismo but a solid, sturdy, secure manhood — which includes having the courage to defend life, to defend virtue, to defend authentic values. ...

In these terms, how can we make the Knights an instrument of the new evangelization?

First, Pope Francis keeps reminding us that no one makes the journey alone. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were leaving Jerusalem, they were adrift, walking alone on the road, with only disappointment to share. Pope Francis told the young people in Rio, and he told us, that we do not follow Christ alone but as a community of disciples.

Second, outside this convention hall is a display advertising Fathers for Good. I would urge you to make full use of this very important K of C resource if you haven't done so already, and make use of these resources that offer a renewed and healthy understanding of what it means to be a man, a husband and a father — not to create some kind of a male sanctuary, but rather to equip ourselves and our brothers to relate well to women, to wives, to mothers and to the world around us.

May you continue to be protectors of God's gifts and may God bless you and your families; may he bless abundantly our beloved Order!

"The two disciples left Jerusalem. ... They are scandalized by the failure of the Messiah in whom they had hoped and who now appeared utterly vanquished. ... So they set off on the road alone, with their disappointment. ... We need a Church capable of meeting them on the way. We need a Church capable of entering into their conversation . . . able to dialogue with those disciples who, having left Jerusalem behind, are wandering aimlessly, alone, with their own disappointment, disillusioned by a Christianity now considered barren, fruitless soil, incapable of generating meaning."

— Pope Francis

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae*



A conference marking the 50th anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* will be held July 27-28, 2018, at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario. Of interest to all who strive to fulfill God's design in their lives and relationships, and those who minister to them, the event will feature talks from George Weigel, Janet Smith, Christopher West, Dr. Ray Guarendi and others. Visit celebratehv50.com to see the schedule of events and to register for the conference.

All chaplains should sponsor groups of Knights and their wives to attend this, or similar local conferences and celebrations, in honor of this significant anniversary, July 25. If traveling is not possible, consider hosting a parish-based study group of *Humanae Vitae* to discover why this encyclical is still vitally important 50 years after its publication.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

The feast of Corpus Christi

This year the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ falls on May 31 or (as in the U.S.) the following Sunday.

Many parish communities around the world hold eucharistic processions, lending their own costumes and traditions to the day's festivities, but no matter the location, the celebration is one that gives thanks to God for all that he has given us through the gift of his son, Jesus Christ.

Invite families from both your parish and council to join in planning a similar celebration. Get all children, from young kids to teens, involved. Share fun historical facts about the feast (see sidebar) and personally invite each and every parishioner to join the festivities!

CORPUS CHRISTI HYMNS – AQUINAS vs BONAVENTURE

After Pope Urban IV instituted the feast of Corpus Christi, he appointed Sts. Bonaventure and Thomas Aquinas to the task of writing the liturgy for the feast. When the time came for both men to present their manuscripts, St. Thomas shared his first. St. Bonaventure was so overwhelmed by Aquinas' beautiful hymns that he secretly tore his own apart before the pope could even hear them!

Planning the Months Ahead

MAY

Mark the major feasts celebrated in May with a huge celebration following one of your parish Masses. Welcome Knights and their families to run this event, and ask them to reach out in a special way to the men and women who joined your parish family at the Easter Vigil.

Mark the very first celebration of the new feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church on May 21 with a public recitation of the rosary at your parish. Ask brother Knights, their wives and their children to volunteer to lead the decades.

JUNE

Work with council officers to hold a Father's Day event during or following all Masses celebrated June 16-17. Be sure to preach on the Church's understanding of fatherhood on the days leading up to the weekend.

Inspire fathers in your community by sharing the resources provided by Fathers for Good. For more information, visit fathersforgood.org.

Mark the feasts day of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, who were imprisoned and eventually killed for their faithfulness to the Church's teachings, by leading a group of Knights in prison ministry.

Celebrate the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 8. Offer to bless images of the Sacred Heart for families to display in their homes.

JULY

Support your council's newly elected officers and appointed program chairmen and directors as the fraternal year begins.

Celebrate the holidays of Canada Day and Independence Day with Masses of thanksgiving and reflections on the importance of religious freedom.

Support brother Knights as they prepare for events in the new fraternal year, including Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 7-13).

BEST PRACTICE

Welcome the Sacred Heart Into Knights' Homes

An excellent spiritual practice among Knights of Columbus families is to place an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a place of honor — e.g., on a throne — in their home.

The steps are simple: Bless an image or statue of the Sacred Heart, lead the family in consecrating themselves to the Sacred Heart, and then place the blessed item in its place of honor.

Traditionally, the ceremony is conducted on a day of special significance, such as the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 8. Families might instead choose a day of personal significance, such as a wedding anniversary or graduation. Whatever day they choose, the enthronement is a powerful act that helps families recall that Christ is king over their lives.



New Marian Feast!

In February, Pope Francis decreed that Latin-rite Catholics around the world will mark a new feast dedicated to the Blessed Mother. The new feast will be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost each year, and it will honor her under the title “the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.”

Invite your parishioners and brother Knights to learn more about the feast by visiting this website: www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/liturgical-calendar/mother-of-the-church.cfm. Please note that this page links to several different resources, including a printable PDF with the new mandatory readings designated for the new feast.



“Mary is the mother of the members of Christ, because with charity she cooperated in the rebirth of the faithful into the Church, while the latter says that the birth of the Head is also the birth of the body, thus indicating that Mary is at once Mother of Christ, the Son of God, and mother of the members of his Mystical Body, which is the Church.”

– Cardinal Robert Sarah

Quotes to Share With Dads in Your Parish and Council This Father's Day

As Father's Day approaches, share these great quotes from Pope Francis with men and families of your parish and council.

“A good father *knows how to wait and knows how to forgive* from the depths of his heart. Certainly, he also knows how to correct with firmness: he is not a weak father, submissive and sentimental. The father who *knows how to correct without humiliating* is the one who knows how to protect without sparing himself.”

– General Audience, Feb. 4, 2015

“God sets the father in the family so that by the gifts of his masculinity he can be ‘close to his wife and share everything, joy and sorrow, hope and hardship. And to be close to his children as they grow – when they play and when they work, when they are carefree and when they are distressed, when they are talkative and when they are silent, when they are daring and when they are afraid, when they stray and when they get back on the right path. To be a father who is always present.’”

– *Amoris Laetitia: On Love in the Family*

For more quotes and items that help men become the best dads they can be, visit fathersforgood.org.



KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®

CHAPLAIN'S
report

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Humanae Vitae Anniversary Prayer

Almighty and all-loving God, in the beginning you created them male and female as a sign of the Covenant with your people, the Covenant which you would later seal with the Most Precious Blood of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank you for the sublime gift that is the life-giving one-flesh union of husband and wife,
and we ask you for the grace always to cherish, revere and foster it as you intended:
the foundational good of human society and the icon of the union between Christ and his Church.

As we celebrate these 50 years of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae's* articulation of the Church's timeless teaching, help us to be wise, bold and charitable messengers of this good news, so that a culture of love, life and marriage may flourish in our land. Open the minds and hearts of those far away from this truth, heal those harmed by its rejection, and strengthen those committed to living it out and inspiring others to do the same.

By means of this grace grant us peace with one another and happiness with you now in this life,
and to know its perfect fulfillment forever in the life that is to come.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, head and bridegroom of the Church,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Prepared by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Archdiocese of San Francisco