



# 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

## Saint John Paul II National Shrine Filled With Pilgrims Following National Mass of Thanksgiving in Washington for New Pope Saints



*Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore carries the relic of St. John Paul II into the basilica at the start of Mass.*



*Cardinal Wuerl carries the relic in the procession. (Photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Washington).*



*Fourth Degree Knights lead the procession from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the conclusion of Mass to the newly renamed Saint John Paul II National Shrine.*

A national celebration of the newly canonized St. John XXIII and St. John Paul II concluded with a procession of several hundred people from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine on Sunday, May 11.

The procession was led by an honor guard of more than 100 Fourth Degree Knights. Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington, who served as the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass, carried the blood relic of St. John Paul II in the procession back to its shrine. Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore had previously carried the relic into the Basilica at the start of the Mass.

Once the procession reached the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, read a papal greeting commending the work of the shrine.

Cardinal Wuerl thanked the supreme knight for his vision in making the Saint John Paul II National Shrine a reality and, in the Shrine's chapel, presented a painting of St. John Paul II to the supreme knight, supreme chaplain, deputy supreme knight and several other supreme officers and directors, including the Executive Director of the shrine, Patrick Kelly.



*Supreme Knight Carl Anderson delivers remarks in which he quoted Pope Francis at the recent canonization, when the Holy Father repeated Pope Benedict XVI's words at the beatification of John Paul II.*

## Supreme Knight Addresses Pilgrims at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine

The following are excerpts from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson's address to pilgrims at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine on May 11.

"For two and a half decades, the Knights of Columbus served faithfully the pontificate of Pope John Paul II through a multitude of projects too numerous to mention here today on this occasion. However, we must mention one, and that is the project by which for nearly three decades we have worked to better understand and promote the teaching of Pope John Paul II at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. Through the leadership of the Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education, His Eminence William Cardinal Baum, and the late archbishop of Washington, His Eminence James Cardinal Hickey, that institute was made a reality. And we are so grateful that Cardinal Baum is with us here today as well. Your Eminence, thank you.

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# Pope Francis Speaks to Priests

*“Called by God*—I believe that it is important to rekindle constantly an awareness of our divine vocation, which we often take for granted in the midst of our many daily responsibilities: as Jesus says, ‘You did not choose me, but I chose you’ (Jn 15:16). This means returning to the source of our calling... We were called by God and we were called to be with Jesus (cf. Mk 3:14), united with him. In reality, this living, this abiding in Christ marks all that we are and all that we do. **It is precisely this ‘life in Christ’ that ensures our apostolate is effective, that our service is fruitful: ‘I appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit be authentic’ (cf. Jn 15:16).** It is not creativity, however pastoral it may be, or meetings or planning that ensure our fruitfulness, even if these are greatly helpful. But what assures our fruitfulness is our being faithful to Jesus, who says insistently: ‘Abide in me and I in you’ (Jn 15:4)... ‘Being with’ Christ does not mean isolating ourselves from others. Rather, it is a ‘being with’ in order to go forth and encounter others.” (Pope Francis, *Address to Priests*, Rio de Janeiro, 27 July 2013)

“I think this is truly the most wonderful experience we can have: to belong to a people walking, journeying through history together with their Lord who walks among us! **We are not alone, we do not walk alone. We are part of the one flock of Christ that walks together.** Here I think once more of you priests, and let me place myself in your company. What could be more beautiful for us than walking with our people? It is beautiful! When I think of the parish priests who knew the names of their parishioners, who went to visit them; even as one of them told me: ‘I know the name of each family’s dog.’ They even knew the dog’s name! How nice it was! What could be more beautiful than this? I repeat it often: walking with our people, sometimes in front, sometimes behind and sometimes in the middle, and sometimes behind: in front in order to guide the community; in the middle in order to encourage and support; and at the back in order to keep it united and so that no one lags too, too far behind, to keep them united. There is another reason too: because the people have a ‘nose!’ The people scent out, discover, new ways to walk, it has the *‘sensus fidei,’* as theologians call it. What could be more beautiful than this? But the most important thing is to walk together by working together, by helping one another, by asking forgiveness, by acknowledging one’s mistakes and asking for forgiveness, and also by accepting the apologies of others by forgiving — how important this is!” (Pope Francis, *Address San Rufino*, Italy, 4 Oct. 2013)



## *Questions of Pope Francis to the priests of Rome:*

“I ask you — do you know the wounds of your parishioners? Do you perceive them? Are you close to them? It’s the only question... Tell me: Do you weep? Or have we lost our tears? I remember that in the old Missals, those of another age, there is a most beautiful prayer to ask the gift of tears. The prayer began like this: ‘Lord, who commanded Moses to strike the rock so that water might gush forth, strike the stone of my heart so that tears...’: the prayer went more or less like this. It was very beautiful. But, how many of us weep before the suffering of a child, before the breakup of a family, before so many people who do not find the path?... The weeping of a priest.... Do you weep? Or in this presbyterate have we lost all tears?

“Do you weep for your people? Tell me, do you offer intercessory prayer before the Tabernacle? Do you struggle with the Lord for your people, as Abraham struggled? If you destroy the people, destroy me too. But, these were real men! Do we have enough guts to struggle with God for our people?... Another question I ask: in the evening, how do you conclude your day? With the Lord or in front of the television?

“How is your relationship with those who help you to be more merciful? That is, how is your relationship with the children, with the elderly, with the sick? Do you know how to reassure them, or are you embarrassed to caress an elderly person? ‘Do not be ashamed of the flesh of your brother.’ ‘Making ourselves close’: closeness, nearness, being close to the flesh of one’s brother. The priest and the Levite who had passed by before the Good Samaritan did not know how to draw close to the person who had been beaten by bandits. Their hearts were closed. Perhaps the priest had looked at his watch and said: ‘I have to go to Mass, I cannot be late for Mass,’ and he left. Excuses! How often we justify ourselves, to get around the problem, the person. The other, the Levite, or the doctor of the law, the lawyer, said: ‘No, I cannot because if I do this tomorrow I will have to go and testify, I will lose time...’ Excuses!... Their hearts were closed. But a closed heart always justifies itself for what it has not done. Instead, the Samaritan opens his heart, he allows his heart to be moved, and this interior movement translates into practical action, in a concrete and effective intervention to help the person.

“At the end of time, only those who have not been ashamed of the flesh of their brother who is injured and excluded will be permitted to contemplate the glorified flesh of Christ. I admit, sometimes it does me good to read the list on which which I will be judged, it benefits me: it is contained in Matthew 25.”

(Pope Francis, *Address to the Parish Priests of Rome*, 6 March 2014)

# Act of Entrustment and Consecration of Priests to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

*Feast day: Saturday June 28, 2014*

Immaculate Mother, in this place of grace,  
called together by the love of your Son Jesus  
the Eternal High Priest, we,  
sons in the Son and his priests,  
consecrate ourselves to your maternal Heart,  
in order to carry out faithfully the Father's Will.

We are mindful that, without Jesus,  
we can do nothing good (cf. *Jn* 15:5)  
and that only through him, with him and in him,  
will we be instruments of salvation for the world.

Bride of the Holy Spirit,  
obtain for us the inestimable gift of transformation in Christ.  
Through the same power of the Spirit that overshadowed you,  
making you the Mother of the Saviour,  
help us to bring Christ your Son to birth in ourselves too.  
May the Church be thus renewed by priests who are holy,  
priests transfigured by the grace of him who makes all things new.

Mother of Mercy,  
it was your Son Jesus who called us to become like him:  
light of the world and salt of the earth (cf. *Mt* 5:13-14).  
Help us, through your powerful intercession,  
never to fall short of this sublime vocation,  
nor to give way to our selfishness,  
to the allurements of the world  
and to the wiles of the Evil One.  
Preserve us with your purity,  
guard us with your humility  
and enfold us with your maternal love  
that is reflected in so many souls  
consecrated to you,  
who have become for us true spiritual mothers.

Mother of the Church,  
we priests want to be pastors who do not feed themselves  
but rather give themselves to God for their brethren,  
finding their happiness in this.  
Not only with words, but with our lives,

we want to repeat humbly, day after day,  
Our "here I am". Guided by you,  
we want to be Apostles of Divine Mercy,  
glad to celebrate every day the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar  
and to offer to those who request it the sacrament of Reconciliation.  
Advocate and Mediatrix of grace,  
you who are fully immersed in the one universal mediation of Christ,  
invoke upon us, from God,  
a heart completely renewed that loves God with all its strength  
and serves mankind as you did.

Repeat to the Lord your efficacious word:  
"They have no wine" (*Jn* 2:3),  
so that the Father and the Son will send upon us  
a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
Full of wonder and gratitude at your continuing presence in our midst,  
in the name of all priests I too want to cry out:  
"Why is this granted me,  
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (*Lk* 1:43).

Our Mother for all time,  
do not tire of "visiting us", consoling us, sustaining us.  
Come to our aid  
and deliver us from every danger that threatens us.  
With this act of entrustment and consecration,  
we wish to welcome you  
more deeply, more radically,  
for ever and totally  
into our human and priestly lives.

Let your presence cause new blooms to burst forth  
in the desert of our loneliness,  
let it cause the sun to shine on our darkness,  
let it restore calm after the tempest,  
so that all mankind shall see the salvation of the Lord,  
who has the name and the face of Jesus,  
who is reflected in our hearts,  
for ever united to yours!  
Amen!

*Prayed by Pope BENEDICT XVI at Fátima on 12 May 2010*

## **SHRINE**, FROM PAGE 1

"Last month, our Holy Father canonized Blessed John Paul II, and when he did so, he quoted from an earlier homily by Pope Benedict XVI, which was delivered during the beatification ceremony in 2011. Pope Benedict said this at that time about his predecessor:

'He opened to Christ the society, the culture, the political and economic systems, intervening with the strength of a giant — strength that came to him from God — a tendency which could seem irreversible. With his witness of faith, of love and of apostolic courage, accompanied by a great human drive, this exemplary son of the Polish nation helped Christians worldwide not to be afraid to call themselves Christians, to belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel. In a word, he helped us not to be afraid of the truth, because the truth is the guarantee of freedom' (May 1, 2011).

"Then Pope Francis continued in his own words to say this: 'We all know that, before going on the roads of the world, Karol Wojtyła grew up to the service of Christ and of the Church in his homeland, Poland. His heart was formed there, a heart which then was dilated to the universal

dimension, first by participating in Vatican Council II and, above all, after October 16, 1978, so that in it all nations, languages and cultures could find a place. I thank the Polish people and the Church in Poland,' Pope Francis continued, 'for the gift of John Paul II. We have all been enriched by this gift. John Paul II continues to inspire us. We are inspired by his words, his writings, his gestures, his style of service. We are inspired by his suffering lived with heroic hope. We are inspired by his total entrustment to Christ, Redeemer of man, and to the Mother of God.'

"In these words of Pope Benedict and Pope Francis, we find presented in a better way than we could ourselves describe the inspiration, the mission and the *raison d'être* of this national shrine."

"Here we will tell the story of this great saint — how it was that his heart was formed, and how it was that he was able to form so many other hearts. In the years and decades ahead, may each pilgrim be inspired by St. John Paul II's total entrustment to Christ, Redeemer of man, and to the Mother of God. And may each pilgrim to this shrine, through his intercession, follow in his footsteps as a courageous disciple of Christ."





FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

# The Priest and His Council

**Father Jonathan  
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Director of Chaplains and  
Spiritual Development



The month of June shines a focus on the testimony of martyrdom, the Eucharist and priestly ordinations. Saints Justin Martyr, Charles Lwanga, Boniface, Peter and Paul, and the Holy Roman martyrs remind us how courage, strength and the outpouring of the

Holy Spirit are necessary to live the truth of the faith to its limits. Recent events highlight the importance of a clear catechesis on the Most Holy Eucharist and call all Knights to continue our vigilant custodianship of the Blessed Sacrament. The priestly ordinations and anniversaries of so many of our brothers invite us again to renew and consecrate our priesthood to the Blessed Mother and offer an opportunity to share with our brother Knights the joys and challenges of our lives of discipleship *in persona Christi*.

The witness of priests in Syria who gave their lives for their beleaguered communities, and those in Ukraine who put their lives on the firing line for peace on the Maidan Square in Kiev, reveal how closely martyrdom lingers in the modern world. The climate of legal, academic and cultural proscriptions against faith teachings on marriage, family and life recall the defenses of Justin Martyr and the witness of Charles Lwanga and his companions. May these men of faith and action inspire our brother Knights to give the intellectual and personal witness our society needs.

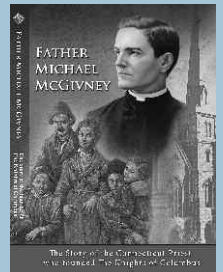
In the Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we pray to receive the virtues of the Heart of Our Lord. As we celebrate the anniversaries of our own priesthoods, let us reflect on the words and poignant questions of Pope Francis: Do we intercede for those we serve, going as far as Moses did for those trapped in slavery to sin and false gods? Do we walk with the people we serve, so as to really know their names and recall them as if they were written on the stoles and chasubles that we wear? Do we make time and effort to approach those who bear the wounds of the world, and call forth our mercy? Perhaps this month we can share with our brother Knights the real challenges we face as priests in trying to answer these summons and questions from the Holy Father.

Let us remember how proud and responsive our brother Knights always are to the invitation to assist their priests! As councils elect and form new leadership teams, do not hesitate to share with them the pastoral needs and priorities of the parish and diocese. Many times, our brother Knights are just waiting to be asked to contribute to the pastoral mission we are entrusted with. Remember, too, that the time we invest in the catechetical, personal and spiritual formation of our brothers will make the “strong right arm” of our local churches that much more invigorated. We are not alone as priests in our assignments — we have countless brother Knights waiting to bear witness, defend the faith and spread the Gospel through a charity that evangelizes. We just need to invite them again to participate in the mission we have been given.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## Father McGivney Documentary Now Available

A documentary on the life of the young Connecticut priest who founded the Knights of Columbus is now for sale on Amazon.com. Father Michael McGivney, produced by the Supreme Council, chronicles the life of the founder of the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization.



Through archival footage and dramatic recreations, the gripping one-hour film chronicles Father McGivney's early life in a poor immigrant family, his efforts as young priest to serve his parishioners and to launch the Knights, and his untimely death from pneumonia at age 38.

From defending the persecuted Church to protecting widows and orphans, the documentary celebrates the triumphs and tribulations of a man who may one day become the first canonized American-born parish priest. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared Father McGivney “venerable” in recognition of his “heroic virtue,” thus moving forward the cause for canonization.