



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

Men Alive With the 'Beating Heart of the Gospel'

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In *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis recalls the words of St. John XXIII, that the Church holding high the torch of truth, “wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children.” In establishing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis hopes that the “balm of mercy” may “reach everyone, both believers and those far away.”

The Pew Forum's recent U.S. Religious Landscape study reveals the terrain the message of mercy must conquer: Since 2007, the Church in the U.S. has lost 3 million souls, with 6.5 leaving the Church for every one person who converts. Only 59 percent of the millions who were raised Catholic, still adhere to the Church,

for a 20 percent Catholic total of the U.S. population, with nearly 13 percent of all Americans calling themselves “former Catholics.” Worse, while more than 35 percent of Millennials (those born between 1981 and 1996) claim no religious affiliation, only 16 percent identify as Catholic. While some have debated the methodology of the results, there is no doubt that the scope and task of the new evangelization is deeper and more urgent than many have imagined.

Pope Francis' insistence that the Church propose to the world “the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel,” and do so with a credibility that lives and testifies to the love of God, is a gift the Church clearly needs at this moment. Our brother Knights and their councils must instantiate the pope's charge: “Wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.”

As you begin pastoral planning for the new fraternal year, every chaplain should meet with his local council officers to discuss the ways it can assist at the parish and diocesan levels for the Jubilee Year of Mercy that will begin six months from now. Knights can assist by welcoming and promoting the efforts of the “Missionaries of Mercy” who Pope Francis will send to hear confessions and preach the mercy of God, helping local pastors with new and creative initiatives to bring Catholics back to the sacraments and the life of the Church, or even organizing evangelization teams that will speak with the disaffected and Millennials about the truth of the faith. Our brother Knights are rightly seen as experts in the charity that evangelizes. May we assist them to become ambassadors for the beating heart of the Gospel.

Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

Evangelizing Families or Families Evangelizing?

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

It's Monday morning. Back to work. During your coffee or lunch break, someone speaks about an exciting movie he watched with his family, another mentions a great restaurant, nice and convenient. Our co-workers freely share stories about the concert, the football game, the restaurant or the movie they enjoyed, but very rarely will we hear someone (especially a Catholic) speak about the enjoyable Mass, the deep message of a homily, or a wonderful moment of adoration.

Many times Catholics are afraid or reluctant to speak about and share the faith. We tend to think that our faith is a “private” thing, and therefore, that evangelization is a task only for priests. But this was not so at the beginning. The first Christian families — not just the first priests and bishops — were true apostles of the Gospel. Faith was the greatest gift they needed to communicate to their co-workers, neighbors and extended family.

Families are called to be missionaries. Evangelization is not just the task of priests and deacons! It belongs to every baptized, to every Catholic, to every family. As St. John Paul II said, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family” (*Familiaris Consortio*, 86). If we consider that the future of humanity is Jesus Christ, then we understand that the family is called to be “a true subject of evangelization within the Church” (*Letter to the Families*, 16). Benedict XVI, too, reminded us a

few years ago that “marriage is called to be not only an object but a subject of the new evangelization” (Homily, 7 Oct. 2012).

Families are called to be missionaries. This does not mean that they must travel to far places where the Gospel has not been preached. The first place where the Gospel needs to be preached is the heart of their children, their workplace, their neighborhood and their extended family.

Families are called to be missionaries. Of course, this is not the way that we, as priests, generally think about families. To be honest, many times I discover myself considering the family a mere object of my pastoral care, a sick patient I need to diagnose and heal. In order to look at the family as a true subject, we need a paradigm shift, a conversion of heart. The fruits of the new evangelization will be multiplied when we develop a true covenant of vocations between the priest and the families. The encounter between the consecrated person and the married couple is a blessing and enrichment for both in many ways. This synergy, or collaboration between them, is one of the most powerful sources of evangelization of the Catholic Church.

Families are called to be missionaries. They are part of the solution, not part of the problem. They can be missionaries with their example of life and mutual love, and also with their words.

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Field Agent Matthew DiCalogero meets longtime client John Walsh, a member of Norwood (Mass.) Council 252, and his wife, Jaynellen, to discuss their insurance needs.

As he set out on a new career, Tony Swanson wasn't sure exactly how it would turn out for himself and his wife, Cathy.

Tony was a committed Catholic and longed to work for the Church in a role that would allow him to do good for others while also doing well for himself and his family. So, when he was approached by General Agent Kevin Pfeifer to become a field agent for the Knights of Columbus in his home state of Nebraska, Tony was excited about the chance it provided.

"I was intrigued by the opportunity to make a living helping Catholic families while working for a Catholic organization that is true to our Catholic beliefs in all their practices (investment and otherwise) and that has a Catholic, charitable mission," Tony said. "I was also really attracted

to being affiliated with the many good men and families I knew that were in the Knights of Columbus."

Now, 15 years later, Tony is one of more than 130 Knights of Columbus general agents, and he leads an agency of his own. He has consistently fostered a culture of faith, evangelization, and spiritual and personal growth amongst his agents. This, he believes, allows them to better serve the Knights of Columbus families in their care.

"Our work is about so much more than simply selling a product," Tony explains. "Of course, that's the core of what we do and the core of the protection that Father McGivney hoped to provide to Catholic families and Catholic communities, but I firmly believe that if we are doing our due diligence as agents, it will have the effect of helping the Church. By helping to make Knights of Columbus councils stronger and more vibrant, we make our organization more useful and helpful to our parish priests in advancing the mission of the Church."

As for whether or not he made the right decision when choosing to become an agent, Tony is unequivocal: "Being in contact with Catholic families, the Church, priests and other wonderful Catholic men and women on a daily basis has had a profound impact on who I have become as a Catholic man, husband and father."

Thanks to the tremendous success of our Order's insurance program, and to the trust that our members and their families place in us, the Order is looking to hire more men like Tony to serve as field agents. If you know someone in your council or parish who may thrive in a career with the Knights of Columbus, please let us know by calling us at (203) 752-4136 or emailing careers@kofc.org.

Sharing the Gift of Time

Excerpts from a homily given by Bishop F. Richard Spencer, the episcopal vicar for Europe and Asia in the Archdiocese of Military Services, USA, at the opening Mass during the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, on Friday, May 15, 2015

I remember with great fondness the first pilgrimage trip that my mother and my younger brother — now Father Robert Spencer, Catholic chaplain of the United States Marine Corps — and myself made to Fatima, Portugal, in the early 1990s. One evening I was out walking alone around the streets of the shrine, and above the din of street noises, I heard someone singing. It was not a loud, boisterous kind of singing, but more like someone singing with great joy to himself. As I looked around for the source of it, I could not believe my eyes. It was a man in a wheelchair, pushing himself along by his two arms.

The ability to be joyful in the midst of adversity is one of the most attractive traits a person can have. It was this kind of joy that Jesus showed in today's Gospel reading as recorded by John, when Jesus said to his disciples and now to us: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy." As we journey in Lourdes this very night, our reflective question is how do we lift our sagging spirits towards God's glory that Jesus promised: "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you." And to discover the same joy as the person in the wheelchair did that night in Fatima?

Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost. Yesterday is forever gone.

So, what will you do with your next 86,400 seconds?

Think about that, and always think of this: Enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

Time is our most precious treasure because it is limited. We can produce more wealth, but we cannot produce more time. When we give



Bishop F. Richard Spencer and Supreme Knight Carl Anderson join Lt. Gen. Darryl Roberson and Brig. Gen. Arlan M. DeBlicek, senior military representatives of the International Military Pilgrimage, in front of the War Memorial in Lourdes, France.

someone our time — as we should since we all are our brother's keepers — we actually give a portion of our life that we will never take back. Our time is our life! The best gift you can give to the Lord these next few days is your time. Strive to spend moments in quiet prayer at least one hour each day. ... Take time to experience the sacrament of reconciliation. Put away the electronic screens, those smart phones and tablets, and instead take time to be on pilgrimage with one another.

May we all have the wisdom to give time and to share time with the Lord and with one another.

My friends, let us rise and lift up our hearts as we journey in pilgrimage here in Lourdes, to heed our Blessed Mother's call to conversion of heart so that the world might be a better place for all, as we truly live and are our "brother's keeper."

Monthly Suggested Activities

June

Encourage the members of your council and parish community to celebrate the solemnities of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary observed by the Church during the second week of June:

- ◆ Promote eucharistic devotions among parishioners by asking Knights to help organize a Holy Hour or to 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 and Immaculate Hearts 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 fathersforgood.org.

July

Celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence with a Mass of thanksgiving and offer a reflection on the importance of religious freedom, including topics such as:

- ◆ The Christian beginnings of our nation, commenting upon the biblical inscription on the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family" (Lev 25:10).
- ◆ The gift that the Catholic Faith has been to our nation. Reflect on the lives of saints and holy people who have lived on American soil, such as St. Kateri Tekakwitha and Blessed Junípero Serra, whose feast days are celebrated by the Church during July.
- ◆ The importance of continued prayers for our nation's leaders, especially that they follow political practices that uphold religious freedom, protect human life and safeguard the place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children.



Offer spiritual support to your brother Knights as they prepare for special events in the new fraternal year, including Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 9-16) and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia (Sep. 22-25). For more information on involving your council and parish in these events, please visit worldmeeting2015.org and kofc.org/familyweek.

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This is the way for a family to keep and grow in his faith. "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy" (Benedict XVI, *Porta Fidei*, 7). In other words, a family that evangelizes together will stay together.

It's Monday morning. The day of a priest has only 24 hours. But the fruit of his day's ministry will be great once we invite our families to become subjects of the great mission of the Church. This is the hour of the family!

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.

Best Practice of the Month

An admirable practice among Knights of Columbus chaplains is that of organizing a series of "Apologetics 101" for the parish, local community and council members. With many people looking to the Order to help them practically live their faith through volunteer work and community service, it is important that chaplains do not ignore opportunities to discuss the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church. In this way, we help our brother Knights realize that truly effective charitable action is centered in the spiritual aspects and truths of their faith.

To implement this practice for your brother Knights and community, consider offering brief, simple talks on interesting questions, such as: Why do we pray to the saints? Why do we call our priest "Father"? Where did the Mass come from? Why do we make the sign of the cross? What do Catholics believe about marriage and family?

Encourage Knights and parishioners to bring their families so that they might together embrace the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Older children and teens might particularly benefit from such discussions and be compelled to inquire further on their own. Be sure to offer resources, such as those offered by the Catholic Information Series, where they might find answers to any additional questions on these topics. For more information, please visit kofc.org/cis.



Fortnight for Freedom

In 2012, as a response to the many threats to religious liberty in the United States, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops asked citizens across the nation to participate in a period of prayer, fasting and advocacy from June 21 to July 4.

This year, during the fourth annual Fortnight for Freedom, share with your council members and parishioners the importance of praying for our country during the days of the fortnight. Encourage them to attend or coordinate an evening prayer vigil at a government building, a religious-themed concert, an art show, a procession, a panel discussion or a march for religious freedom. Remind them that one of the Order's core principles, patriotism, teaches us to "love our country so much that we want it to embrace what is true and good. We want our country to be a place where human dignity is recognized and respected from conception until natural death, a place where religious freedom is robustly fostered, not just tolerated. Out of love for country we are vigilant, lest our freedoms be unduly curtailed for political reasons" (Supreme Chaplain William E. Lori, *The Meaning of Patriotism*, 7 Jan. 2013).

For more information, visit fortnight4freedom.org.



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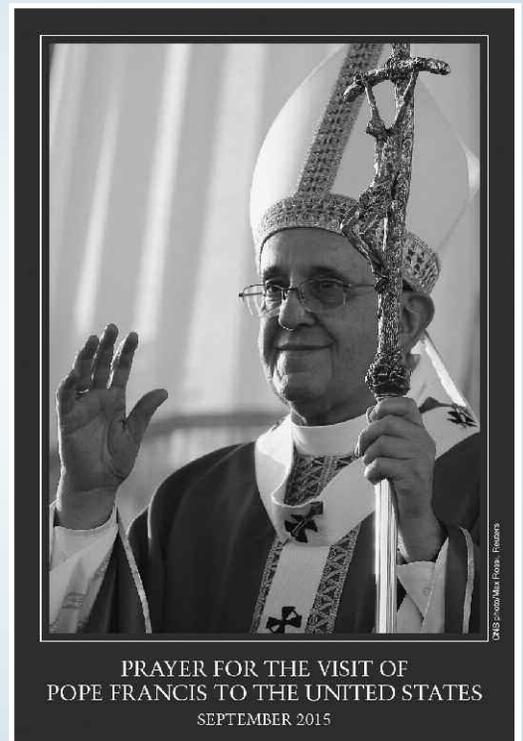
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

Prayer for the Visit of Pope Francis to the United States

Composed by Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain

Heavenly Father, we entrust to your loving care our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who, in your Providence, leads and guides the Church throughout the world. As we prepare for his pastoral journey to the United States, fill us, Lord, with the joy of the Gospel. Give us the grace to respond to the Holy Father's call to encounter Christ, and to become missionary disciples who bear witness to His truth and love. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may walk with others, especially the poor and the vulnerable, and bring them to the healing touch of your Son, Jesus. In your kindness, Lord, give success to the World Meeting of Families so that under the leadership of Pope Francis, marriage and family life might be strengthened in every land and culture. Look with love upon our nation. Ensure that the Holy Father's presence and words inspire us to protect the unborn, the ill and all those who are vulnerable; to defend our first and most cherished freedom, religious liberty; to welcome the stranger; and to serve the poor. May this visit of Pope Francis confirm in our hearts the Gospel principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Two prayer cards, one featuring this prayer and another for the intercession of Junipero Serra, are available in packs of 100 at a cost of \$3 per pack. Make checks payable to "Knights of Columbus" and write "#5100 (Serra)" or "#5101 (Papal Visit)" in the memo line. Mail to: K of C Supply Department, 78 Meadow St., New Haven, CT 06519. Councils can order using a Requisition Form (#1). For further information, call 203-752-4214 or write to supply@kofc.org.



PRAYER FOR THE VISIT OF
POPE FRANCIS TO THE UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER 2015