



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 Freedom Summer Offers

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Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



During the summer vacation season, many of us have to try harder to be men of faith. There are the usual distractions of summer, the vices we fall into because of sloth, absentmindedness and, perhaps, the irregular example of those around us. Father Luigi Giussani, founder of the lay movement Communion and Liberation, recognized this tension, as well as the freedom summer offers. He wrote: "Vacation time is the noblest time of the year, because it is the moment when one becomes as involved as he likes in the value he recognizes as dominant for his life, or he doesn't get involved in anything at all, and then he is, as I said, a fool."

Another way to describe this is to make a distinction between discipleship and non-discipleship Christianity. Those who practice non-discipleship Christianity do not ask others about their faith and do not tell about their own. Such behavior accepts casual Christianity as normal and leaves the making of disciples for the "super-saints." It hides behind an individualism that protects one's accountability. Such persons never make personal demands nor focus on taking up the cross, because the Lord has never truly become the God of their life.

Transformational discipleship seeks to follow the Lord daily, even on vacation. As George MacDonald said, "Instead of asking whether you believe or not, ask yourself whether you have this day done one thing because he said, 'Do it,' or once abstained because he said, 'Do not do it.' It is simply absurd to say you believe in him if you do not do anything he tells you." The true disciple seeks to eliminate any obstacle that blocks his yes to God and sets aside competing priorities to follow the Lord. This means uniting oneself to Christ in a very real way. C.S. Lewis wrote: "There's no way one should throw out a good bottle of port and the cigars! We don't need to suffer without purpose. When Jesus said, 'he must deny himself,' he was asking for something very specific."

As our brother Knights embrace this noble time of life, can we assist them in pondering what they desire to give themselves to during the freedom of vacation? Can we ask them to see where they are increasing their capacity for gratuitousness, mercy, generosity and love? Can we encourage them to embrace true discipleship and grow as men of prayer, friendship, truthfulness, dedication and compassion? Can we explain to each of them that the way they respond to the freedom of summer reflects the men they are and whose disciple they each have become?

Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

School of Humanity

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

Orphans and widows are the biblical symbol of the most needy and defenseless. Without father or husband to protect and take care of them, they remain in despair, condemned to hunger and poverty. Nowadays, when we hear the phrase "orphans and widows," we think of those in tough situations, such as the lonely, the sick, the old, the handicapped, spouses that have been abandoned, unmarried mothers, expectant mothers, etc.

Who will take care of them, who will protect these widows and orphans? Holy Scripture gives us the answer: The Lord, the creator of heaven and earth, reveals himself as the "father of the fatherless and defender of widows" (Ps 68:5). During his life, Jesus Christ fulfilled this mystery. He paid special attention to the poor and the sick, and in his actions and words he revealed the face of the Father, who is rich in mercy.

After his Ascension, the Lord Jesus gave the Church the mission of being his contemporary presence in the world. In a very special way, the Lord has appointed the Christian family, the domestic church, as the place where God takes care of the needy. Through the actions of parents and children, God hears the voice of the sufferer and attends to his prayers.

It is through the family that we first encounter suffering and learn compassion and service. At home we experience illness and fragility in ourselves, in our siblings and especially in our grandparents. The weakness of our dearest ones is, for us, a school of life. If Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is right and "the true measure of humanity is essentially determined in relationship to suffering and to the sufferer" (*Spe Salvi*, 38), then the family has a very special mission as a true school of humanity. In a world that tries to "anaesthetize" young people against the suffering of others (Pope Francis, General Audience, 10 June 2015), the family makes our society more human.

The family is not only the best school of compassion, but also the place where God reveals his mercy to each of us. God takes care of us through the family — first through our parents, later through our spouse, then through our children. For those without families, God provides for us through the Church and other Catholic families. As St. John Paul the Great put it, "The apostolate of the family becomes wider through works of spiritual and material charity toward other families, especially those most in need of help and support" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 71).



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CNS photo/Rodi Said, Reuters

The Widow's Sacrificial Gift

*Excerpts from a homily given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori
at the Knights of Columbus State Deputies Meeting, June 6, 2015*

Yesterday, I drew parallels between your role as state deputies and my role as a diocesan bishop and chaplain. We both have a place of honor in the Church and in the Order. ... We have titles; we have distinctive signs of office; we sit at head tables; we lead prayers; and we are asked to make decisions that affect the lives of others.

All in all, it seems, we're headed for perdition.

Jesus reserves some of his sternest words for those who use religion for their own gain and those who practice fake piety. This is truly an occupational hazard for me and for the clergy. It is also something which we, as leaders of the Order, have to guard against.

The blessing of the jewels of office includes an admonition not to lord your leadership over others or to use it for any sort of personal gain. Nor should we allow ourselves to enjoy the marks of honor that come our way or feel that we are personally entitled to them. For example, I should not ask my mother to call me "Your Excellency"!

Let's spend a moment on Jesus' praise for the widow who could only contribute a few pennies to the temple treasury. In those days, everyone threw coins into the treasury. The donations of those who gave more made an ostentatious clank, while the widow's little gift barely registered a sound. As a result, everyone noticed the gifts of the wealthy. Jesus alone noticed and valued the gift of the poor widow. ... She donated her meager living expenses; her gift was truly sacrificial.



Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore celebrates Mass for the state deputy-elects in the Supreme Council headquarters chapel.

Yesterday, the Supreme Knight gave a report on the charitable giving of the members of the Order and the number of volunteer hours our members have donated. For the most part, these are many small contributions given with big hearts. They reflect the sacrificial love of the widow's gift.

In turn, Mary's gift to God was not in the form of copper coins, but her very being. She gave herself totally to God, experiencing — more than any of us ever could — the enormity of her Son's gift of self as he hung upon the Cross. If we want to avoid the spiritual danger of taking our honors and titles too seriously, and instead

place ourselves at the service of the Church, we need only turn to Mary.

Let's not forget how the Blessed Mother at Guadalupe loved Juan Diego and enabled this man who had little or no standing in society to make a huge contribution to the evangelization of the Americas. Mary will also enable us to make a big contribution to the Church's mission. ... The rosary is the Blessed Mother's way of putting us in touch with all that her Son did to bring about our salvation. It's her way of seeing to it that you and I become like Jesus.

A famous ad tells us that fifteen minutes could save us 15 percent on car insurance. Fifteen minutes a day is what it takes to say a rosary.

That could save us.

Vivat Jesus!

The Fifth Sunday Rosary Program

A new program for the 2015-16 fraternal year has been developed under the Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive initiative to encourage greater devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary among members, parishioners and families.

Every fifth week beginning Aug. 30, 2015, councils are encouraged to organize a community rosary prayer service prior to Sunday Masses. This program is featured under the Church Activities section of the Columbian Award, as it offers a great opportunity for Knights of Columbus members and their families to strengthen their faith.

For more information on the Fifth Sunday Rosary Program, please contact Jason Porrello at 203-752-4571 or Jason.Porrello@kofc.org. A kit containing a supply of rosary rings, prayer cards on how to pray the rosary, and promotional materials is also available. To order the kit, please use the order form found at kofc.org/forms.



HUMANITY FROM PAGE 1

One of the most beautiful experiences of my ministry at my parish has been to witness the development of "covenants" between families. Families are called to reach out and help other families. We need many "good Samaritan families" willing to open their houses and welcome the lonely and the elderly. A young family without any relatives living nearby might really need the help of a neighbor, such as a widow or a young adult, to volunteer in the nursery. At the same time, that young family might become a role model for the single young adult or welcome the widow for dinner at their home.

"Because God is the Father of orphans and widows, we want to reach out to all those who are lonely and abandoned." The Catholic family, the domestic church, is the eyes and the arms, the smile and the embrace, of God the Father, rich in mercy.

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.

Monthly Suggested Activities

July

Celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Canada Day by preaching on the importance of religious freedom throughout the world. Consider topics such as:

- ♦ The Christian beginnings of the United States, 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 nations. Reflect on the lives of saints and holy people who have lived on American and Canadian soil, such as Blessed Junípero Serra and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, whose feast days are celebrated in early July.



A statue of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be canonized, stands amid trees on the grounds of the shrine dedicated to her in Fonda, N.Y.

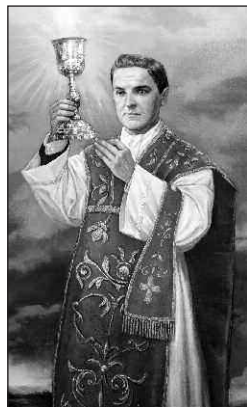
St. Kateri was born at a nearby Indian settlement, now the site of Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine, the recent recipient of a \$500,000 check from the Supreme Council for renovation and upkeep.

- ♦ The importance of continued prayers for our nations’ leaders, that they may always uphold religious freedom, protect human life and safeguard the place of mothers and fathers in the lives of their children.

August

Preach about the central importance of the Transfiguration and the Assumption, celebrated on Aug. 6 and Aug. 15. Recall how the Blessed Virgin Mary “helps us contemplate the transfigured face of Christ. . . and led a transfigured life that continues to amaze the world” (Archbishop William E. Lori, *Columbia*, March 2012).

Offer spiritual support as your council prepares for Knights of Columbus Family Week, Aug. 9-16. Celebrate special Masses on the anniversaries of Father McGivney’s birth (Aug. 12) and death (Aug. 14). Also, distribute *prayer cards* (#10115) for the beatification of Venerable Father McGivney and copies of *The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney* booklet (#2045 — available in limited quantities of 50) to all the members of your parish.



Encourage the members of your council and parish to welcome Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia (Sep. 22-27). For more information on attending or volunteering at the event, please visit worldmeeting2015.org.

Best Practice of the Month

An admirable practice among Knights of Columbus chaplains is that of encouraging Knights and their families to volunteer together for faith initiatives and social events.



Your council can similarly provide an opportunity for busy fathers to remain active in their councils during the summer months by sponsoring a family night — with games and an opportunity for socialization — at your parish. Begin the evening by celebrating a Mass with Knights and their families assisting as altar servers, ushers and lectors. Alternatively, encourage families to join council members for community projects, pointing out the many benefits of volunteering as a family.

If you or your council has established a similar 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.

Honoring Our Founder

On Aug. 14, 1890, just two days after his 38th birthday, Father Michael McGivney died, leaving behind a timeless message of the dignity of the human person and sacredness of the human family. This year, as the Order celebrates the 125th anniversary of his death, we welcome you to celebrate the legacy of Father McGivney in your own council, parish and community.

Councils may also wish to bring a tangible connection between Father McGivney and the spiritual rewards they receive through Knighthood by visiting the site in New Haven, Conn., where the Order was founded. There, at St. Mary’s Church, a polished granite sarcophagus now holds Father McGivney’s mortal remains.



For information on arranging a pilgrimage to St. Mary’s, please contact the Dominican Friars at 203-562-6193 or visit stmarys-priory.com. Masses are offered daily, followed by a prayer for the intercession of Father McGivney.

Pilgrims may also visit the nearby Knights of Columbus Museum, which maintains a permanent exhibit on the life and times of Father McGivney. Free to the public and open daily, it also offers a virtual tour at its website, kofcmuseum.org.

For other devotions or activities in honor of this servant of God, please contact the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild, which serves as a source for information about his life, works and spirituality. To join the Guild and receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney’s cause for canonization, please visit fathermcgivneyguild.org.



**KNIGHTS
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CHAPLAIN'S
report

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

Prayer for the Intercession of Junípero Serra

Gracious Father, we thank you for the exemplary life, missionary zeal and loving kindness of your servant, Father Junípero Serra, who entrusted his ministry to the Virgin of Guadalupe and stood firm in the defense of the native peoples.

Following his example, may we also look to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of the New Evangelization, as we proclaim the Gospel in our own day.

We ask you, Lord, to bless the Church with abundant vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, inspiring many to follow Father Serra as humble laborers in your vineyard.

Through his intercession, grant that we may see the face of your Son, Jesus, in all those we meet, especially the poor, the marginalized and those who suffer. Amen.

Two prayer cards, one featuring this prayer and another for the visit of Pope Francis to the United States, 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. To order additional items mentioned in this newsletter, please visit knightsgear.com.

