



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 on the Periphery

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



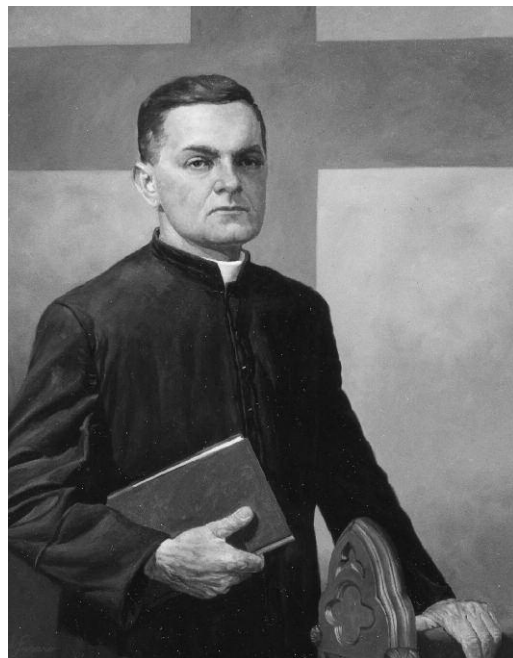
This year, on Aug. 14, we commemorate the 125th anniversary of the death of Venerable Servant of God Michael J. McGivney. Having devoted himself to the pastoral service of the Church, Father McGivney died at the age of 38 in 1890. Among the extraordinary virtues of his life, his evangelical zeal stands out. Over the course of 13 years, this parish priest sought out Catholic men on the peripheries. He was stationed at a church with an

enormous building debt, where his own parishioners were derisively described as “servant-girls” by *The New York Times* (28 July 1879). There, in the shadow of an elite Protestant Ivy League university, Father McGivney reached out to those on the margins. This was a time when Catholic men, many of whom were immigrants, were apt to join anti-Catholic movements in the hopes of getting a better salary. The few men who actively participated in the life of the Church were veterans of the most vicious Civil War battles.

This year, as we celebrate the anniversary of Father McGivney's death and begin preparations for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, the perennial evangelization challenges remain. How can we engage and attract young adult men and young fathers to a renewed practice of the faith? How can we assist immigrant men in the active participation of the sacraments and in finding meaning and dignity in their new lives? How can we engage returning veterans in lives of fruitful service away from the battlefield? The spiritual task of each Knights of Columbus council is to offer what *Evangelii Gaudium* calls “a spirituality which can offer healing and liberation, and fill them with life and peace, while at the same time summoning them to fraternal communion and missionary fruitfulness” (89).

Sadly, many of our brother Knights experience the heartbreak of not seeing their children participate in sacramental marriages, or the heartbreak of not having grandchildren be baptized or catechized in the sacraments. It even begins to happen that life-long elderly Catholics no longer receive the Last Rites or Catholic funerals, as faith becomes optional for their non-practicing children.

SEE **MEN**, PAGE 3



Called to Serve: Soul-Searching in Tennessee



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
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Editor's Note: The following is the second installment of our series about the vocation of a Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent. This bimonthly series explains how the Knights can help protect members and serve the Catholic families in your parish, and also illustrates the spiritual aspects of an agent's work.

In 2005, Daniel Schachle — a young family man in the heart of Tennessee — embarked on a career journey that would change his life.

He and his wife, Michelle, were expecting their seventh child. “We were doing very well,” Dan said, “but Michelle and I knew that we would have to start our own business if we were going to provide for our large growing family and allow Michelle to home-school our children.”

Insurance was an unlikely path for Dan. “I never wanted to be an ‘insurance guy,’” he said, “but I did want to do more to serve the Church and my fellow man. I would never have gone into this business for anyone other than the Knights of Columbus.”

Now, a decade later, Dan brings what he calls “a passion for life insurance” to his own agency. “I help families find ways to keep their homes and dreams even when mom or dad are disabled or aren't here with them anymore. I help members plan their future, so that as they age, they can maintain their income and be cared for. I owe it to Father

McGivney to help them secure financial protection, because ultimately, that's what he wanted.”

Dan and Michele, who were recently blessed with the birth of their 13th child — Michael McGivney Schachle — certainly have no regrets. As Dan says, his work provides an opportunity for him to be a Catholic witness to his family as well as to his clients: “I feel honored and blessed that my career gives me the chance every day to let my children see me work for an organization committed to the Church and the principles of the Knights. ... It allows me to teach them the faith by living it.”

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 Dan to serve as field agents. If you know someone in your council or parish you'd like to recommend for a career with the Knights of Columbus, please call us at 203-752-4136 or send an email to careers@kofc.org.

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

The Life and Death of Father McGivney

Excerpts from a homily given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori at the 124th Supreme Convention

In the closing pages of *Parish Priest*, Father McGivney's death is described. He had just celebrated his 38th birthday, but his health and strength were already spent.

The doctors could do nothing further for this good priest who had given his all to God, to the Church and to his people. So in the rectory at Thomaston, Conn., Father McGivney lay dying.

He had helped hundreds of parishioners prepare for a holy death, and now it was his turn to make final preparations to meet the Lord face-to-face. Still filled with love and concern for his parishioners, still bonded to his beloved Knights of Columbus, this good and holy priest slipped into eternity, there to take part, we truly hope and believe, in the fullness of heavenly joy.

Our founder had demonstrated genius, vision and persistence. In his day, he was recognized as a man of prominence and accomplishment. ... But prominence did not deter Father McGivney from his vocation — to serve the Church as loving parish priest.

The very originality of the organization he founded and shepherded glows with his fidelity to Christ, to the Church and to his priestly vocation.

The Knights of Columbus was something truly new in the life of the Church, but its newness only served to demonstrate what is most fundamental in the life of the Church herself. And nothing could be more basic to the life of the Church than the truth that God is love ... One God in Three Persons, bound together in a communion of life and love — the love for which we were created and redeemed, the love we

are called to share with one another.

Aware of Father McGivney's priestly goodness and his sanctity, we should not be surprised that the organization he created resembles the God he loved so deeply. The first principle of the Order is charity, for God is love. And because we are the beneficiaries of God's love, we are bound together in a unity of love, in a common brotherhood, that overflows with love for our families, for the wider Church and for the world — especially for the poor, the vulnerable and the worrisome.

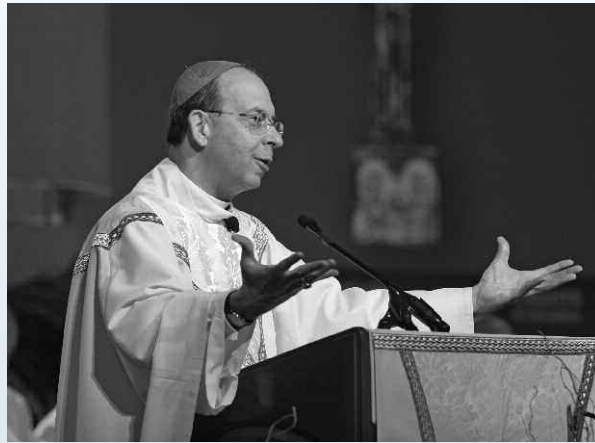
From his place in eternity, Father McGivney continues to teach us how to live the love of God by embracing the principles of the Order: charity, unity and fraternity.

Everyone knows that Father McGivney's insurance program is a stunning success

... why even in eternity our founder must be amazed. But still more important than that was his program of spiritual assurance — assurance that the unity of the Order is rooted in the redeeming love of Jesus.

Even better than a life insurance policy, this program of spiritual assurance pays benefits not only to survivors but also to the deceased, who are remembered in our Masses and in our prayers.

As faithful Catholics, we Knights and our families share a bond of love that goes beyond our immediate interests and activities, a bond that extends beyond time into eternity, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father.



Archbishop William E. Lori, then-bishop of Bridgeport, gives the homily at the memorial Mass celebrated during the 124th Supreme Convention, Aug. 3, 2006.



Sub Tuum Præsidium *We Fly To Thy Protection*

We fly to thy protection,
O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions
in our necessities,
but deliver us always
from all dangers,
O glorious and
blessed Virgin.

Amen.

Immaculate Conception painting by Sister Marie de l'Eucharistie, from Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral. Photo © Daniel Abel.

Monthly Suggested Activities

August

- With the inauguration of the Order's 17th prayer program at the 133rd Supreme Convention, consider consecrating the families of your parish and council under the protection of the Holy Family. Lead the entire parish community in *A Family Prayer* (#10086, available in packs of 100 cards for \$3), encouraging them to strengthen their devotion to the Holy Family through the Pilgrim Icon Program and related devotions.
- Offer spiritual support as your council prepares for Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 9-16) by organizing special Masses for the 125th anniversary of Father McGivney's death (Aug. 14) and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Aug. 15). Prior to the celebrations, ask the Knights of your council to distribute *prayer cards* (#10115) and copies of *The Life and Legacy of Father McGivney* booklet (#2045, available in limited quantities of 50). You might also share information on the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild, which serves as a source for information about his life, works and spirituality. For more information, visit fathermcgivneyguild.org.

September

- Help prepare the members of your council and parish to welcome Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia (Sept. 22-27) by leading them in a novena for the success of the meeting and the intentions of the Holy Father. An appropriate prayer and more information on the event can be found at worldmeeting2015.org.
- Encourage devotion among your brother Knights through observing the World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11), the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Sept. 23) or the feast of the Archangels (Sept. 29).
- Organize a series of talks for young people, especially those in local parochial or Catholic high schools. Be sure to discuss appropriate dates with school administrators as soon as possible, as they will shortly begin planning their schedule for the academic year. After getting to know these students and administrators, introduce them to the officers and members of your local council, so that the council may begin organizing various youth activities, such as a Knights of Columbus Free Throw competition, soccer challenge or essay contest.

Best Practice of the Month

An admirable practice among Knights of Columbus chaplains is to personally invite the men of their parish to join Knights of Columbus activities. By personally extending an invitation, chaplains mirror the actions of Father McGivney, who welcomed all Catholic men to embrace the essential role of the faith in their lives.

With security — both spiritual and financial — as his priority, he encouraged his brother Knights to always promote attendance at Mass, the frequent and fervent reception of the sacraments and, of course, the recitation of the rosary.

Following Father McGivney's example, get to know the Knights and men of your parish community, so that you can help them be more firmly rooted in the sacraments and further their knowledge of their Catholic faith. By doing so, you lead them to become true witnesses of the mystery of salvation to the whole world.

Although pastoral obligations may lead to your occasional absence from your council's regular meetings, embrace the spirit of Father McGivney so that — even in your absence — your brother Knights know that you are always available to help them embrace the apostolic mission of the Church.

If you or your council has established a similar practice that reflects Father McGivney's vision for chaplains — that of 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.

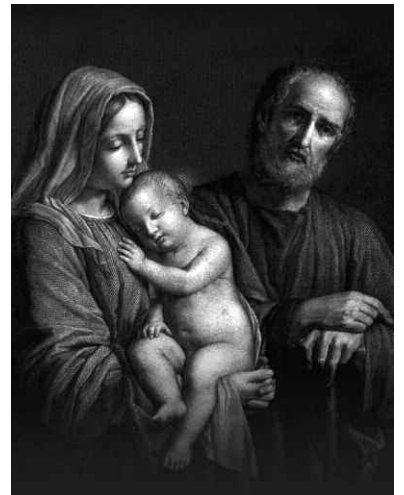
17th International Prayer Program

Continuing a decades-long tradition, the Knights of Columbus will launch their 17th international prayer program this August.

Since 1979, millions of faithful have participated in K of C-sponsored prayer services conducted through this program. During the past program dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, 1,178,796 participants attended 6,991 services as the image of Mary traveled throughout Knights of Columbus jurisdictions.

The new program is dedicated to the Holy Family and will feature framed images of a drawing by Giovanni Balestra. The drawing is based on a painting by Sassoferrato that is housed at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Rome. The images will travel Orderwide among local councils who will organize prayer programs for their parishes and communities.

For more information on the prayer program, please visit kofc.org.



MEN FROM PAGE 1

As chaplains, it is our duty to invite our brother Knights to a new missionary fruitfulness in every council. For the sake of the future of the Church, older brother Knights should pray for the wisdom and active ability to discern how to reach out in fraternal communion with attractive ideas and creative ways of being an active Knight of Columbus to young adults, immigrants, newly married men and young fathers.

Father McGivney did not shirk from seeking new ways of attracting men on the peripheries to the Gospel. Nor did he start the Knights of Columbus as a young adult group. He gathered the good men he knew,

spoke about the spiritual battles facing that generation, and then asked all of them for a further sacrifice in a spirit of evangelical charity. Even then, we know he had to wait a further two years before his idea for an organization of "fraternal communion and missionary fruitfulness" caught hold of the men and took off and spread. Let us ask our founder for the jubilee grace to inspire our brother Knights to be men of active and creative evangelical charity, so that the next generation of Catholics will live lives of faithful holiness.

Vivat Jesus!



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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

Parish of Families

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

During the Last Supper, Jesus promised not to leave us alone. “I will not leave you orphans” (cf. Jn 14:18). Jesus knows that, among the many fears we experience in our life, there is one which we especially fear: loneliness. We may be in the middle of a crowd, driving through a big city or just walking in a mall. Maybe we are surrounded by lots of people, but we experience the deep anguish of isolation and loneliness. Nowadays, we are able to start many relationships with so many people all over the world. Through the internet, we have “friends” we follow or who follow us, but the quality of these hundreds of connections is often weak and meaningless.

Who can help us to overcome our isolation and loneliness? God has blessed us with the gift of our family: parents, siblings, children, etc. As Pope Francis recently said, mothers are “the strongest antidote to the spread of self-centered individualism” (General Audience, 7 Jan. 2015). Similarly, fathers help us build personal relationships upon trust and love.

What happens, then, when the family cannot provide for someone? What happens when we find someone who is alone or isolated? The

Lord has given the Catholic Church as his family, a place where each helps and provides for the needs of others. Whether we are poor, single, widowed, orphaned or homeless, Jesus provides for us through the Church. We know well that each family of our parish is called to be a “domestic church.” In this month, we are invited to consider that our parish is called to be a “family of families.” The family is the domestic church; the Church is God’s family.

As a “family of families,” our parish is called to be the human space of our encounter with God and other people. According to Pope Francis, the first pastoral commandment of a parish is *closeness*, being close to the people. “We must go with closeness, with the caress that Jesus has taught us” (8 March 2015). In other words, our parishes should welcome the family; they are called to create a family-friendly environment where everyone is welcomed and challenged in his path of love.

Jesus does not leave us orphans. He has given to us our parishes, which have become “islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference” (Pope Francis, Message for Lent 2015). Let us work to transform our parishes into a family of families, a family-friendly place.

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. To order additional items mentioned in this newsletter, please visit knightsgear.com.