



# 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

## SPECIAL SUMMER ISSUE

Due to the Knights' involvement at World Day 2016 and the preparations for the Chaplain's Meeting at the 134th Supreme Convention, we are offering a special summer issue of the *Chaplain's Report*.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

## Men of Faith, Prayer and Action

**Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP**

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



As priests, we know that the first thing to go is prayer. When one is busy, weighed down by the burdens and demands of administration time and schedule, it is an act of faith to pause, stop what one is doing and seek the embrace of the Father. The Lord Jesus himself had to slip away in the early hours of the day to make time for his own conversation with the Father. When the disciples struggled to perform the duties expected of them and were straining under the spiritual burdens before them, Jesus reminded “things like these only come out by fasting and prayer” (cf. Mk 9:29).

Many men seek to join the Knights because of the fraternal support and Catholic camaraderie it offers on the local level. Men usually grow close by doing things together. Growing from the shared experience of serving the Church and community, good men become better Catholics. Others are equally attracted by the Order's insurance program, which not only offers families financial protection, but also promises sound ethical investing, solid advice and the opportunity to reinvest in the Catholic Church through corporate donations made possible by the profits of the K of C. The March for Life, the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, World Youth Day and Christians at Risk are just a few of the many causes and events benefited by these donations.

In both cases, the Knights of Columbus aids and protects men and their families and the causes dear to them.

Many men are also looking to join the Knights of Columbus for spiritual and catechetical faith formation. How many men — knowing that their marriages and families are under spiritual attack — are looking for the armor of faith to defend themselves? Others are looking for an avenue to return to the Church as their children prepare for the sacraments. Many go through the laborious process of starting new men's groups to find the support and accountability they need to survive. The Knights of Columbus was formed by Father McGivney to assist such men and help them thrive! Our parish-based councils exist to be the entry points for those who seek to return to the practice of the faith. Who is better positioned to notice and invite new or returning parishioners to re-engage in the faith?

SEE **MEN**, PAGE 3

## Knights Hosted Center for English-Speaking Pilgrims at WYD 2016

Thirty years ago, Pope John Paul II invited young Catholics to gather in a celebration of their faith at the first international World Youth Day (WYD). This year, at WYD 2016, held July 25-31, the Knights of Columbus proudly contributed once more to the saint's enduring love of the youth of the world.

Assisted by several other organizations, including the Sisters of Life and Salt + Light Media, the Order set up the K of C Mercy Centre at the Tauron Arena in Kraków. There, millions of English-speaking pilgrims were offered the opportunity to come together in a single location to attend concerts, learn more about their faith and contemporary issues, and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. All pilgrims were welcome to participate in events at the Mercy Centre from July 26 through July 30. Events included catechesis, a panel on religious liberty and sessions on the School Mercy. Pilgrims also had the opportunity to venerate the relics of several Polish saints and hear witnesses of many speakers from FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), the Sisters of Life, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and many others.



Joining the Knights in arranging these speakers and events were the Sisters of Life, a religious community founded in 1991 by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, who partnered with the Order to sponsor centers for English-speaking youth during World Youth Day Sydney 2008 and World Youth Day Madrid 2011. Also joining the Knights were Holy Cross Family Ministries, Salt + Light Television, FOCUS and the Dominican Liturgical Institute.

SEE **WYD**, PAGE 2

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

## Mother Teresa and the Family

*By Father Luis Granados, DCJM*

**T**he world does not need mediocre Catholics who act as if their faith is a burden.

What the world needs is people who have contemplated the face of Christ and become his images on earth.

We need saints.

It is saints like Mother Teresa that the world and the Church need. Her canonization fills us with joy. With her love for the naked, the hungry, the lonely and the dying, she shared the passion of Jesus Christ for the family and the needy. She was a true servant and advocate for the family.

Mother Teresa remains a scandal for many. She was not politically correct. She helped the hungry families of underdeveloped countries, but she promoted Natural Family Planning instead of contraception or sterilization, and she fought abortion by adoption.

Mother Teresa did not claim to be a social worker, instead defining herself and her Missionaries of Charity as “contemplatives in the heart of the world.” This was an appropriate definition, for she explained that while accompanying the dying or feeding the hungry, the sisters were “touching the body of Christ. . . . We have 24 hours in this presence” (Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, 11 Dec. 1979). At the heart of her spirituality we find this conviction: “Christ makes himself the naked one, the hungry one, the homeless one.” This explains her passion to defend the dying and the poor, as well as the pregnant woman and the unborn.

For the saint, holiness was not “a luxury of the few” but “a simple duty for each one of us” (Address to the U.N. on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary, 26 Oct. 1985). Holiness is the perfection of charity — or, with the words of Mother Teresa, it is to love until it hurts. “I don’t want you to give me from your abundance, I want that you give me until it hurts.” When we love in this way we love with the same love of Jesus Christ.

Where do we learn this true and faithful love? Where does it come from? Through her own experience and devotion, Mother Teresa answered these questions: We learn to love until it hurts *in the family*, and we receive this love *by contemplating the Crucified* and his thirst for us.

Love begins at home. In our family we receive our first smile, which is the beginning of love. As babies, we recognize our mother by her smile. Our parents welcome us with unconditional love and give us this indelible conviction: We are loved, we are cared for, we are wanted. But parents can only welcome their children and love them until it hurts if they contemplate Jesus Christ, if they pray together.

We can understand better now why Mother Teresa hated abortion, why she felt great solicitude for the pregnant woman and why she loved all persons, including women who had an abortion. “I find that the poverty of loneliness, the poverty of being unwanted, unloved, uncared, just left, a throwaway of society, is a very burdensome poverty, very difficult to remove” (26 Oct. 1985). Teresa had met many rich families in great loneliness, and very poor families enjoying the share of loving. She understood clearly that the greatest evil is not being hungry or dying, but being lonely, rejected and unloved. For that reason, she considered abortion as the greatest destroyer of peace, the greatest destroyer of the family: a direct war. By destroying the unborn, we are destroying the presence of God. We are destroying the most sacred thing that a human being can have: the loving smile of the mother.

Mother Teresa, this “diminutive woman in love with God” (as St. John Paul II called her at the beatification), knew also the weapon against this evil. Families need to spend time together and to pray together. Our new saint reminds parents of the beauty of their mission: When they spend time with their spouse and children, when they feed their hungry kids or they clothe their naked children, they touch the body of Christ. They have 24 hours in his presence.

It is saints that the world needs. It is St. Teresa of Kolkata, advocate for the family, that America needs. Many times, our saint called America to become a beacon of hope to the world by protecting both the unborn and the pregnant mother. This transformation will be possible when Catholic families start to pray together, when they pray until it hurts.



*Mother Teresa speaks at the Knights of Columbus' 110th Supreme Convention in New York, where she was presented with the Order's Gaudium et Spes Award.*

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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' Family Fully Alive program. *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklets (#10162, available free of cost, only shipping charges apply) can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4214. A copy of this booklet and additional resources are available at [www.kofc.org/familyfullyalive](http://www.kofc.org/familyfullyalive). To order additional items mentioned in this newsletter, please visit [www.knightsgear.com](http://www.knightsgear.com).

### **WYD**, FROM PAGE 1

The venue, located in Polish Aviators Park, just under 2.5 miles from Kraków's Main Square, is the largest entertainment and sports venue in Poland, with seating for more than 22,000 people on its three levels. The center was not far from the location of WYD's central events at Błonia Park, a large meadow adjacent to Kraków's historic city center. This park has been the site of several Masses celebrated by Pope John Paul II and by Pope Benedict XVI.

Dozens of college Knights from around the world attended the festival, arriving in Poland a few days before the main events to tour various locations connected to Poland's Catholic history, particularly those associated with St. John Paul II. In the spirit of this year's World Youth Day theme, “Blessed Are the Merciful, for They Will Be Shown Mercy,” the college Knights also visited the Divine Mercy Sanctuary.

**For more information about WYD, visit [krakow2016.com](http://krakow2016.com).**

# Charity and Volunteer Growth

*For 17th year, Knights' charitable giving  
and volunteer hours grow*



*Supreme Knight Carl Anderson speaks at the  
2016 Organizational Meeting of State Deputies, New Haven, Conn.*

The Knights of Columbus set an all-time record last year for charitable donations and service hours, with \$175,079,192 in donations and more than 73.5 million hours of service. The numbers were announced at the closing session of the annual Organizational Meeting of State Deputies in New Haven.

During the meeting's business session, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori spoke of the importance of the Domestic Church initiative and the Knights' role as inheritors of Father Michael McGivney's vision.

The supreme chaplain also cited Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix's *Into the Breach*, saying that it is "perfectly suited to the mission of the Knights of Columbus" as seen by Father McGivney. This document offers guidance on the principles of being a Catholic man following Christ, as well as on the witness to the saints. It offers support to anyone who is "willing to engage in the spiritual warfare necessary to be a good husband and father and a good disciple who spreads the Gospel by word and by example."

To order copies of *Into the Breach*, which includes a reflection guide by the Knights of Columbus, please contact the Supply Department at [supply@kofc.org](mailto:supply@kofc.org).

## Prayer for Youth

*Excerpts from the prayer written for youth around the world, especially those traveling to Kraków for World Youth Day*

God, merciful Father, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every man and woman.

We entrust to you in a special way young people of every language, people and nation: guide and protect them as they walk the complex paths of the world today and give them the grace to reap abundant fruits from their experience of the Kraków World Youth Day.

Heavenly Father, grant that we may bear witness to your mercy. Teach us how to convey the faith to those in doubt, hope to those who are discouraged, love to those who feel indifferent, forgiveness to those who have done wrong and joy to those who are unhappy. Allow the spark of merciful love that you have enkindled within us become a fire that can transform hearts and renew the face of the earth.

Mary, Mother of Mercy, pray for us.

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# Monthly Suggested Activities

## 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 on the biblical inscription on the Liberty Bell: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Lev 25:10).
  - The gift that the Catholic faith offers to the United States and the entire world. 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 were celebrated by the Church during July.
  - The importance of continuing to pray for national leaders and political candidates, 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.
- ❖ Encourage your parish to pray for and offer support to the young people of your parish as they encounter Christ's mercy during the jubilee for youth, which includes the 2016 World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland, and various events throughout the world.

## AUGUST

- ❖ Preach about the central importance of the Transfiguration and the Assumption, celebrated on Aug. 6 and Aug. 15.
- ❖ Support brother Knights as they prepare for special events in the new fraternal year, including Knights of Columbus Family Week (Aug. 8-14).
- ❖ Celebrate special Masses on the anniversaries of Father McGivney's birth (Aug. 12) and death (Aug. 14). Also, distribute cards (#10115) containing a prayer 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 prepare celebrations and devotions in honor of the soon-to-be canonized Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Rev. José Gabriel del Rosario Brochero, Marian Father Stanislaus Papczyński, Bridgettine Sister Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad and Mexican martyr José Sánchez del Río. Pope Francis will declare them saints of the Church on Sept. 4, the closing of the jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy.

## **MEN, FROM PAGE 1**

Every man desires to give of himself. No man should have to endure endless business meetings where haggling over a donation or what to do for a fundraiser remains the center of the meeting. Instead, our councils must become places of invitation and engagement with the faith. I ask every chaplain to pray and meet (perhaps quarterly) with local council leaders to determine the most efficient use of business meetings (perhaps quarterly) and how best to ensure that the bulk of Knights of Columbus meetings are dedicated to meeting the spiritual, faith formation, charitable and fraternal needs of the members.

The world needs our brothers to be men of faith, prayer and action. Thousands of good Catholic men are looking to become such men. May our work spur our brother Knights to live the attractive missionary dimension that will invite those on the margins to join them in such a task.

*Vivat Jesus!*





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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

## The Saints of Mercy: Albert Chmielowski

*Our “Saints of Mercy” series is designed for you to share with your brother Knights, that they might realize the heroic aspect of mercy and the beauty of being open to the mercy of God in their lives. This issue features St. Albert Chmielowski, a Polish saint who greatly influenced the life of Pope St. John Paul II and whose relic was present at the Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mercy Centre at the Tauron Arena in Kraków.*

**A**talented artist from an aristocratic Polish family, Albert Chmielowski sought the answer to a question asked throughout the centuries: What is the purpose of art? Seeking the answer, he studied in Warsaw, Munich and Paris. Afterward, he returned to Kraków to establish a religious community that cared for the poor and suffering.

He was no stranger to suffering. As a youth, he lost a leg when participating in an insurrection against Czar Alexander I in 1863. Despite the travail and pain, Brother Albert's passion for politics was never lost — only redirected toward charity and solidarity rather than revolution.

Nearly 90 years later, his charitable spirit was captured in a work by an amateur playwright. The play describes a real-life meeting between Brother Albert and Vladimir Lenin, who insists that acts of charity are worthless. Brother Albert's reply, that mankind needs charity more than any other good, impressed itself upon the playwright, who would also lay aside his life as an artist for a life dedicated to the “revolution of charity.” As John Paul II, the playwright-turned-pope would declare Albert a saint of the Church in 1989, the year that marked the fall of the Berlin Wall.

A relic of St. Albert, normally housed at the Saint John Paul II Shrine in Washington, D.C., was among those venerated at the Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mercy Centre, the site for English-speaking pilgrims at World Youth Day 2016.