



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

Entrusted with the Future

The Knights of Columbus Organizational Meeting of State Deputies was held June 4-8 in New Haven, Conn. During his opening address, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson emphasized the importance of councils working closely with their pastors and parishes. He also stressed the new Faith In Action program model and its connection to our Building the Domestic Church programs.



OUR NEW PROGRAM MODEL — FAITH IN ACTION

“What the Knights of Columbus is doing in thousands of different ways every day is putting our faith in action. Putting our faith in action in ways that people see and understand and know bring value to people’s lives, bring value to our communities, bring value to our country — whichever country we are living in.”

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

“Pope Benedict told us that the Church has three missions. It has a mission to pray, it has a mission to evangelize, and it has a mission of charity. Our domestic church program simply says the Catholic family has the same mission. It has the mission to pray together, it has the mission to build up each other in the faith, and it has the mission to practice charity among the members of the family and for the family to reach out to other families. How many fewer individual Catholic families would be broken and suffering if we could get our families to pray more, build up each other in the faith, forgive, reconcile and practice charity?”

BUILDING CATHOLICISM, NOT COLUMBIANISM

“What Father McGivney laid out was not the principles of a men’s club or the principles of a secret society. It was a principled way of life for men to live their Catholic faith. We are not just building Columbianism, we are building Catholicism. . . . Is that not the spiritual genius of Father McGivney? To understand how to build a way of life for men that goes to the central core of what it means to be a Catholic.”

What a Fourth Century Heresy Teaches Us About Council Dynamics

Excerpts from Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori’s homily from the State Deputies Meeting, New Haven, June 8, the Feast of the Sacred Heart

In his recent exhortation, Pope Francis cited Pelagianism as a subtle but very real enemy to holiness, discipleship and ultimately to our salvation. Instead of recognizing that everything depends on God’s love and mercy, we begin to think that everything depends upon us — upon our efforts, our wisdom and cleverness, our good will.

So, why is Pope Francis so concerned about a fourth century heresy? And what does Pelagianism have to do with us and with our Order? Have we become a band of card-carrying Pelagians? Is overt Pelagianism running rampant through our ranks? Hardly. You know, the devil doesn’t usually operate in such an obvious way. Rather, the temptation to be overly reliant on our own efforts and good will is subtle, and unless we are vigilant, Satan will stealthily insinuate this false way of thinking into our best efforts to profess and live the principal of charity.

We may even profess in public and in private that our works of charity are the result of God’s grace and not our own merit. But Satan, the father of lies, pats us on the back and whispers in our ears that it is really ourselves, not God, who accomplishes all these good works.

But we might ask this question: If we’ve worked hard to implement a successful program of service, what’s the harm in taking a little credit and getting well-deserved recognition? Again, the devil doesn’t do his dirty work out in the open. He sometimes uses legitimate recognition and approval to sow the seeds of disunity and dissension in our ranks. When Satan tempts us to imagine that we are solely responsible for the good we do, then we attach too much importance to being recognized and praised. We move ourselves into center stage and leave God in the wings. Or to put it another way, we fail to recognize that, in our partnership with God, we are decidedly the junior partner. In turn, such a craving for recognition and praise is bound to rub one’s fellow Knights the wrong way and thus one ends up sinning not only against charity but also against fraternity and unity as well. Meanwhile, Satan celebrates and looks for the next opportunity to disrupt and corrupt the good intentions and the good works of the Order. That’s why the warning against old Pelagius is timely and relevant for us!

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Walking in the Footsteps of Father McGivney

We all know the story of the founding of the Knights, with Father McGivney gathering a group of men in a basement of an Irish Catholic church in 1882. Yet, perhaps because our socio-political landscape is so different from that of the 1880s, it sometimes seems that the story of the founding is unreal — or, at the very least, unrelatable. Father McGivney himself appears larger than life, certainly incapable of fitting into the mold that the secular world gives priests today.

He made great plans that seemed almost unreachable — yet succeeded in completing them. He transformed a group of men looking for Catholic fellowship and financial protection into a formal organization that today boasts nearly 2 million members.

Not many of his personal writings on founding the Knights have survived. Since he died of tuberculosis, most of his personal belongings were burned immediately after his death, adding another element of distance to what seems a remote and elusive person.

But, there are ways to catch a glimpse of the reality of Father McGivney's life. First, visit the Knights of Columbus Museum in New Haven free of charge. There, a visitor gets a chance to see the few remaining items connected with Father McGivney, including his rosary and burial vestments on display in the reliquary room adjacent to the Father McGivney Gallery.

Second is St. Mary's Church, just a few blocks from the museum. For many, it's here at the Gothic-designed church that Father McGivney's personality is most felt: The dynamic, yet compassionate love that characterized his life is almost tangible as parishioners and visitors gently touch and reverence his cross-shaped polished granite sarcophagus in the back of the church.

The reverence is appropriate, since Father McGivney was declared venerable in 2008 by Pope Benedict XVI. Knights and their families are urged to pray daily for his intercession in matters large and small, and to report any favors received to the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild.

Such favors are the final item that help us see Father McGivney as a real-life, down-to-earth priest, for they suggest that Father McGivney, from his final resting place, is still concerned about the same problems that he dealt with as a priest walking in New Haven, Waterbury and other towns of Connecticut.

So, as we near the anniversaries of Father McGivney's birth (Aug. 12) and death (Aug. 14), let us continue to pray for Father McGivney's canonization and invoke his intercession. Let us continue to remember the very real impact his life had on the world — and the impact that we ourselves, as members of the Knights of Columbus, can have on our parishes, on our communities and on the world.

For information on arranging a pilgrimage to St. Mary's, please contact the Dominican Friars at 203-562-6193 or visit stmarysnewhaven.org. Masses are offered daily, followed by a prayer for the intercession of Father McGivney. To join the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild, visit fathermcgivney.org.

The Knights of Columbus Museum is free to the public and open daily, it also offers a virtual tour at its website, kofcmuseum.org.

BEST PRACTICE

Spreading Marian Devotion Through Beauty and Pilgrimage

A best practice among Knights of Columbus Chaplains is to spread devotion to Our Lady through involvement in the Marian Prayer Program.

Periodically at the Supreme Convention, state deputies receive a new Marian icon for their jurisdiction. The images are taken on a pilgrimage from council to council, who host a special prayer service at their parish.

This year's is the 18th Marian prayer program sponsored by the Knights, beginning with a program honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1979. In preparation for the 1982 Centennial of the Order, the second prayer program was initiated, which highlighted the Holy Family. Since then, the Blessed Mother has been honored by her Knights under her titles of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Lady of Pochaiv, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of Charity and more.

These Orderwide programs of Marian prayer have gathered together more than 16 million people at some 140,000 prayer services conducted at local councils and parishes. Encourage your brother Knights and parishioners to join these numbers. Visit kofc.org/domestichurch for details.

Suggested Activities

AUGUST

Support Knights as they prepare for events in the fraternal year, including K of C Family Week, Aug. 7-13.

Celebrate special Masses on the anniversaries of our founder's birth, Aug. 12, and death, Aug. 14. Also, distribute *prayer cards* (#10115) and copies of *A Model For Our Times* (#5044 — available in limited quantities of 50) to all the members of your parish.

SEPTEMBER

Encourage devotion among your brother Knights by observing the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 11; the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Sept. 23; and the feast of the Archangels, Sept. 29. A *prayer card* (#9484) for the prayer for peace is available at kofc.org and can be ordered for your parish's use.

Bear witness to Father McGivney's active involvement in the community by holding a youth Mass to welcome local students starting a new school year. The Mass could be followed by confession, as well as a Q & A discussion led by a local Catholic speaker. Be sure to ask your council's youth leader to help you assist with planning the event.

OCTOBER

Celebrate St. John Paul II's legacy by leading a parish novena to end on his feast day, Oct. 22. During each day of the novena, distribute *prayer cards* (#4983, available in packs of 100 cards for \$3). Also, share other resources that proclaim John Paul II's message for families, such as the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162).

Ask your brother Knights to assist you in organizing a White Mass to ask intercessory blessings for those in the medical field on Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke, patron of physicians.

Six Steps to Engaging in the Supreme Chaplain's Challenge

Last month, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori chose a few lines from scripture and offered a brief reflection on those verses. He then called on all Knights to live out a spiritual challenge. This was the beginning of the "Monthly Challenge from the Supreme Chaplain" initiative. During the Chaplain's Message at your council's monthly meeting, follow these six steps to lead a fruitful discussion about the previous month's challenge.

1. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Lead a prayer of your choosing, or use the following:
"Come, Holy Spirit. We thank you for guiding our lives and pray that we may have the courage exemplified by Venerable Father McGivney to live our faith to the fullest through our council, our families and in society. May our words today give glory to your Sacred Heart and if we struggled this past month in living our faith, help us to never stop turning to you and always try again."
3. Read aloud the previous month's challenge.
4. Invite the men to talk about their experiences in answering the challenge:
 - Don't worry about what order the men speak in, if there are periods of silence or if someone does not wish to speak.
 - Encourage Knights to listen when one of their brothers is speaking, and welcome them to respond with encouraging comments.
5. Read the scripture verse, reflection and challenge for the current month.
6. End with the following prayer, first asking your brother Knights to share any personal intentions: "Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together with our brothers. We ask you to have mercy on all those people and intentions we prayed for. Give us the perseverance to live next month's challenge and to remember that we are united with our brother Knights around the world in doing so. Amen."

Supreme Chaplain's Challenge for August

*Jesus then said to the Twelve,
"Do you also want to leave?"
Simon Peter answered him,
"Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe and are convinced
that you are the Holy One of God."*

— Gospel for Aug. 30 (Jn 6:67-69)

REFLECTION

I don't know about you, but I can look back on moments in my life when Peter's words have been personal. I have said to Jesus in prayer: "Master, to whom shall I go?" I hope that you likewise have reached a point in your life where you know with certainty that there is nowhere to go but Jesus: not to power, money, sex, alcohol or anything else that can become a false "master" in our lives. Brothers, we have come to believe that Jesus is the Holy One of God, and our lives must bear evidence of this. Let us become men who, with Peter, can truly say, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

CHALLENGE

This month I challenge you to make a daily examination of conscience, probing your heart to find the false "masters" (e.g., comfort, power, appearance) to whom you go. Take a few minutes before bed to review the day, including both your blessings and sins. Second, I challenge you to eliminate one of your vices and, when you are tempted to participate in that vice, pray, "Jesus, I trust in you."

Planning Ahead and Facing the Challenge

Below is a quick look at some of the upcoming challenges to help you plan ahead. The complete challenges, including the Scripture verse and reflection, will be available each month at kofc.org/domesticchurch.

SEPTEMBER

This month, I challenge you to become even more like Jesus, the "servant of all," by making an act of charity for someone in your life from whom you have been distant or for someone you have wronged. Second, I challenge you to prayerfully reflect on these words from Scripture: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

OCTOBER

When having discussions with people (especially your family members), give them your undivided attention and do not look at your cell phones during the conversations. I also challenge you to honestly attempt to answer Jesus' question "What do you want me to do for you?"

NOVEMBER

This month, recalling that we do not know the "day or the hour," I challenge you to go confession and to make a commitment to go monthly. I likewise challenge you to forgive someone who has hurt you in some way.

DECEMBER

This month, I challenge you to pray at least a decade of the rosary daily. I also challenge you to engage in conversations in which you share what you love about the Catholic faith.



DYNAMICS, FROM PAGE 1

That is also why it is a wonderful grace to look toward a new fraternal year by celebrating, as we do today, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. ...

There is no better antidote to the subtle influence of the devil's malevolence than for us to open our hearts to the love flowing from the Heart of Jesus. When we are immersed in this love, when we glory in it, give thanks for it, find in it the source of all virtues and find in it the source of our own charity — when we do this, we frustrate the plans of the evil one, and that's a good thing.

Accordingly, as we look to a new fraternal year, let us now, in this very liturgy, solemnly consecrate ourselves and the Order to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the love flowing from his divine heart. In a solidarity of faith, let us acknowledge our utter dependence on his love to lead good lives, to embrace the ideals of Columbianism, to exercise leadership in the Order, and to practice that charity which shares in, reflects, and proclaims the love, found only in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And let us consecrate ourselves by turning to the prayer of Pope Leo XIII:

“Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before your altar. We are yours and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart.

Grant, O Lord, to your Church, assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glory and honor forever. Amen.”

Vivat Jesus!