



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

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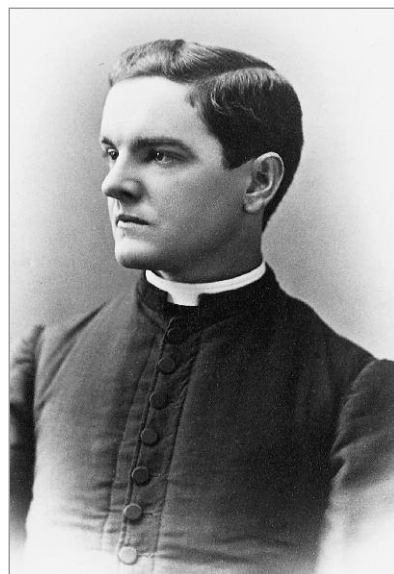
The Measure of Success

Over 135 years ago, on July 28, 1879, *The New York Times* described in a front page article “Roman Catholic Troubles in New Haven: How an Aristocratic Avenue was Blemished by a Roman Church Edifice.” The article reported St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Conn., as “cold and repulsive [in] appearance,” with parishioners who are “mostly servant girls.” Noting that the parish held only 85 cents in its treasury at the end of 1878, with a debt of \$160,000 (\$3.724 million in today’s money), the article states: “It is considered almost impossible to continue the Church in its present condition. ... How foolish were those who persisted in building the Church on the spot where it stands,” *The New York Times* concluded. “It invaded the most exclusive home of wealth and culture. It is an eyesore on the avenue, a source of annoyance and injury to neighboring residents, and a complete failure as a business enterprise.”

We can imagine the reaction of the soon to be 27-year-old parochial vicar, Father Michael McGivney, still in his second year of priesthood, ministering to the “mostly servant girls” of St. Mary’s along with their immigrant husbands and brothers. We know that within three years, the witness of charitable love and evangelical joy that emanated from St. Mary’s took shape in the founding of the Knights of Columbus. Father McGivney responded to the derision of the media and the challenge of a virulently anti-Catholic culture by organizing a fraternity of men who would stand by their faith and attract others to lead public lives of faithful heroism. From this “eyesore” of “annoyance” grew an Order that’s never failed to look at the forgotten, the dispossessed and the spiritually tiresome with the eyes of Christ and the joy of the Gospel.

As we return from the summer, can we renew in our Brother Knights the missionary spirit and evangelical discipleship that were a part of the Order since its founding? I encourage every chaplain to meet with his grand knight, council officers and insurance agents to give real thought as to how the K of C can evangelize men locally and foster a deeper male spirituality for husbands and fathers. The newly launched “Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive” initiative offers a model for each council to promote effective evangelization through prayer and the family. May we respond to the challenges of our times with the indomitable spirit of Father McGivney, showing that love, mercy and the joy of fidelity to the Gospel always succeed.

Vivat Jesus!



Catholic First, Catholic Always

In our modern age, it’s easy to be cynical about business. We’ve all read stories and headlines about well-known companies and financial “experts” that operate unethically. It’s easy to think that there’s an irreconcilable tension between success and morality in the marketplace.

But it doesn’t have to be that way. Writing in a 1985 paper titled “Market, Economy, and Ethics,” then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger noted that capitalism misleads itself when it assumes self-interest alone — without attention to the common good — can successfully guide the market, and he predicted that such moral bankruptcy could cause “the laws of the market to collapse.”

In fact, concern for the common good is a necessary ingredient of all business and work. In his 1981 encyclical *Laborem Exercens*, published on the 90th anniversary of the promulgation of *Rerum Novarum*, Saint John Paul II noted that “[Man] intends his work also to increase the common good developed together with his compatriots, thus realizing that in this way work serves to add to the heritage of the whole human family, of all the people living in the world.”

We at the Knights of Columbus have seen the truths espoused by the two Holy Fathers. We have strived to be a conscientious business, aware of our responsibilities to our Church, our community, our members and our employees.

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“Building the Domestic Church” Materials Available

In October, we will launch “Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive” to help both our families and parishes grow in the faith.

Recently, a mailing of the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162) was sent to all chaplains of record as well as a variety of council officers. Additional copies of this booklet can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4320. Also, additional resources, including an online copy of this booklet, are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive.

Fraternity – A Theme That Rings True

From Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori's closing remarks to the 132nd Supreme Convention

This year's theme for the 2014 Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus, "You Will All Be Brothers: Our Vocation to Fraternity," is not abstract or academic, because it is something we experience day in and day out as members of the Order.

As a priest and bishop, I would like to thank you and all my brother Knights and families for the spiritual support, the friendship and the assistance that I have experienced as a member of the Order for nearly 30 years, but especially in the last 9 years I've been privileged to serve as Supreme Chaplain. I certainly experience a very full measure of fraternity when we gather for a Supreme Convention, but it is also part of my experience at all levels of the Order and in the contacts I have with so many individual Knights and their families.

As a bishop and as a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I experience your fraternity and solidarity in many ways. It is not just the fact that the Knights support many good causes that are an important part of the bishops' work; it's more that the Knights have formed a partnership with bishops in all the countries where the Order is represented — in the work of evangelization, in proclaiming the Gospel of Life and the Gospel of the Family, in promoting priestly vocations, in serving the poor and vulnerable, and in defending the very freedom of the Church so to serve. And let me assure you of the united determination of the bishops to continue our solidarity, our brotherhood, with those who are suffering religious persecution in the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere, and in our defense and promotion of religious liberty at home, even as those threats continue to mount. Thank you for being not only a source of support but for being partners!

As supreme chaplain I can say that the Order offers a way for priestly fraternity. As we chaplains gather to pray and to plan our work together — the work of inspiring, supporting, instructing and sanctifying in accord with the vision of Father McGivney — we come to know one another, to form priestly friendships; we share with one another the joys and challenges of priestly ministry. In a word, through our association in the Order we help one another be better priests, more dedicated priests, both in our service to the Order and in our overall ministry.

So, the theme "Our Vocation to Fraternity" is not abstract or academic; it's in the D.N.A. of the Order, and it's part of our experience. Who are the true fraternalists? Who are the true masters and experts of fraternity? I'm sure you know the answer: It's the saints in heaven. They have been perfected in their vocation to fraternity, in the calling they have received from God: "You have only one Father who is God; and you are all brothers and sisters" (cf. Mt. 28: 8-9).

Saints are those who no longer put up any roadblock to God's love. In a word, they are like Christ, the Son of the Father who became our brother. In Christ and through the Holy Spirit, they

share the Father's love to the fullest possible extent. For this reason, the saints in heaven recognize one another as brother and sister; there is no rivalry, no bitterness, no disputes, but all love one another because they share in God's love. What's more, from their place in heaven they reach out to us, wanting nothing more than that we who live on earth claim God as our Father by loving and respecting our brothers and sisters.

My point is that fraternity is not just a principle or a virtue. We've said it is a vocation, a calling — it is a real part of our baptismal calling to holiness, our baptismal call to love God above all and to love our neighbor as God loves that neighbor. We cannot live the vocation of fraternity without growing in holiness. And this brings to mind the importance of seeing the Knights not merely as a social club or not merely as a charitable organization, but as a means of growing in developing our spiritual lives. This is why the Order has stressed the role of the chaplain in recent years and has put so many resources in our hands to help us to encounter Christ, to develop our relationship with him, and to rid ourselves of sin so that we can know the joy of the Gospel.

Often Pope Francis reminds us that the Church should not be self-referential. He means that members of the Church should not be all wrapped up in our own concerns and prerogatives such that they lose sight of the mission the Lord gave his Church: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt. 28:19). The pope urges us to be missionary in our outlook, not inward looking.

What does this mean for us as Knights? As we grow in holiness, we grow in our respect and support for our brother Knights and their families. But it is that respect and support we offer one another as brothers that should make us convincing witnesses to Jesus and the Gospel. So our councils should never become exclusive clubs, but should be looking to reach out to other men and their families, even as we seek to expand the Order into other places around the globe.

If statistics can be believed, especially those gathered by the Pew Research Center and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), men more than women tend to be disconnected from God and the Church. For example, 8 out of 10 men agree that "how one lives is more important than being Catholic." Only 38 percent of men strongly agree that they are "proud to be Catholic," and only 26 percent of men consider themselves to be "practicing Catholics." Only 43 percent of Catholic men believe it is "very important to help someone in need." I cite just a few of these statistics not to discourage you, but to challenge you. Father McGivney founded the Knights not because things were perfect in St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, but because he saw real pastoral need. And who better than the Knights of Columbus to reach out to men — to men who are not necessarily happy with how their lives are going and who, when given half a chance, would change these attitudes.



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori discusses the new "Building the Domestic Church" program during the meeting of state chaplains held immediately prior to the Supreme Convention.

CATHOLIC, FROM PAGE 1

And, our experience has taught us that this “irreconcilable tension” between success and morality isn’t irreconcilable at all. Our experience has taught us the opposite: that business can be both ethical and successful. For us, it’s not just a nice idea that’s worked, it’s a duty. It’s an obligation and a responsibility. That obligation and responsibility stem first from our founder. Just as he has been recognized as a Venerable Servant of God, we too must be servants — servants of our faith, servants of our members and servants of our communities.

This means a number of things. *It means that we must conduct our business in accordance with Catholic principles.* We have established a strict screening process for our investments, and we refuse to invest in companies that deal in abortions and abortifacients, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for any of the aforementioned, and pornography.

It means we must put our members before profits. We don’t worry about stock price, shareholders or corporate takeovers. We don’t obsess over profit margins and golden parachutes. We worry about doing what’s right for our members and their families. After all, we’re brother Knights too.

We rigorously train our agents and hold them to the highest ethical standards. Each agent must sign a Code of Ethics, which is modeled after the Ten Commandments. Among its commandments is: “Thou shall present, honestly and accurately, all the facts necessary to enable a member to make an informed decision.”

“Our fraternal ties to our members,” it goes on to say, “make it more incumbent on us, in our dealings with them, to assure that their interests are uppermost in our minds as we provide solutions to their financial needs. It all boils down simply to the golden rule — Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” After all, we are our brother’s keeper.

It means that we must operate ethically and responsibly. Our commitment to ethical business practices was further solidified this year when the Ethisphere Institute named us a 2014 “World’s Most Ethical Company.” The designation is awarded based on a company’s ethics and compliance program; reputation, leadership, and innovation; governance; corporate citizenship and responsibility; and culture of ethics. The Knights of Columbus was one of only 144 honorees worldwide, and one of only two companies in the life insurance category.

It means that we must be conscientious contributors to our communities. Our insurance program is the financial engine that drives our body of catechetical and evangelical work. In 2013-2014,



the Supreme Council contributed more than \$36 million to Catholic and charitable causes. In the world of insurance, consumers can only guess where and to what their premium dollars may go. With the Knights of Columbus, they don’t have to. Our commitments to our Catholic faith, to morality in the marketplace and to ethics in business demonstrate the Catholic difference of doing business with the Knights of Columbus. It should be a point of pride for all Knights and a compelling reason for them to consider doing business with us.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said it best in his Supreme Knight’s Report this past August: “Our insurance is both ethical and faithful to Father McGivney’s vision. It is insurance by brother Knights for brother Knights. Our investments reflect our Catholic values. This is the Knights of Columbus difference. This is why a brother Knight can choose no better company for the protection of his family. In choosing Knights of Columbus Insurance, a brother Knight is making a commitment to his family’s future; he is making a commitment to ethical investment and corporate governance; and he is making a commitment that benefits his Church and community.”

Our insurance program is the best — and most original — fraternal benefit that we have to offer. And it’s a benefit which benefits not only the member and his family, but his community and his Church. It’s business run the way it ought to be — conscientiously, morally and ethically. “Pope Francis has called for a ‘rediscovery’ of fraternity in our economic activity,” the Supreme Knight continued. “He has called on people everywhere ‘to rediscover the fraternal bonds, which join us to one another as the key to economic development.’ He has urged us to rediscover the virtues of prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude. My brother Knights, you can be proud that the Knights of Columbus is today a model throughout the world for these values of fraternity in economic enterprise.” And we are committed to remaining such a model. We are Catholic first, and will be Catholic always.

FRATERNITY, FROM PAGE 2

And when a man converts, really opens his heart to Christ and to the Church, it has a big effect on his family. When the wife and mother converts, 17 percent of the time the whole family follows suit. When a husband and father does so, 93 percent of the time the whole family follows suit. If we want to evangelize families and to build strong domestic churches, we, the Knights of Columbus, must attract men to Christ and to the Church. For some, maybe for many, the Order could be the way of helping disconnected men to find their way back into the Church, just as the Order has helped many practicing Catholics find their place in the Church.

In this same vein, I’d like to add my own warm word of support for the program the Order has launched on “Building the Domestic Church.” Yesterday, we venerated the relic of St. John Paul II, and I

could see how many of you and your wives were deeply moved. He wanted to be remembered as the “Pope of the Family” because he knew that the future of humanity and the future of the Church passes the way of the family. The strong, faithful, loving families are the way the Church is evangelized, and they are also the way the Church engages in evangelization. Strong, faithful, loving families are also the way to build a just and loving society.

Please lend your complete and enthusiastic support to this program! Engage and live fraternity by meeting with your chaplains to implement this program in the Order vigorously in preparation for the upcoming Synods on the Family and in preparation for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year.

Vivat Jesus!



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A Prayer for Peace

As the world remembers the tragic loss of life from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, share with your parishioners this prayer of peace from Pope Benedict XVI.

God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world:

peace in the hearts of all men and women
and peace among the nations of the earth.

Turn to your way of love
those whose hearts and minds
are consumed with hatred.

God of understanding,
overwhelmed by the magnitude of this tragedy,
we seek your light and guidance
as we confront such terrible events.

Grant that those whose lives were spared
may live so that the lives lost ...

may not have been lost in vain.

Comfort and console us,
strengthen us in hope,
and give us the wisdom and courage
to work tirelessly for a world
where true peace and love reign
among nations and in the hearts of all.

-Pope Benedict XVI
Prayer at Ground Zero
April 20, 2008

