



# 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

## Priestly Love, Self-Giving Love

*Excerpts from a homily given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore during the Supreme Convention, 4 Aug. 2016, the feast of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests*



*Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore preaches during the memorial Mass on Aug. 4, paying tribute to the selfless sacrifice of a young Knight, Brian Bergkamp, who lost his life while rescuing a woman who had fallen into the rapid tide while kayaking on the Arkansas River. Bergkamp was a member of Conception Seminary College Council 13750 in Conception, Missouri.*

Perhaps you've heard about a seminarian who lost his life earlier this summer. His name was Brian Bergkamp, a second-year theologian from the Diocese of Wichita studying at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Together with a group of young people, he was kayaking on the Arkansas River when the strong current caused one of the kayaks to overturn. A young girl was in distress, so Brian came to her rescue. He managed to save her, but in the process, his own life jacket came loose, and he was swept away by the undercurrent, his body not found for weeks. Brian was not yet a priest but already he manifested the kind of love that is at the heart of the priesthood: the self-giving love of our great high priest, Jesus, who laid down his life on the cross so that we might live with the Father eternally in the peace and joy of that Kingdom where God is all, in all.

It is Jesus' gift of priestly love that gathers us together whenever Mass is celebrated, but today we see that gift through the lens of Brian Bergkamp, a brother Knight, and through the lens of St. John Vianney and the Venerable Father Michael McGivney — two great and loving priests who laid down their lives in love for their people. Against formidable odds, St. John Vianney was ordained a priest and in 1818 was sent to a little parish in the town of Ars in France. ... Thanks to God's love shining in the heart of St. John Vianney, the little parish of Ars became a light to the nations, a true center of spiritual renewal, and St. John Vianney himself became a model for every priest. ...

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## Chaplains Discuss Challenges at Annual Meeting

This year's Knights of Columbus Chaplains Meeting discussed the spiritual challenges facing Knights throughout the Order, offering chaplains solutions to bring home to their councils.

Held Aug. 4, in conjunction with the 134th Supreme Convention in Toronto, the meeting was chaired by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore and attended by 72 state and local council chaplains, including a number of bishops.

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson spoke during the meeting, emphasizing that Catholics must remain positive in attitude and practice. One positive practice that Knights of Columbus families should turn to, he said, is the Building the Domestic Church initiative.

The initiative offers a host of resources to enhance the spiritual, moral and charitable lives of families, parishes and councils. These resources include *The Consecration to the Holy Family* and Bishop Thomas Olmsted's *Into the Breach*, which has been reprinted by the Supreme Council with a new study guide.

"With these two resources, we can reach men on an intellectual and a spiritual formation level," said Supreme Knight Anderson.

Knights of Columbus councils need to implement these programs at all their parishes, the supreme knight continued. To help such programs be a success, chaplains must provide regular input at their council meetings and personally invite each Knight to participate more deeply in the life of the parish.



*Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development, talks about Into the Breach, an exhortation written by Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix.*

SEE **CHALLENGES**, PAGE 3

# Mother Teresa and the Knights of Columbus

It's not often that an insurance company can boast their headquarters was visited by a saint. Nor can many claim a close relationship with that saint, let alone a relationship that spanned decades.

In 1988, Mother Teresa visited the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council in New Haven, Conn. During her visit she spoke to the employees, saying she considered them to be like a family — one that worked together to bring compassion to those who have nothing.

This was not some polite statement given in thanks for her tour of the headquarters. It was an honest assessment, gathered from experience; she had gotten to know the Knights of Columbus during the past year, working with them to launch Operation Share, a collaborative program through which Knights could volunteer with the Missionaries of Charity at soup kitchens and other apostolates.

The Order also worked with the Missionaries of Charity on various printed materials, arranging for the the printing of the community's constitutions, daily prayer book and prayer cards.

During the 110th Supreme Convention in New York in 1992, the Knights of Columbus awarded Mother Teresa the inaugural *Gaudium et Spes* Award. That year, out of respect for Mother Teresa's apostolate to the poor, an amount equal to the cost of the States Dinner was donated to the Missionaries of Charity for their use in service to the poor.

In presenting the award to Mother Teresa, then-Supreme Chaplain Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn said Mother Teresa "captured the attention of the world by a simple stratagem: preaching and living Christ's message of love."

Mother Teresa died only five years after being presented the award. After her beatification in 2003, the Knights of Columbus commissioned Tommaso Gismondi to create a bronze statue of the missionary, which is now on permanent display in the Knights of Columbus Museum. Seven year later, the museum hosted the U.S. premiere of the exhibition "Mother Teresa: Life, Spirituality and Message" in honor of the centennial of her birth.

It has been nearly 30 years since Mother Teresa first visited the supreme headquarters, but her relationship with the Order continues; the Knights commissioned artist Chas Fagan to paint the official canonization image of Mother Teresa that was displayed on the façade of St. Peter's Basilica the day of her canonization, Sept. 4.

Mother Teresa was canonized alongside José Luis Sánchez del Río, a 14-year-old who was martyred for the faith during the religious persecutions in Mexico last century. The cause for his canonization was promoted by Excmo Sr. Obispo Cázares y Martínez Council 4637 in Sahuayo, Mexico, the same city where St. José was tortured and killed during the Cristeros wars.



*Pope John Paul II greets Mother Teresa of Calcutta at the Vatican, June 1997. Six years later, he declared her a beati (blessed) of the Church.*

CNS/Arturo Mari



*Mother Teresa is bestowed the Gaudium et Spes Award by then-Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant.*

## LOVE, FROM PAGE 1

Every priest knows that his own salvation is linked to his mission of service to others. Indeed, the priest is a friend of Jesus to the extent that he loves his people like Jesus, even to the point of being ready to lay down his life for them. ... Yet the goal of a priest is not merely to save his own soul — no, his goal is "to save a thousand souls," as the title of a well-known book puts it. And saving souls means helping those we serve to discover, accept and live, with joy and generosity, that gift of love that Jesus has given us in baptism. More specifically, the role of a Knights of Columbus chaplain is to assist fellow Knights and their families in living our first principle, viz., charity. ... When the charity of Christ defines us, then we are a light to the nations, united in joyful witness to the faith, united in generous service to those in need. And in the process, we become fit for the happiness of the kingdom of heaven. Isn't this why Father McGivney made charity the first principle of the Order — because he was a good shepherd intent on leading us to live the love of Christ?

Friends, we are all deeply committed to the Order and seek to grow it because we are convinced that the Order is an important way of following in the footsteps of Christ by laying down our lives for others — especially through works of charity and mercy in our parishes, in times of disaster, on behalf of the vulnerable, the list goes on. And how proud and inspired we are by brother Knights who put themselves in harm's way for others and even lay down their own lives. With what respect and gratitude do we remember them! ... Let us recall the many ways they lived the principle of charity, and let us give thanks for the bonds of charity, fraternity and unity we still share with our deceased brother Knights and their loved ones, for in the love of Christ these bonds are not broken by death; rather, they grow stronger and more wondrous.

*Vivat Jesus!*

# Bring Mercy to Your Parish

Offer your parish and council families the opportunity to discover the power of God's mercy by visiting [wydenglishsite.org](http://wydenglishsite.org). This site — dedicated to the events that took place July 26-31 at the K of C Mercy Centre at Tauron Arena Kraków — is an excellent source for parish youth groups, catechists, liturgists and families to find videos and news stories that witness to the impacting power of mercy and love. The videos are also now available on the Knights of Columbus official YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/KnightsofColumbusSupremeCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/KnightsofColumbusSupremeCouncil). They can also be found by searching for #WYDMercyCentre. Additional stories and videos of the events may be found at the Mercy Centre newsroom and archive, accessed at [wydenglishsite.org/newsroom](http://wydenglishsite.org/newsroom).

*Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore welcomes Pope Francis, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz (right) and Auxiliary Bishop Damian Muskus of Kraków to the Knights of Columbus-sponsored Mercy Centre at Tauron Arena Kraków, where Pope Francis addressed more than 12,000 World Youth Day volunteers, Sunday, July 31.*



## It's Your Turn Now

*From Mother Teresa's*

*Where There Is Love, There Is God*

I will pray for you. ... Give your word of honor to God that you will be a priest according to the heart of Jesus. And I will pray for all the people that will come in contact with you, that when they look up, they may see only Jesus in you. And that whatever you do — not so much by words maybe, because you have to speak the Word of God — but by your presence, the way you touch the people, the way you give the sacrament ... that tenderness and love in confession [maybe] for hours and hours — that's very difficult, but that is [how] Jesus spent hours in his agony, and that's your turn now. This is why you are another Christ. Let us ask Our Lady in a special way today, and let us promise to her that we [will] love her son, that we consecrate our life totally to him to use. Ask her, that Jesus may use you ... even if you don't know why. ... You are his and only his.

### CHALLENGES, FROM PAGE 1

Dominican Father Jonathan Kalisch, director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development for the Supreme Council, and Archbishop Lori also presented. In his address, Archbishop Lori spoke of a "missionary shift" for councils based on the teaching and example of Pope Francis. Councils must reach out with new initiatives — such as the Building the Domestic Church initiative — to help those in need and to attract more men to their ranks.

"We should focus not just on maintaining our councils, but rather on transforming our councils into missionary units, making for a dynamic organization," he said.

He pointed out that the Building the Domestic Church initiative should not be viewed as just one more program for councils and parishes. Instead, the initiative takes two aspects that the Order has always focused on — families and spirituality — and brings them to a new level of focus and care.

"These are the basic elements for evangelization in our time, responding to the particular cultural challenges of our day," he said.

For information on how to get your parish families and council members involved in Domestic Church activities, please visit [kofc.org/domesticchurch](http://kofc.org/domesticchurch).

## Monthly Suggested Activities

### 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) or the feast of the Archangels (Sept. 29).
- ❖ Bear witness to Father McGivney's active involvement in the community by speaking with local high school students starting up the new school year. Be sure to introduce the students and administrators to the officers of your local council so that together they can begin organizing various Youth Activities in your community.

### OCTOBER

- ❖ As part of the Orderwide Charitable Service Week (Oct. 2-9), become involved in your council's outreach programs, offering to bless food and other items being distributed to the community.
- ❖ Celebrate the legacy of St. John Paul II 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). Alternatively, recite the rosary, a favorite prayer of St. John Paul II, or 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 honor and ask intercessory blessings for those in the medical field on Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke, patron of physicians.
- ❖ Hold a rosary service on Sunday, Oct. 30, as part of the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. Rosaries and program materials can be ordered through the *5th Sunday Rosary Kit* (SR-KIT).

## Upcoming Jubilee Events

**Sept. 23** — Jubilee for catechists



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## Help Reach 1,000 Ultrasounds

*In honor of Mother Teresa's canonization,  
Supreme Council aims to reach  
1,000 Ultrasound Machine donations*

**T**he Knights of Columbus launched its Ultrasound Initiative on Jan. 22, 2009 — the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States. Since that day, councils have funded more than 700 ultrasound machines, each costing tens of thousands of dollars on average, in centers across the United States, Canada, Jamaica, Guatemala and Peru.

The Knights of Columbus' dedication to the Ultrasound Initiative reflects the pro-life spirit of Mother Teresa, whose canonization took place at the Vatican Sept 4. In honor of this occasion, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson has asked that councils help the Ultrasound Initiative to reach 1,000 donations in ultrasound machines to pro-life pregnancy care centers across the world.

For information on how you can work with your council members and parishioners to achieve this goal, visit [kofc.org/ultrasound](http://kofc.org/ultrasound). Questions may be directed to William O'Brien at 203-752-4403 or [william.obrien@kofc.org](mailto:william.obrien@kofc.org).

## A Witness of Charity and Mercy

*"To offer today's world the witness of mercy  
is a task from which none of us can feel exempt."  
— Pope Francis*

**T**he Supreme Council invites you to offer a witness of mercy and charity by inviting your council to take part in the Orderwide Charitable Service Week, Oct 2-9, held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of our Holy Father.

Speak to your grand knight about your various parish needs, and ask if the council could organize a program during the week that would address those needs. If your parish needs assistance with food drives or finding volunteers to help with a soup kitchen, they could conduct a Food for Families program. Or, if families in your parish and neighborhood are worried about the upcoming winter months, the council could host a Coats for Kids event at your parish.

Remember, great good can come from the work and the influence of a chaplain. Don't miss this opportunity to work with the men of your council and direct them in their works of charity.

Should you or your grand knight need more information on specific programs, visit [kofc.org/community](http://kofc.org/community).