



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 SUPREME CHAPLAIN A Theme to Take Home

Excerpts from Archbishop William Lori's Address, St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 3, 2017

All of us are sons of the Venerable Servant of God, Father Michael J. McGivney.

Before he was a priest, he was a disciple, a follower of Christ. As he grew to manhood and was formed for the priesthood, Christ's love — and the power of his love — took root in that young man's life. After his ordination, he was sent to St. Mary's in New Haven as an assistant pastor. For the young Father McGivney, this was not just an assignment, not just filling a vacancy. Rather, for this parish priest, it was a matter of being sent. Father McGivney came to New Haven as one who was sent by his bishop as a missionary, an ambassador, an emissary of God's love to the people of St. Mary's Parish and to the wider community. His love was especially directed to the poor, the outcast, the widow and the orphan. In the language of Pope Francis, we could say that Father McGivney's field of vision included those people and situations that most of the society around him could not see because of spiritual blindness. Father McGivney's peripheral vision was sharp and clear!

But it was not Father McGivney's way to be the star of the show, to be a one-man band, to be the center of attention. Attractive as he was to the people of his parish and the wider community, Father McGivney set about empowering the men of his parish to become what we call today "missionary disciples." He wanted the members of the Knights of Columbus to be strong in their faith — followers of Jesus convinced of the power of God's love — and to reflect that life-changing love in their own families, in their parishes and especially with those who were in need.



Priests from K of C jurisdictions throughout the world join in celebrating Mass at this year's convention in St. Louis.

SEE **THEME**, PAGE 2

Highlighting Your Council's Work



We invite each chaplain to make a presentation about the K of C to their diocese. For the occasion, organize a meeting between your local diocesan clergy conference, state deputy and state chaplain, as well as any priests who can witness to the practical and spiritual benefits of having the K of C at their parishes. This would encourage priests who are not aware of the Knights' ministry to consider all the benefits of working with them.

For information that can be shared with your diocese, check out *A Charity That Evangelizes* (#4976), a flyer that explains the Knights' parish work. To view it online, visit kofc.org/membership, click the "Resources" tab and follow the link to

"Membership Resources." Or, a hard copy can be ordered by contacting the Supply Department at supply@kofc.org or 203-752-4214.

BEST PRACTICE

Encountering Christ in Charitable Service

A best practice is to lead your brother Knights in prayer at the start of all charitable activities. You could offer an Our Father; a petition to encounter Christ through the charitable service; and a blessing upon all who will benefit from the activity. Then, offer a Hail Mary and the Prayer of Dedication by Bishop Bryan (see page 4).

Afterward, ask those who were at the event to share how they encountered Christ during the activity, reflecting on the following questions:

- In what ways did God call me to serve others today?
- What sacrifices help me participate in this charity?
- With whom and for whom am I doing this activity?
- How do I see Christ in those I serve?
- How do I see Christ in those who volunteer with me?
- How do I share my faith with others in action and word?
- How do others evangelize me through charity?
- How do I surrender my will so God can use me in his plan?
- How do I build my domestic church and help create a vibrant parish?
- How do I follow the example of Venerable Father McGivney?
- How do I follow the example of the patrons of the Order and/or my council?

K of C Convictions Inspire New Charity

New Knights of Columbus initiative will raise awareness of persecuted Christians and help rebuild Iraq town

At the 135th Supreme Convention in St. Louis Aug. 1, the Knights of Columbus announced two new initiatives that will assist persecuted Christians in Iraq.

First, on Nov. 26, the Knights will join the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in sponsoring a day of prayer for persecuted Christians. This day will kick off a week of awareness and education.

Second, the Order is beginning a \$2 million initiative to save Karamles, a Christian town on the Nineveh Plain of Iraq. Until recently, Karamles was under the control of ISIS terrorists, who left the town essentially destroyed. Yet, despite the destruction, Christian families want to return to their homes and rebuild their town. Through this initiative, we can help them achieve their dream.

Please prayerfully consider donating \$2,000, which is the approximate cost of relocating one family. One way to raise such funds would be through a joint fundraising effort between your council and parish.

Please pray for the success of both these initiatives so that these Christians may finally receive the help they need. To make a donation, visit christiansatrisk.org.



CNS photo/Reuters

Displaced people who fled Islamic State violence receive aid on the outskirts of Shirqat, south of Mosul, Iraq.



Undertake a Spiritual Journey with St. John Paul II

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine welcomes pilgrims from around the world who wish to encounter Jesus Christ through the life and teachings of St. John Paul II.

Visitors undertake a spiritual journey with this great saint. They can attend daily Mass in the Redemptor Hominis Church and venerate a first-class relic of St. John Paul II in the Luminous Mysteries Chapel. For more information, visit jp2shrine.org.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Open 365 days a year*

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily

No admission fee

**Exhibit and gift shop are closed Good Friday,*

Thanksgiving and Christmas

THEME, FROM PAGE 1

They were sent as missionaries, ambassadors, emissaries — not merely of their own charity and good will but of the overflowing charity of Jesus Christ, that love which alone is stronger than death and more powerful than sin. They were to be missionaries of that love which is at the very heart of God himself.

The whole point of the yearly supreme convention is to be confirmed in the principles of the Order — charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism — but especially our first principle, the principle of charity. It is our duty to share the powerful, life-giving love that is at the heart of God, revealed by Jesus and communicated to us in God's Word and in the sacraments. Any convention is a success to the degree that the leadership of the Order returns home with a renewed and deepened commitment to the principle of charity — a charity that is expressed in the spirit of loving service which we generously extend to the needy and the outcast, to those who are on the peripheries of both Church and society.

Let us link the principle of charity to membership, to the urgent need of the Order to attract a young demographic — men in their 20s and 30s with young families, men who are part of the generation known as millennials. Many times, younger people are not attracted to institutions, and sadly, that includes the Roman Catholic Church. ... Yet many are attracted to works of charity, to the service of others. ...

At first, the external aspects of the Order may seem off-putting to many young men and their families. In the Knights they will find not merely an organization but indeed a fraternity, a communion, dedicated to charity; indeed, they will find no group anywhere more dedicated to charity than we are. The more we live the principle of charity, the more attractive the Order will be — not only to younger men, but also to many Catholics who have strayed from the faith yet who are looking for some kind of an anchor in their lives. Through our charity, we can assist every parish in becoming not merely a stable unit in a diocese but a place of intense missionary activity.

Crucial to all of this is the promotion of family life — the efforts of the Knights to promote, defend and foster the domestic church. We are striving to help couples root their marriages in the love of Christ, to be convinced of the truth and power of God's love in their lives as they face the difficulties and problems of daily life and embrace the challenges of raising children in today's world. Many younger men are also looking for support for living in this confused world of ours as a virtuous Christian man, a man who knows how to pray and how to avoid the pitfalls of things like pornography and indifference to loved ones. In reaching out to them, inviting them with a truly fraternal spirit, we are acting like true missionaries of charity.

It is also important that we act like missionaries of charity internally, in the way in which we conduct the business of our councils — not lording authority over other brother Knights, but rather exercising authority in a spirit of service — with charity and consideration for all, with a spirit of integrity, with a spirit of reconciliation that goes the extra mile. Internal rancor and division undercuts our role as ambassadors, emissaries of charity.

Upcoming Activities

SEPTEMBER

Mark the World Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 11, with a special Mass remembering those affected by the 9/11 terror attacks. You might also ask your council to help you plan a Blue Mass on that day to honor police officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel and to remember those who have sacrificed so much while protecting their communities.

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



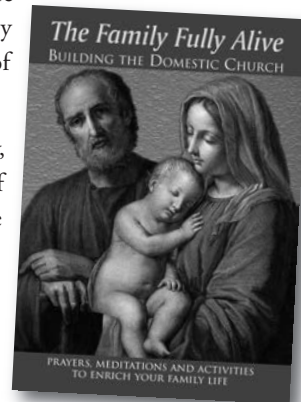
OCTOBER

Participate in council events held during the Orderwide Charitable Service Week, Sept. 30-Oct. 8.

Mark the 100th anniversary of the final Marian apparition to the children of Fatima, Oct. 13. The occasion can be celebrated simply, with a public recitation of the rosary and the Fatima prayer, or elaborately, with a Marian procession or similar celebration organized by the members of your council. Prior to the anniversary, be sure to share the details of the miraculous apparition with your council and parish, remembering that many Catholics — even those in your parish or council— may not be aware of the significance of Our Lady's message.

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, 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.



NOVEMBER

On the solemnity of all saints, encourage Knights in your council to attend Mass together, witnessing to the devotion and brotherhood that are an integral part of the Order.

Remember deceased Knights, family members and parishioners during a memorial Mass. Also, consider sponsoring a cemetery cleanup that ends with a prayer service for the deceased.

On Nov. 26, join the USCCB and Knights from around the world in praying for persecuted Christians. The day of prayer will kick off a week of awareness and education. During this time, please feel free to share information about the Order's work for persecuted religious minorities, available at christiansatrisk.org.

Lead Your Knights in Missionary Discipleship — Plan Mission Days

A few years ago, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church invited Greek Catholic parishes to embark on a program to prepare for Pentecost. While it is early to plan for Pentecost, the annual program is so brilliant that it's worth mentioning now and should be marked on the calendar of every Catholic parish.

The program, which runs from the Ascension to Pentecost, consists of 10 "Mission Days." During these days, we focus on understanding how our parish communities and families are missionary in nature: We are committed to believe in Christ, faithfully live out his teachings and share the experience of our faith with everyone we ever meet. Thus, the mission of every parish community is to help parishioners welcome Christ deeper into their lives and to prepare them to carry the message of the Gospel beyond the borders of our churches. Each Mission Day focuses on different missionary tasks that will prayerfully challenge parishes and families to live up to their full potential as missionary disciples.

For information about these Mission Days, please visit stamforddio.org and check out the 2017 Mission Days guidebook, available on the left sidebar. This guidebook highlights past events and provides a good overview of the program, which is updated each year. We encourage you to research the program to prayerful discern how to implement it, or a similar initiative, in your parish.

Praying for Our Future Members

During the chaplain's portion of the monthly council meeting, ask your brother Knights to share the first names of men that they have personally invited to become a Knight during the last 30 days. You can then read aloud the names of these men, praying that each be surrounded with many blessings, open to the will of God and able to discern how best to be an instrument of evangelization.

If names are not brought forward, use this time to encourage your brother Knights to present a few names at the next meeting.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®**

CHAPLAIN'S *report*

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



Prayer of Dedication

*Composed by Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.
Bishop Bayda recommends that Knights offer this prayer before every charitable event.*

Our Lady of Guadalupe and God-bearer!

The Holy Father calls you the “Star of the New Evangelization.”
Your image has evangelized me. Your presence changes all hearts.

You always lead us to your son.

I cherish my encounters with him and I pray that, through your intercession,
this encounter I have with him today will lead me to conversion, communion and solidarity,
nourished by reading Scripture and receiving him frequently in the Eucharist.

May I encounter him in my brother Knights, see him in everyone, especially the poor.

Thus, may I become a better instrument of evangelization in my domestic church
and the spiritual leader in my home that God calls me to be.

Give me the grace to build up my parish with my family.

Inspired by the example and virtuous life of Venerable Father Michael McGivney
and St. Juan Diego, I ask this through their intercession and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Special thanks to Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon for his contributions to this issue.

If you would like to provide additional suggestions that we could consider featuring in a future issue, send the information to chaplainsreport@kofc.org.

Please include “Chaplain’s Report Suggestion” in the subject line.