



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 KNIGHT On the Abuse Crisis



Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

Aug. 21, 2018

Worthy Chaplains and Dear Brother Knights,

The issues that have come to light concerning sexual abuse by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick and in the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report are cause for grave concern among Catholics and Brother Knights. Many feel deeply betrayed by those whom they long held in high regard. Such concerns are shared not just in the United States, but in Europe, Latin America and elsewhere.

These sins of commission and omission have sent the Church we love, the Church we serve and the Church that Jesus Christ established into convulsions. Sadly, the disgrace not only is borne by the perpetrators, it hurts us all, as does the silence of shepherds who have ignored the cries of their flocks.

There are many wonderful and faithful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord among our priests and bishops. However, it is clear that in addition to devastating criminal acts, we have seen many other moral failings by clergy that represent a crisis of commitment to the Gospel.

Too often the needs of victims have been subordinated to a distorted sense of mercy toward the perpetrators or an instinct for clerical self-preservation. The sexual acts — both criminal and non-criminal — highlight the need to recover a respect for and a renewed commitment to the priestly promises of celibacy.

The Knights of Columbus has supported the pastoral and charitable work of our bishops and priests since our founding by the Venerable Father Michael McGivney. We understand that the priest should lead the parish and the bishop should be the center of unity in a diocese. But we — like all Catholics — are painfully aware of the wreckage that ensues when elements of this leadership are abdicated by evil actions whether directly perpetrated or covered up.

Now, the Knights of Columbus — laymen, priests and chaplains together — will have an important role to play in rebuilding the Church. We must commit the Knights of Columbus to work for repentance, reform and rebuilding of the Church.

Repentance should include a full accounting of the misdeeds by those who have committed them. Archbishop McCarrick and others at fault owe us a full account of their actions, motivations and cover-ups. After years of having us confess to them, it is now time for them to come clean about what they have done and what they have failed to do.

This will also help increase the recognition that clerical sexual abuse is a global problem that must be addressed at the highest levels of the Catholic Church. Moreover, priests and bishops who refuse to live according to their promises of celibacy should be removed from public ministry, not out of retribution, but for the protection of the faithful and to prevent future variations of the scandal we now suffer.

Reform must include many good ideas that have been proposed, such as a full and complete investigation of sexual abuse led by an independent commission that includes laity; complete transparency by the Catholic hierarchy into all matters of criminal sexual misconduct past or future; an expansion of the zero tolerance policy to include sexual activity or misconduct by clerics including bishops, and by seminarians; and a call for faithfulness by all members of the clergy, including bishops. There must also be an independent ethics hotline for reporting of criminal and other conduct at odds with Catholic teaching on the clerical state of life; and there must be protections against retaliation.

Such reforms will be difficult for a Church largely unused to them, and we must support our bishops and our priests in embracing these reforms in order to rebuild.

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Novena of Masses for Reparation

In reparation for sins committed by members of the Body of Christ, and for the healing of victims of sexual abuse, the supreme knight has asked all council chaplains to offer a Novena of Masses. The celebration of these nine Masses may be offered as local needs dictate, at public or private Masses.

Grand knights will be asked to contact their chaplain concerning the provision of a customary stipend in appreciation for the requested Masses, and to coordinate council attendance if possible.

Thank you in advance for fulfilling this special spiritual request.



**Father Jonathan
D. Kalisch, OP**

Director of Chaplains and
Spiritual Development



More Human Reactions

The evil, crimes and sins recently revealed so publicly underscore the serious need for us to engage the spiritual battle raging around us. In his letter on Aug. 20, 2018, Pope Francis summoned us to a solidarity in fighting “especially spiritual corruption.” The Holy Father asked each of us to undertake “a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does” through prayer, penance and fasting.

During this time it may prove fruitful to use the *Into the Breach* document as a tool for prayer and discussion to identify how and where brother Knights and other Catholic men can step into the breach now being experienced as such a wide rift in the Church.

As one young adult college student posted on Facebook: “Let’s have more human reactions, rage and sorrow and hurt, and less manicured meaningless statistics, please. To all of our good holy priests who have stood up and been fathers rather than politicians to those who are hurting, scared, despairing in these dark days — thank you. If this is this hard on laypeople, I can only imagine how hard it is on faithful priests. As much as we criticize and rage at our church, let’s make sure we spend more time praying for our priests.”

As chaplains, may we direct the charity of our brother Knights toward prayerful solidarity with the victims of abuse and with all who are grieving and striving to combat the works of the Enemy within the Church. May Father McGivney intercede for each of us as we lay down our lives with Christ our Lord.

Vivat Jesus!



St. Jean Vianney Relic Pilgrimage

*Knights of Columbus preparing
nationwide tour of Curé of Ars Heart*

The Shrine of Ars, France, has entrusted to the Knights of Columbus the major relic of St. Jean Vianney’s incorrupt heart for a national tour in the U.S., from November 2018 through May 2019.

The relic was brought to the 136th Supreme Convention in Baltimore by Father Patrice Chocholski, rector of the Shrine of Ars, where it was solemnly processed by Knights from France and presented for veneration after the annual Memorial Mass Aug. 9. In his homily, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori asked, “What about the saints whose relics we venerate this morning — what could be said of their lives? ... St. John Vianney, we would say, had a priestly heart and revived a dying parish by the sheer force of his holiness and integrity.”

During the present moment of great trial for the Catholic Church in the United States, the Knights of Columbus welcomes as providential this special opportunity to offer for veneration a major relic of the patron of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a model for clergy and laity alike.

Plans for the pilgrimage are underway, and further information including its schedule will be in future issues of *Chaplain’s Report* and available online at kofc.org/vianney.

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We can help to rebuild our Church in several ways. Above all else, Knights — and our chaplains — must embrace love of God and love of neighbor. This is Christ's great commandment and the founding mission of our Order. It is also exactly the opposite of the rejection of God and exploitation of neighbor that our Church has witnessed in these scandals.

Shortly before becoming Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger decried the "filth" in the Church "even among those, who in the priesthood, ought to belong totally" to Christ. He also provided the antidote, stating at other times that what the Church needs now more than anything else is "saints." Pope Francis reiterated Pope Benedict's sentiments in his letter on Aug. 20.

In the days ahead, the Knights of Columbus will help renew our Church on a national level through a Novena of Masses in reparation for these sins that have so grievously wounded the Body of Christ. I take this opportunity to ask that you offer this Novena of Masses for our Church at your earliest opportunity.

Beginning in November, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor, in cooperation with the Shrine of St. Jean Vianney in Ars, France, a national tour of the relic of the heart of this great patron saint of priests. In the coming weeks, I will share more details with you about this initiative.

We will also continue to strengthen and rebuild our Church at the level of our families and parishes through our Building the Domestic Church program. Its twin elements of imbuing families with faith and strengthening parish life are critical to providing a Catholic Church that rebuilds based on the Gospel principles of love of God and love of neighbor. Together with our recently announced "Faith In Action" initiative, we will strive to make our parishes truly become, in the words of Pope Francis, "a family of families."

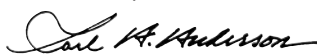
Now is the time for all brother Knights to stand steadfast in faith, as Catholics and as gentlemen. We will assist priests, bishops and our fellow Catholics in helping the Church chart a course for the future that puts Christ at the center, so that truly we may say, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This is the moment in which Knights — including in a special way our priest members — can be part of a great renewal for good in our Church. And as we strive to follow the Lord more closely in the days ahead, may he deliver us from every evil and in his mercy graciously grant his Church peace and unity.

In closing, know that your faithful witness and sacrifice can bring inspiration and hope to millions of your fellow Catholics. It will be needed in the days ahead more than ever before. And to every priest and bishop whose commitment and dedication to our Order and to our Church has been faithful and exemplary, please accept my gratitude in both a personal way and on behalf of the Knights of Columbus.

Let each one of us prayerfully invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so that in the words of St. Maximilian Kolbe, our hearts "would be cleansed and themselves become immaculate, similar and like unto her own heart."

Faternally,



Supreme Knight

RESPOND WITH A YES TO JESUS

A CHALLENGE AND MESSAGE
FROM SUPREME CHAPLAIN ARCHBISHOP LORI

*Then he sat down, called the Twelve,
and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all."*

— Gospel for Sept. 22 (Mk 9:35)

When I was in seminary, I had a roommate who was an early riser. Every morning his loud alarm went off at 5:15, at which point he'd say the same thing: "Gladly, Jesus, gladly!"

My comments went in a different direction, let's be honest. In a selfish, me-first world, it's just as hard to hear Jesus say "the first shall be last" as it was to hear my roommate at 5:15. And yet, my brothers, Jesus calls us to be servants of all; to step out of our comfort zone and say "gladly!" as we go to serve others in our lives. "Gladly, Jesus, gladly!"

Your Goal for 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 whom you have wronged. Secondly, 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).

*Every month, another challenge will be published in Knightline,
the Chaplain's Report and Columbia magazine.
Instructions on the challenge are available on kofc.org/domesticchurch.*

Holding Up Our Faith Against the Fire

In the upcoming weeks, council leaders will be looking to chaplains for guidance. Like the Church as a whole, each family has a mission to pray more, build up each other in the faith, forgive, reconcile and practice charity. We offer the Faith In Action resources as a means to help chaplains and families fully integrate Christ-centered programs into daily life.

*For information and easy-to-find resources, videos and more,
visit kofc.org/faithinaction.*





KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®

CHAPLAIN'S
report

1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326



St. Michael the Archangel

*Artist Unknown (Tuscany School, 17th century)
Knights of Columbus Museum Collection*

Consecration to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, invincible prince of the angelic hosts and glorious protector of the universal Church, I greet thee and praise thee for that splendor with which God has adorned thee so richly.

I thank God for the great graces he has bestowed upon thee, especially to remain faithful when Lucifer and his followers rebelled, and to battle victoriously for the honor of God and the Divinity of the Son of Man.

St. Michael, I consecrate to thee my soul and body.

I choose thee as my patron and protector and entrust the salvation of my soul to thy care.

Be the guardian of my obligation as a child of God and of the Catholic Church as again I renounce Satan, his works and pomps.

Assist me by thy powerful intercession in the fulfillment of these sacred promises, so that imitating thy courage and loyalty to God, and trusting in thy kind help and protection,

I may be victorious over the enemies of my soul and be united with God in Heaven forever. Amen.

from Paul Thigpen's *Manual for Spiritual Warfare*

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