



# 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

### Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



## The Saint of the Family

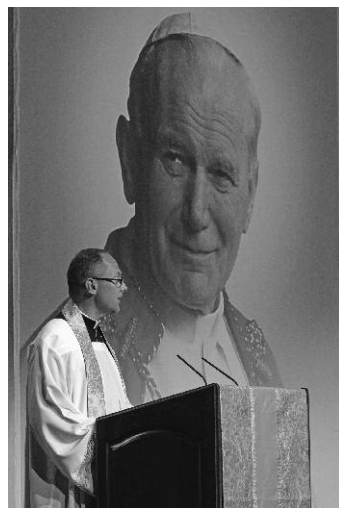
As we begin the month traditionally dedicated to the rosary and the promotion of pro-life causes, we are blessed this year to celebrate the first feast day of St. John Paul II. May we entrust each council to his special intercession as the Order launches its "Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive" initiative.

Addressing the 2014 Supreme Convention, Msgr. Sławomir Oder, postulator of the cause for canonization of St. John Paul II, reminded us of the importance of family to our new saint: "He himself was able to enjoy his own family very briefly: when he was nine years old his mother died, as a 14-year-old boy he lost his brother, and at the age of 21 years he lost his beloved father. But how rich and deep must have been his experience of love in his family! Years later John Paul II talked about his family home as his first seminary, and about his father as the one who first formed his priestly identity." Recalling that Wojtyła first learned how to pray from his father, Oder said: "It was his father who instilled in young Karol an ardent love for the Mother of God, when in his strong soldier's hand he held Karol's childlike hand, prayed the rosary and took Karol on pilgrimages to Marian Shrines."

The enormous potential of spiritually active and engaged families in our parishes highlights the need for chaplains to ensure our councils offer a welcome home for men seeking to deepen their faith and a catechetical formation for those brother Knights still encountering the newness of Gospel living. Chaplains should work with grand knights and council officers to put in place a spiritual outreach and formation plan for the coming year. For example, councils could organize parish-wide screenings of Father Robert Barron's *Catholicism* or the Augustine Institute's *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained* series, accompanied by a renewed promotion of the Catholic Information Series materials (available at [kofc.org](http://kofc.org)).

The prayerful example of Karol Wojtyła's father and the fruit of such witness inspired Father Luis Granados, DCJM, a member of Dr. Earl C. Bach Council 3340, to establish the "Toward a Family Friendly Parish" program at St. Mary Catholic Parish in Littleton, Colo. The 12-month program, whose focus is to draw families closer to each other and to their parish family, is the model of the Knights of Columbus' "Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive" initiative. May Saint John Paul II be with each of us as we seek to lead our brothers to the same holiness.

*Vivat Jesus!*



Msgr. Sławomir Oder, postulator for the cause for sainthood of John Paul II, during an address at the 2014 Supreme Convention says, "In his homily at the canonization of John Paul II, Pope Francis recalled that on one occasion, St. Pope Wojtyła had said, 'If the world will remember me, I would like to be remembered as the Pope of the Family and of Life.'"

## Building the Domestic Church, Waking a Sleeping Giant

*From Father Luis Granados, DCJM*

Catholic families are a sleeping giant. They possess a great power for joy and evangelization. They are the "human space of our encounter with God." As the family of Nazareth was the path chosen by God to become one of us, our family is the path offered by God to become his friends. But since the giant is sleeping, all this potential is lost. Perhaps it is better to say that Catholic families are not sleeping, but struggling. They fight alone in the midst of the world, without adequate help. It is not good for the family to be alone!

The "Building the Domestic Church" program aims to help families wake up and become "fully alive." I confess I struggle calling it a program. Of course, it is a planned group of activities, or "something that has been written" for a specific purpose.

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## "Building the Domestic Church" Materials Available

This month we 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. Additional copies of this booklet can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4320. An online copy of the booklet and additional resources are available at [kofc.org/familyfullyalive](http://kofc.org/familyfullyalive). Each issue of *Columbia* will also include the program's materials for that month. In addition, the preparatory catechesis prepared for the World Meeting of Families is now available for purchase at [worldmeeting2015.org/about-the-event/catechesis/](http://worldmeeting2015.org/about-the-event/catechesis/).



BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH



# Family and the Mission of Evangelization

*From Supreme Chaplain Archbishop Lori's remarks to the meeting of state chaplains at the 132nd Supreme Convention*



*Father Jonathan Kalisch, Archbishop William Lori and Carl Anderson respond to the questions posed by the chaplains.*

I'd like to begin with a wonderful new program the Order has launched. It's called "Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive." Now, when we priests hear about "a wonderful new program," we sometimes just shake our heads — we're often up to our elbows in "wonderful new programs" — but (and you've never heard this before) this one is different!

Each month [of the program] has a theme drawn from the teachings of Pope Francis, Pope Emeritus Benedict or Pope St. John Paul II. The idea was to make accessible their teaching — not just to make it understandable, but to help families and parishes take part in getting a hold of it and making it a part of their lives.

So, let's discuss how we and our brother chaplains can promote this program in the state jurisdictions and local councils throughout the Order. One thing every council can do is to make sure this booklet gets into the hands of each of its families, and maybe also do some outreach.

Our monthly chaplain's messages could center on these themes; I will also be developing them in my column in *Columbia*. The council could also sponsor a monthly movie night, not only for its own members but for the entire parish, and the booklet has a lot of tips as to how to make that successful. And then council families and others can do a monthly service project as suggested.

All this shows that the Order really is family friendly and makes it attractive to younger families trying to find their way. Before I move on to a few comments that are more chaplain-specific, let me highlight an initiative underway in this fraternal year — that of the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington. All the work that is being done at the shrine aims at instilling in us real devotion to Pope John Paul II, who was a wonderful friend of the Order and whose witness, teaching and legacy we need to understand better. This will be true of the chapels — for example, the small chapel that contains the relic of the pope's blood will be adorned with mosaics of the Luminous Mysteries.

The permanent exhibit will feature multimedia presentations of the various stages of the pope's life and times, illuminated by the themes of his life and teaching. The shrine probably won't be fully complete for more than a year, but the number of visitors has already picked up and donations are up. The point here is that this shrine is a real destination, a place of pilgrimage. I'd encourage you to organize pilgrimages to this shrine as a way of enhancing the spiritual life of brother Knights and their families.

For my part, I'd like to make a few general observations. I don't think we can overemphasize the importance of the chaplain's role to the health and growth of the Order. Father McGivney founded a lay-run organization, but he also understood it needed a priestly witness and a priestly presence if it would fulfill the pastoral goals which he had in mind. When a chaplain befriends his brother Knights and their families and takes an interest in what they are doing, he not only generates good will but creates an opening for helping the Knights grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ, in their life of prayer, in their vocation and in the ideals of the Order.

As this happens, we have also to foster the outreach of the Knights. I mentioned earlier that men, more than women, seem to be disconnected from a relationship with Christ and the Church. And nothing does more to bring families back to the faith than when a husband and father has a change of heart and begins to practice the faith or discovers the faith anew. Each council ought to be a clear channel through which these men are reached, man to man, neighbor to neighbor, involving them first in projects of service.

Sometimes our programs of service offer unchurched men a non-threatening way to reconsider committing their lives to the Lord and to the Church, but for that to happen, chaplains will need to engage with the Knights. And it's not as if when we chaplains do this we're doing something "extra" — it's just another way of accomplishing the mission and ministry the Church has given us, the mission of evangelization.

*Vivat Jesus!*

# Monthly Suggested Activities

## October

### *The Month of the Rosary*

- Distribute K of C rosaries to members and parishioners.
- Give members and parishioners the *Guide to Praying the Rosary booklet* (#4772)
- Lead your council members and their families (and interested parishioners) in praying the rosary after Masses during the month.

### *Celebration of St. John Paul II*

- On Oct. 14, begin a novena to St. John Paul II, concluding on his feast day of Oct. 22.
- Distribute St. John Paul II prayer cards.
- Plan a pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Visit [jp2shrine.org](http://jp2shrine.org) for more details.

### *Hold a Special Mass*

- Schedule a “Red Mass” during the month to honor and ask intercessory blessings for those in the legal and political fields.
- To honor and ask intercessory blessings for those in the medical field, celebrate a “White Mass” on the Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke, patron of physicians.

## November

### *Remember deceased Knights, family members and parishioners*

- Sponsor a cemetery clean up, ending with a prayer service for the deceased.
- Celebrate a memorial Mass with intentions for the souls of departed Knights and their family members.

### *Work with your council to seek new ways of spiritual outreach to the poor.*

Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: “Since this Exhortation is addressed to members of the Catholic Church, I want to say, with regret, that the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith. Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care.”

## BUILDING, FROM PAGE 1

But it is not a “program” in the sense of some materials I just buy, receive and apply. More than that, this initiative is meant to generate encounters within the family, with other families, priests and, mainly, with God, the origin of true love. Only by fostering these relationships will the sleeping giant awake and become what it is called to be: a domestic church which builds the Catholic Church, the “Ecclesial Family.”

Let me consider some elements of the program. The monthly psalms and family projects are an invitation to pray together and to build the family life. The monthly songs and the image of the Holy Family will help to celebrate the joy of belonging to a family of families, with common tradition, art and music. The movie nights are intended to generate the encounter with other families that share the same joys, struggles, hopes and anxieties. Finally, volunteering together will help the family to understand its mission, reaching out to the poor, lonely and needy.

Every month we remember one of the spiritual pillars of the family. October invites us to strengthen the relationship between our families’ generations. God works in the communion of persons, not in the loneliness of individualism. As St. John Paul II proclaimed in his first visit to the United States, “The great danger for family life

# Best Practice of the Month — State Retreat

In the State Chaplains meeting held immediately prior to the 132nd Supreme Convention, Knights of Columbus chaplains had the opportunity to share suggestions and practices implemented in the various councils they served. These practices demonstrated the chaplains’ role in enhancing the spiritual life of Knights and their families, evangelization and outreach, and membership growth and retention.

One of these admirable practices is that of arranging a day retreat to provide Knights and their families a time of prayer, reflection and faith sharing. Weekends of reflections, such as those sponsored by the New Hampshire Jurisdiction, offer an even greater opportunity for spiritual enrichment, contemplation and community.

The New Hampshire State Retreat, supported by State Chaplain Father Agapit H. Jean Jr. and Father Robert Smolley, chaplain of Manchester (N.H.) Council 92, centered on the writings of Pope John Paul II.

Here is a sample “agenda” for you to consider when organizing a spiritual retreat:

- Begin with prayer and a passage from the Gospels.
- Familiarize the attendees with discussion questions for the retreat.
- After participants have had an opportunity to ponder the topic and discussion questions, invite them to share their responses and reflections in a group session.
- End the day by once again reflecting on the theme and joining together in prayer.

These chaplains’ service and efforts deserve recognition, as do practices established by chaplains in Knights of Columbus councils everywhere. We would like to produce a listing of best practices that we can consider for possible publication each month. If you or your council has established an exemplar practice that you would like to share with other councils, please send information to [chaplains@kofc.org](mailto:chaplains@kofc.org).

... lies in the fact that people close their hearts and become selfish” (Washington, D.C., 7 October 1979). For that reason, the year will start with strengthening or rebuilding the relationships between generations.

St. John Paul II said once that “as the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole world in which we live” (Perth, 30 November 1986). He was not exaggerating. If the family, the sleeping giant, awakes, there will be great hope for our nation and for our world. May this new initiative of the Knights of Columbus help to make it happen.



Father Luis Granados, DCJM, addresses chaplains at the 2014 Supreme Convention.



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OF COLUMBUS**

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1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326

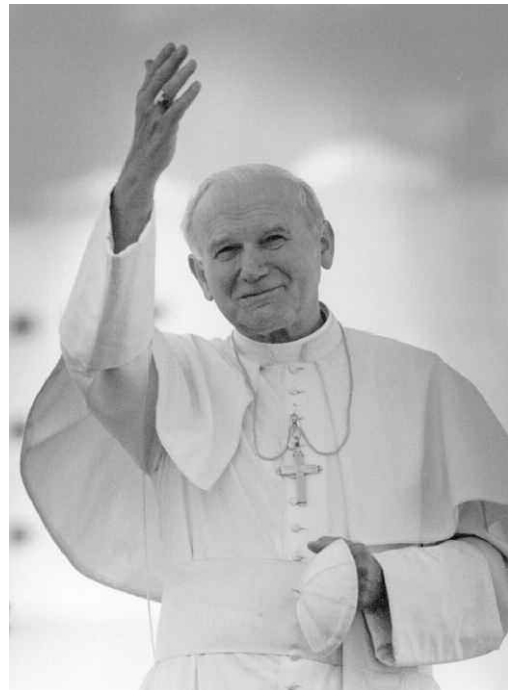
## Prayer for the intercession of Saint John Paul II

O Blessed Trinity, we thank you  
for having graced the Church with  
Saint John Paul II and for allowing  
the tenderness of your fatherly care,  
the glory of the Cross of Christ  
and the splendor of the Spirit of love  
to shine through him.

Trusting fully in your infinite mercy  
and in the maternal intercession of Mary,  
he has given us a living image of  
Jesus the Good Shepherd.

He has shown us that holiness  
is the necessary measure of ordinary  
Christian life and is the way of  
achieving eternal communion with you.

Grant us, by his intercession,  
and according to your will,  
the graces we implore,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



*(CNS photo/Joe Rimkus Jr.)*