



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

Encouraging The Way of Truth

Excerpts from the address of Pope Francis to bishops at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, Sept. 27, 2015

At the root of so many contemporary situations is a kind of impoverishment born of a widespread and radical sense of loneliness. Running after the latest fad, accumulating “friends” on one of the social networks, we get caught up in what contemporary society has to offer.

Should we blame our young people for having grown up in this kind of society? Should we condemn them for living in this kind of a world? Should they hear their pastors saying that “it was all better back then,” or that “the world is falling apart and if things go on this way, who knows where we will end up?”

We would be mistaken, however, to see this culture of the present world as mere indifference towards marriage and the family, as pure and simple selfishness. ... Many young people, in the context of this culture of discouragement, have yielded to a form of unconscious acquiescence. They are afraid, deep down, paralyzed before the beautiful, noble and truly necessary challenges. Many put off marriage while waiting for ideal conditions, when everything can be perfect. Meanwhile, life goes on, without really being lived to the full. For knowledge of life’s true pleasures only comes as the fruit of a long-term, generous investment of our intelligence, enthusiasm and passion.

Addressing Congress, a few days ago, I said that we are living in a culture which pressures some young people not to start a family because they lack the material means to do so ... (or because) they are happy as they are. That is the temptation, not to start a family.

As pastors, we are called to collect our energies and to rebuild enthusiasm for making families correspond ever more fully to the blessing of God which they are! ...

Here, too, we need a bit of holy parrhesia on the part of bishops — the holy parrhesia to accompany them and make them grow towards the commitment of marriage.

A Christianity which does little in practice, while incessantly



Pope Francis smiles before giving an address during the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

explaining its teachings, is dangerously unbalanced. I would even say that it is stuck in a vicious circle. A pastor must show that the gospel of the family is truly “good news” in a world where self-concern seems to reign supreme! We are not speaking about some romantic dream. The perseverance which is called for in having a family and raising it transforms the world and human history.

Families transform the world and history.

Do We Challenge Them?

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



the Church and sacramental practice. The beautiful witness of our Holy

During this grace-filled time following the papal visit to the Americas, let us assist our brother Knights in reaching out to the men and their families whose hearts may now be open to conversion — that is, a return to

Father’s words and actions of visiting the imprisoned, homeless and young immigrants highlight once again the centrality of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

While in Philadelphia, Pope Francis reminded priests of their special duty to invite young adults — as well as those not yet engaged in their faith — to a great participation. He asked, “Do we challenge them? Do we make space for them and help them to do their part? To find ways of

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sharing their enthusiasm and gifts with our communities, above all in works of mercy and concern for others? Do we share our own joy and enthusiasm in serving the Lord?" (Homily, Sept. 26, 2015).

Can we, as Knights of Columbus chaplains, encourage our brother Knights to ensure — as Pope Francis asks — that every council fosters "in all the faithful a sense of personal responsibility for the Church's mission, and to enable them to fulfill that responsibility as missionary disciples, as a leaven of the Gospel in our world?"

As we meet with our councils this month, can we share with them the fruits of our own reflections? Can we share how we will respond to the pope's call to each of us priests "to reflect on our ministry to families, to couples preparing for marriage, and to our young people?"

Our brother Knights stand ready to assist us in these vital areas of engagement that the pope has asked us to focus on. Together, let us continue this work of evangelization, mindful of the graces of the papal journey and the hunger of many to meet Christ through the spiritual and corporeal works of mercy.

Called to Serve: Faith in Florida

Editor's Note: The following is the third installment of our series about the vocation of a Knights of Columbus Insurance agent. This bimonthly series explains how the Knights can help protect members and serve the Catholic families in your parish, and also illustrates the spiritual aspects of an agent's work.

In 2013, Raúl Fernández was pursuing various career options. Three years prior, he had interviewed with Knights of Columbus General Agent Jim Spinelli, yet had felt that with his busy academic, work and volunteer schedule, the timing was not right. Then, Raúl began learning more about the mission of Father McGivney to protect orphans and widows by rendering financial assistance to members and their families.

"Finally, it seemed as though God was shining a light on a path: a Catholic men's organization that invests its money morally right, takes care of its members, and spreads its love and wealth throughout the communities. After much prayer, I decided to take the plunge and follow the steps toward being a licensed agent and becoming successful."

Raúl and his wife, Loretta, now consider his career as a field agent to be nothing less than a gift from God.

Recently blessed with their first child, the couple views his work, and the work of all Knights of Columbus agents, not just as a job but as a vocation. "As an agent, my responsibilities stem from love," Raúl explained. "It is out of love of our brothers in Christ and members of this wonderful fraternal organization that I meet with families to help them analyze their needs. I do reviews for our families, especially when they experience life-changing events. I have been the shoulder to cry on when processing a death claim."

He concluded, "I hope and pray that I can be a worthy disciple of Christ by living out Father McGivney's vision and lifelong mission."

A career — a vocation — as a field agent for the Knights of Columbus is not for everyone. But for Raúl and the 1,500 men who serve as field agents and general agents for the Knights of Columbus, it is their lives' work.

Thanks to the tremendous success of our Order's insurance program, and to the trust that our members and their families place in us, the Order is looking to hire more men like Raúl all across North America to serve as field agents.

If you know someone in your council or parish who may thrive in a career with the Knights of Columbus, please let us know by calling (203) 752-4136 or emailing careers@kofc.org.

Thousands Greet Pope Francis

In honor of Pope Francis' first Apostolic journey to the United States, the Knights of Columbus was there to graciously welcome him as he made his way through Washington, D.C., New York City and Philadelphia, Sept. 22-27.

The Holy Father's U.S. visit coincided with the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which convened under the theme "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive." This year marked the first time the international event, which featured speakers from many countries throughout the world, was conducted in the United States.

As a major sponsor of the World Meeting of Families, the Supreme Council prepared a number of displays that highlighted the benefits of membership and the Order's insurance program. The displays also showcased many K of C initiatives, such as Building the Domestic Church, Fathers for Good, the Father McGivney Guild and various other programs. Also featured were displays for the Saint John Paul II National Shrine and the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, both sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus printed 350,000 copies of the 24-page Mass program that was distributed to those attending the closing papal Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. The Order also provided 350 volunteers as ushers, security personnel and Communion assistants. The altar, backdrop and other liturgical settings for the Mass were designed by James Lenahan, a graduate of the Notre Dame School of Architecture, who is a member of Illini Council 2782 in Champaign, Ill.

During the papal liturgies, original musical arrangements by Peter Latona were performed. The music director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., Latona is a member of Potomac Council 433 in Washington, D.C.

Knights also served as volunteers at other events throughout the pope's visit. Members of the Patriotic Degree provided an honor guard for the canonization Mass for Junípero Serra, the 18th-century California missionary, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. There, members of the Order distributed 30,000 copies of a booklet on the newly canonized saint. The booklet, which was printed in both English and Spanish, included an address given by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at a conference titled "Fra Junípero Serra: Apostle to California and Witness to Sanctity."

The supreme knight was among those who greeted the Holy Father in Washington. Pope Francis attended a number of papal events in the city, including a Knight of Columbus-sponsored luncheon for several hundred U.S. bishops at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine.



Supreme Council staff members work to prepare the Order's display for the World Meeting of Families.

Best Practice of the Month



David Calvillo, a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Council 12080 in McAllen, Texas, works to promote the powerful, life-changing experience of prayer. Explaining that he was once “one of those knuckleheads who felt I was way too cool, too macho for anything as quaint as the rosary,” David was inspired during a retreat to begin praying the rosary daily, eventually forming the apostolate Real Men Pray the Rosary, Inc (RMPTR). Through the distribution of rosary, prayer guides, daily reflections and other materials, RMPTR promotes the rosary as a powerful tool in a man’s journey to become a more devoted son, father or husband.

In October, the month dedicated to the rosary, encourage your brother Knights to likewise become “real men” who possess the courage to witness to the life and teachings of Christ. Work with your grand knight to participate in the 5th Sunday Rosary Program. Alternatively, establish frequent men’s rosary nights, welcoming all the men in your council and parish to grow closer to Christ through the rosary’s simple, yet profound, meditations. At the events, ask the Knights to hand out finger rosaries and prayer cards, available through the *5th Sunday Rosary Kit* (SR-KIT).

If you or your council has established a similar practice that enhances the spiritual life of Knights and their families, please send the information to chaplains@kofc.org. For more information on Real Men Pray the Rosary, visit realdmenpraytherosary.org.

The Plight of Middle Eastern Christians

In September, the Knights of Columbus financed a month’s supply of food for more than 13,500 Christian families taking refuge in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. These families had been forced to flee from their homes in Mosul and Nineveh to escape persecution, torture and enslavement.

The food assistance was part of an ongoing program organized by the Chaldean Melkite Archdiocese of Erbil, which has continued to house refugees since the persecution escalated in the summer of 2014. Each month, different organizations provide the displaced families a month’s supply of food items, including rice, sugar, cooking oil, tomato sauce, beans, pasta, cheese, tins of fish and meat, powdered milk and tea. Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil then

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Monthly Suggested Activities

October

- Celebrate the legacy of St. John Paul II, the pope of the family, by leading your parish and council in a novena to end on his feast day, Oct. 22. During each day of the novena, consider distributing prayer cards (#4983, available in packs of 100 cards for \$3). Alternatively, you might together 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 *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklets (#10162, available in packs of 300 booklets per order, shipping charges apply).
- Organize a Red Mass to ask intercessory blessings for those in the legal and political fields. For those in the medical field, celebrate a White Mass on Oct. 18, the feast of St. Luke, patron of physicians.

November

- On the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation in most countries, 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.
- As part of the 5th Sunday Rosary Program, hold a rosary service Nov. 29 to help bring parishioners together in a spiritual activity and to promote devotion to Mary. Rosaries and program materials can be ordered through the *5th Sunday Rosary Kit* (SR-KIT).

A Prayer for Life

“We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees . . .”

— Pope Francis

Eternal Father, Source of Life,
strengthen us with your Holy Spirit to receive
the abundance of life you have promised.

Open our hearts to see and desire
the beauty of your plan for life and love.

Make our love generous
and self-giving so that we may
be blessed with joy.

Grant us great trust in your mercy.

Forgive us for not receiving your gift of life
and heal us from the effects of the culture of death.

Instill in us and all people
reverence for every human life.

Inspire and protect our efforts on behalf of those most
vulnerable,

especially the unborn, the sick and the elderly.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus,
who by His Cross makes all things new. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.



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directs a group of local volunteers to arrange for the packaging and delivery of the food to the families in need.

The food items funded by the Knights totaled \$810,000. The donation is only a small part of the Knights' multimillion dollar initiative to aid displaced Christian families and other persecuted religious minorities in the Middle East.

The donation follows a commitment made by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson at the Supreme Convention in Philadelphia, Aug. 4. There, he announced that the Knights of Columbus would continue, and even redouble, its efforts on behalf of Christians in Iraq and the surrounding area.

Your council can, and should, join this cause. To show your support, order 5-inch olive wood crosses crafted by Christians in the Holy Land (\$5 each, minimum order of 10). The crosses may be sold in your community for a suggested donation of \$10, with the net proceeds of the sale given to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund. Be advised that donations from sale proceeds are



CNS photo/Kai Pfaffenbach, Reuters

A child from the Syrian town of Kobani sits in front of a tent in a refugee camp on the Turkey-Syria border, Oct. 18.

not tax-deductible.

Councils that sell 50 or more crosses fulfill two service criteria under the Church Activities section of the Columbian Award. For specific details on ordering the crosses, please contact the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org.

Knights wishing to give a tax-deductible contribution to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund should visit christiansatrisk.org. Or, checks or money orders can be made payable to Knights of Columbus Charities at P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966. The memo portion should indicate that the check is for the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

One hundred percent of all donations directly supports humanitarian assistance and raising awareness of persecuted Christians and other religious minorities, especially in the Middle East.

For more information, visit christiansatrisk.org.