



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

Be Successors of Father McGivney

From an address given by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori to state chaplains, Aug 3. While he spoke to state chaplains, his words of wisdom are relevant for all chaplains of the Order.

**Archbishop
William E. Lori**

Supreme Chaplain



It is an important moment to be confirmed in our special service to the Order, to be reminded of the basic priorities of the Order, and to share with one another best practices and to discuss some of the challenges that we face in our ministry to our brother Knights and their families.

It is also good to remind ourselves that we have the honor to be successors of Father McGivney. It is good to remind ourselves that, before anything else, Father McGivney was a parish priest whose first concern was the spiritual good of his parishioners.

He was a parish priest who knew his parishioners, not merely by sight or name but at a much deeper level — he knew their joy and hope but also their struggles. ... That is why he founded an organization that concerned itself with what we today call “men’s spirituality” — helping men know and live their faith and their vocation, even as they reach out in charity and help bear one another’s burdens. Let us never forget that the Knights of Columbus was born in a parish that was served by a dedicated and holy parish priest.

Now it is our turn to bring that same spirit of pastoral charity to brother Knights throughout our jurisdictions. ... As Father McGivney’s life and ministry illustrated, the Knights is a lay organization, to be led by the Knights themselves, but it is also a fraternal organization that needs our pastoral care. This is the most important thing we contribute to the vitality of the Order.

The pastoral care we and our brother chaplains are called to exercise — as you know better than I — can take many forms. I would like simply to remind you of a few of these forms, for your own reflection and perhaps as a way of undergirding our discussion. ...

[First, your state deputy should] work closely with the grand knights in his jurisdiction to build bridges to pastors and parish communities. ... Perhaps your next most important relationship is with the local chaplains. And here we are encouraging our brother priests, busy as they are, not merely to show up and deliver some brief remarks but indeed to provide good pastoral care for the Knights in their parishes.

One of the suggestions also made at the Membership Seminar was to separate the business meeting and the formational portion of the meeting.

SEE **McGIVNEY**, PAGE 3

FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

The Council as First Receiver of Evangelization

**Father Jonathan
D. Kalisch, OP**

Director of Chaplains and
Spiritual Development



We can no longer take for granted that men who seek to join the ranks of our brother Knights have adequate intellectual and spiritual faith formation, nor have sufficient time and interest to attend fraternal meetings that seem to go-on *ad nauseam*. I invite you as chaplains to do your part to form our men with the faith formation they seek and to encourage local council leaders to creatively find new ways to engage more men in the task of faith formation.

As Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori’s remarks make clear, our brother Knights need the evangelical witness, time and energy we can give to them to help them become deeper men of faith and action. No doubt if our own church was on the front line of a physical persecution, each of us would be in the ‘spiritual foxholes’ with our councils, engaging with them, forming them for the mission and encouraging their participation in the trails ahead.

In today’s day and age, our task is no less vital: Today’s Catholic husbands, sons, fathers and grandfathers have simply not been taught the virtues and responsibilities requisite to their vocational duties. Moreover, most of our brother Knights no longer have the luxury to take time away from their family, wife or job to join us on a weekday evening to discuss how much money to spend on the local fundraiser. In fact, for many good Catholics, it would seem like an abdication of their vocation to go to such a meeting.

Let us take the initiative with local council leaders to encourage more of the fraternal “business” be done at council officers’ meetings and assist officers in creatively finding new ways to bring faith formation, fraternal virtue-based discussions and spirituality to our regular council events and meetings. Whether by watching a video, encouraging faith-based discussion-sharing or simply engaging in an intercessory prayer for potential new men and members in need, we can positively show that evangelization first begins with those around us.

Vivat Jesus!

Persecuted Christians Awareness Week – How You Can Participate

With Christians in the Middle East facing increased pressure and receiving very little governmental support, we need your help to raise awareness on their behalf.

First, reach out to your parish. Share the information available on christiansatrisk.org. Use the homily talking points available from usccb.org.

Second, ask your council to support your awareness effort. Ask them to help you organize a prayer service specifically for the intentions of the Christians in the Middle East. Follow this service with a fundraising drive in support of the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund. One hundred percent of all the donations will go to relief efforts.

Encourage Knights to spread the word of the crisis among their communities — ask them to distribute informational materials from the USCCB, found at usccb.org. They should also provide details on how to donate to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.



Children stand on a hill outside the refugee camp they call home near Erbil, Iraq. Their situation is similar to that faced by nearly all Christians in the Middle East since ISIS launched its offensive in 2014. (Photo by Matus Duda.)

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. In anticipation of this week, this month's Chaplain's Report is dedicated to stories about these Christians in need of our prayers and support. Please feel free to share this issue with your parish, council and community.



Help Us Rebuild the Birthplace of Christianity

Join the Knights of Columbus \$2 million initiative to save Karamles, a predominantly Christian town on the Nineveh Plain that was liberated from ISIS late last year. The approximate cost of relocating one Christian family is \$2,000. Just 1,000 such donations would be sufficient to reach the \$2 million goal. One way to raise this amount is through a joint fundraising effort between your council and parish. For details, visit christiansatrisk.org.

A cemetery located in a Christian community of Iraq, after the town's destruction by ISIS.

‘Have Mercy on ISIS and on the Whole World’

This is the prayer of Christina Shabo, 26, shared July 29, 2016, at the K of C-sponsored Mercy Centre, the premier site for English-speaking pilgrims attending World Youth Day 2016 in Kraków.

Speaking to thousands of young people from all parts of the world, Christina explained how her father and her mother, then pregnant with Christina, fled from Islamic militants to a refugee camp in Turkey, where she was born a short time later. Growing up, she was surrounded with stories of countless family members and friends murdered at the hands of the militants.

Today, Christina has moved out of the refugee camp, living instead with her immediate family in Detroit. However, knowing that her other relatives in Iraq are suffering — some brutally killed directly at the hands of the terrorists, others dying as the result of bombings — the terror is not forgotten.

Yet, through prayer, particularly to the Divine Mercy, Christina is working to forgive those who have harmed her family — and the people of her country — so much.

Her amazing testimony, “Christina Shabo on Forgiving ISIS,” can be watched via the Knights of Columbus YouTube channel. We suggest sharing her powerful testimony with your parish and community, and particularly with youth groups. Chaplains of college councils should encourage sharing the video on campuses as part of Persecuted Christians Awareness Week, beginning Nov. 26.



A young Syrian girl sits with her belongings at a refugee camp in Erbil, Iraq. Erbil was once home to thousands of Christians now living in camps or inadequate makeshift shelters, which will provide little protection as winter approaches. (Photo by Stivan Shany.)

Upcoming Activities

NOVEMBER

On the solemnity of All Saints, encourage Knights in your council to attend Mass together, witnessing to the devotion and brotherhood that are integral to the Order.

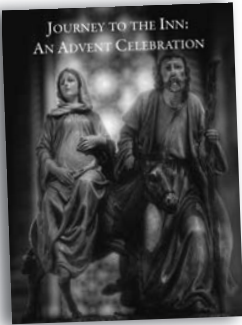
Remember deceased Knights, family members and parishioners during a memorial Mass. Also, sponsor a cemetery cleanup that ends with a prayer service for the deceased.

On Nov. 26, join the USCCB and Knights around the world in praying for persecuted Christians. The day of prayer will kick off a week of awareness and education. During this time, share information about the Order's work for persecuted religious minorities, as featured in this issue. For more details, visit christiansatrisk.org.



DECEMBER

Organize a parish gathering for a showing of *Guadalupe: The Miracle and Message* to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12. The DVD can be ordered via knightsgear.com.



Join brother Knights in spreading the light of Christ by illuminating a Nativity scene at your parish on Dec. 5.

Invite the men of your parish and councils to an Advent Night of Reflection. Include discussions on the Nativity passages of the Gospels, quiet moments for personal reflection and individual spiritual direction, confession and Benediction. To organize a day for families with young children, turn to the booklet *Journey to the Inn: An Advent Celebration* (#9898, available at no cost, except shipping, for quantities as high as 300).

Lead your parish in the *Consecration to the Holy Family* (#10371) on the feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 31. The prayer may be found online at kofc.org/domesticchurch, or cards can be ordered through KnightsGear.

JANUARY

Encourage your parishioners and council members to attend the National March for Life on Jan. 19, 2018. If you are unable to go to Washington due to parish obligations, say the Blessing for Travelers for your brother Knights before their departure.

McGIVNEY, FROM PAGE 1

With your encouragement and that of the state leadership, local councils should be encouraged with some regularity to invite speakers on men's spirituality, on family life and other topics of vital interest, especially to the younger demographic we are trying to attract to the Order. We need to give younger married men who lead busy lives at home and at work a good reason to spend a night at a council meeting.

It is important for you as state chaplains to put into the hands of local chaplains appropriate resources for the faith formation of brother Knights — including tools that help them absorb Bishop Olmsted's letter *Into the Breach* — as well as help local councils to implement the Domestic Church program in a way that fits well with parish activities and priorities. ...

Another form of pastoral care, as Pope Francis reminds us, is accompaniment. As you know, given the changes that have occurred in society, new pastoral questions arise, particularly with regard to sexual identity issues. And we sometimes ask, "What is the Knights' position on this?" I think it's important to remind ourselves that the Knights of Columbus does not maintain its own magisterium, nor does it maintain an office that establishes pastoral practice.

Rather, we follow the lead of the Church — the pope, the bishops, our pastors — recognizing that in a church as large and diverse as ours, there is some diversity. ... By our pastoral care for such individuals, we can do a lot to help them to know and live their faith in spite of many challenges — and in the process, shed light on what might seem like intractable problems for the Order. ...

I am very grateful to all of you, my brother chaplains, my fellow successors to Father Michael J. McGivney, for your dedication to the Order and for the work you do in your jurisdictions.

Vivat Jesus!

Discussion on Religious Freedom, Featuring Supreme Chaplain

A panel discussion on religious freedom, featuring Archbishop William E. Lori, is available at the Knights of Columbus YouTube channel.

The panel — which also features Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq; author George Weigel; and speaker Jacqueline Isaac — addresses how the loss of religious freedom damages the world, and how maintaining religious freedom prompts each of us to be a friend of liberty.

Watch the discussion here: [youtube.com/watch?v=ErtmhS1WeNk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErtmhS1WeNk)

Our Brothers Affected by Earthquake and Hurricanes

Hundreds of our brother Knights and their families in Puerto Rico, Mexico and the United States will never be the same. Their lives changed forever with the arrival of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and the massive earthquake that struck Mexico, killing hundreds.

Please join us in praying for our Knights and their families. To financially support relief efforts, visit kofc.org/disaster.



Prayer for Persecuted Christians

*Prayer composed by
Archbishop William E. Lori, Supreme Chaplain*

O God of all the nations,
the One God who is and was and always will be,
in your providence you willed that your Church
be united to the suffering of your Son.

Look with mercy on your servants
who are persecuted for their faith in you.

Grant them perseverance and courage
to be worthy imitators of Christ.

Bring your wisdom upon leaders of nations
to work for peace among all peoples.

May your Spirit open conversion
for those who contradict your will,
that we may live in harmony.

Give us the grace to be united in truth and freedom,
and to always seek your will in our lives.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

A Cross of Solidarity

We encourage chaplains to remember the refugees' situation by purchasing a 5-inch olive wood Solidarity Cross, crafted by Christians in the Holy Land. The supply is limited, so order now. For details, contact the Supply Department at 203-752-4214 or supply@kofc.org.



(Photo by Afif Amireh)