



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

Help Wake Up the World!

Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP

Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development



On Jan. 22, at the 2015 March for Life in Washington, D.C., many of us had the experience of witnessing the ongoing commitment to the culture of life that has spread all across America. A visitor from Poland relayed how the community and solidarity he saw at the march were akin to what he experienced during the days of St. John Paul II's 1979 pilgrimage to Poland. That visit, which was John Paul II's first to his native country after being elected pope, inspired great hope among Polish Catholics.

For myself, as I saw thousands of young people, religious and seminarians take part in the annual march, I recalled

the words of Pope Francis: "Wherever there are consecrated people, seminarians, men and women religious, young people, there is joy, there is always joy! It is the joy of freshness, the joy of following Jesus; the joy that the Holy Spirit gives us, not the joy of the world. There is joy!" (Meeting With Seminarians and Novices, 6 July 2013).

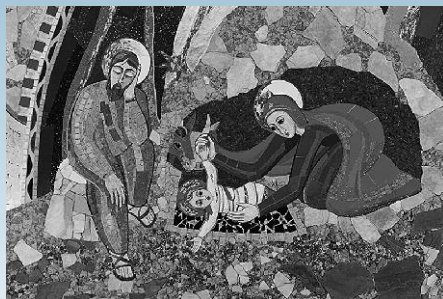
In his letter establishing 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, our Holy Father reminded religious of their special call to spread the spirituality of communion and to live the prophetic nature of their vows: "I am counting on you 'to wake up the world,' since the distinctive sign of consecrated life is prophecy. ... 'Radical evangelical living is not only for religious: it is demanded of everyone. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way.'" (*Apostolic Letter*, 21 Nov. 2014).

Speaking also to members of the laity, Pope Francis asked that the whole Church draw near to religious and consecrated persons so as to respond together to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Can our brother Knights also assist by coming together and arranging to be present in new and specific ways to the religious and missionary communities around them? The spirituality of the Knights of Columbus does not limit itself to a particular religious family or charism, but is open to the whole communion and patrimony of the Church. Perhaps each council could reach out to nearby religious and consecrated communities, inviting their members to share their history and charism, offering new opportunities for collaboration, evangelical charity and support. I am speaking not only about new "work projects" for our councils, but also about really taking the time to understand the history and spirituality of these religious communities, so as to see where their joy can assist our men in the evangelization and support of our K of C families.

How can this year of grace for consecrated life impact our brother Knights? Pope Francis writes: "I ask all of you to draw close to these men and women, to rejoice with them, to share their difficulties and to assist them, to whatever degree possible, in their ministries and works, for the latter are, in the end, those of the entire Church. Let them know the affection and the warmth which the entire Christian people feels for them" (*Apostolic Letter*, 21 Nov. 2014). Let us help our brother Knights to reach out in support of all forms of consecrated life, whose vocations compliment that of every Knight and his family, helping to "wake up the world."



Thousands of Knights and their families among participants of the 2015 March for Life in Washington, D.C.



The Family, Sanctuary of Life

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

If you have been to Rome, you may recall the magnificent mosaic of the Basilica of St. Clement. The mosaic represents the Church as a huge vine, rooted in the cross of Christ and full of many fruits of different colors and sizes — the vine produces grapes, but also watermelon, bananas, apples, pears, etc. When I contemplate this mosaic, the words "abundant fruitfulness" comes to mind. The vine of the Church is called to accomplish Christ's desire: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. ... I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit" (Jn 10:10; 15:16).

This month, we are invited to consider our vocation to love and be fruitful. Life — eternal life — comes to us through the hands and words of the priest. Life, temporal and eternal, comes to us through the life of the families. As the domestic church, the family has been chosen as the sacred place in which life can be properly welcomed and protected. According to Saint John Paul II, the family is the "sanctuary of life," called to proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of Life (*Centesimus Annus*, 39).

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The Mystery of the Encounter

*Excerpts from a homily of Pope Francis, given on 2 Feb. 2014,
the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day for Consecrated Life*

The feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is also known as the feast of the Encounter. Thus, this is the encounter between Jesus and his people, when Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple in Jerusalem; the first encounter between Jesus and his people, represented by Simeon and Anna, took place.

Let's observe what the evangelist Luke tells us of them, as he describes them. He says four times that Our Lady and St. Joseph wanted to do what was required by the Law of the Lord (cf. Lk 2:22, 23, 24, 27). One almost feels and perceives that Jesus' parents have the joy of observing the precepts of God, yes, the joy of walking according to the Law of the Lord! It's a strong desire, a deep desire, full of joy. That's what the Psalm says: "In the way of thy testimonies I delight. ... For thy law is my delight" (119 [118]:14, 77).

What does St. Luke say of the elderly? He underlines, more than once, that they were guided by the Holy Spirit. He says Simeon was a righteous and devout man, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and that "the Holy Spirit was upon him" (2:25). He says Anna was a "prophetess" (v. 36); that is, she was inspired by God and that she was always "worshipping with fasting and prayer" in the Temple (v. 37). In short, these two elders are full of life! They are full of life because they are enlivened by the Holy Spirit, obedient to his action, sensitive to his calls. ...

And now there is the encounter between the Holy Family and the two representatives of the holy people of God. Jesus is at the center. It is he who moves everything, who draws all of them to the Temple, the house of his Father.

It is a meeting between the young, who are full of joy in observing the Law of the Lord, and the elderly who are full of joy in the action of the Holy Spirit. It is a unique encounter between observance and prophecy, where young people are the observers and the elderly are prophets! In fact, if we think carefully, observance of the Law is animated by the Spirit, and the prophecy moves forward along the path traced by the

Law. Who, more than Mary, is full of the Holy Spirit? Who more than she is docile to its action?

In the light of this Gospel scene, let us look at consecrated life as an encounter with Christ: It is he who comes to us, led by Mary and Joseph, and we go towards him guided by the Holy Spirit. He is at the center. He moves everything, he draws us to the Temple, to the Church, where we can meet him, recognize him, welcome him, embrace him.

Jesus comes to us in the Church through the foundational charism of an institute — it is nice to think of our vocation in this way! Our encounter with Christ took shape in the Church through the charism of one of her witnesses. This always amazes us and makes us give thanks.

And in the consecrated life we live the encounter between the young and the old, between observation and prophecy. Let's not see these as two opposing realities! Let us rather allow the Holy Spirit to animate both of them, and a sign of this is joy: the joy of observing, of walking within a rule of life; the joy of being led by the Spirit, never unyielding, never closed, always open to the voice of God that speaks, that opens, that leads us and invites us to go towards the horizon.

May the grace of this mystery, the mystery of the encounter, enlighten us and comfort us on our journey.

Amen.



CNS photo/Nancy Wiebeck

SANCTUARY, FROM PAGE 1

The first and most evident way a family is fruitful is through procreation. God has blessed the love of many spouses with the gift of new life, new hope coming into the world. When a married couple receives the gift of a baby, they remind us that our life "is a gift received in order then to be given as a gift" (*Evangelium Vitae*, 92).

Biological life is in itself a gift, but it is surrounded by great questions: What if this baby is sick? What if his life is full of sufferings? As Pope Benedict XVI said in his April 16, 2012, homily, life is a true gift only if we receive a promise that is stronger than any evil that could threaten us. This is the meaning of rebirth by water and the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, we are immersed in the promise that only God can make: It is good to be alive, because the promise — God's promise — is stronger than evil.

Procreation and baptism are points of departure. They are gifts announcing greater gifts to come. Therefore, the fruitfulness of the family goes beyond procreation and baptism and becomes a path of education; in our family we learn what it means to be human and divine. For this reason, when we speak about fruitfulness, we don't just speak about young married couples. Every Catholic family is called to be

fruitful every day of its life; whether they have been married two, ten, twenty or fifty years, couples are called to bear much fruit according to the different "ages" of their life.

Like the fruits of the mosaic of St. Clement's, the family is fruitful in a variety of ways. When Christian spouses communicate their love to each other, to their children and to those around them, they bring hope into the world. When we speak with a couple who is suffering from infertility and is unable to welcome a child, we can help them understand that they are called to fruitfulness in many other ways: not just adopting a baby, but also becoming light of the world and salt of the earth through their work and study, their mission at the parish and their acts of charity.

How can we — as priests — communicate hope to our families? We can, first of all, recognize ourselves as fruits of a family. Every priestly and religious vocation manifests the fruitfulness of the domestic church. Secondly, we are invited to confirm our families in the beauty of their vocation. In this month, we can invite them to pray the Magnificat, so that they can recognize the great wonders the Lord is working in their family life.

A member of Dr. Earl C. Bach Council 3340, Father Granados helped 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, was the model of the Knights of Columbus' "Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive" initiative. Copies of the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162) can be obtained by contacting the Supply Department at 203-752-4320. An online copy of this booklet and additional resources are available at kofc.org/familyfullyalive.

Best Practice of the Month

One admirable practice among Knights of Columbus chaplains and councils is that of hosting a “clergy night” for non-member clergymen from the local community. Clergy nights provide councils the opportunity to thank local priests for their work and introduce them to the Order.

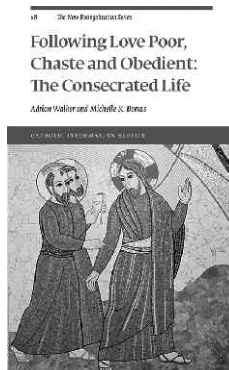
Now, in this year dedicated to consecrated life, it is the perfect time for your council to host its own clergy night. Encourage your council to host an evening for local retired priests and members of religious communities, as well as pastors, to thank them for their ongoing commitment to the consecrated life. Arrange a time during the evening to offer prayers for consecrated women and men throughout the world, and offer to begin the evening’s activities with a prayer. If scheduling allows, prior to the evening’s activities invite the attendees for adoration or, as a Lenten observance, the Stations of the Cross. Afterward, council members can greet the priests and welcome them to the reception. Some councils may wish to organize a Lenten fish dinner, in lieu of refreshments, and invite a speaker for the evening. Offer to assist your council in finding a guest speaker for the event, and provide a list of topics of interest to priests and religious.

We would like to produce a listing of other commendable practices that we can consider for possible publication each month. If you or your council has established a practice that demonstrates a chaplain’s role in enhancing the spiritual life of Knights and their families, evangelization and outreach, or membership growth and retention, please send details about your efforts to chaplains@kofc.org.

Monthly Suggested Activities

February

- Organize a Lenten Retreat for parishioners and members of your council. During the retreat, allow the opportunity for prayer, reflection, faith sharing and confession. If time permits, consider leading a full weekend of reflection to offer a greater opportunity for spiritual enrichment, contemplation and meditation on the passion of our Lord.
- In honor of the Year of Consecrated Life and the World Day for Consecrated Life (celebrated in parishes the weekend of Feb. 7-8), encourage your brother Knights and parishioners to learn of the experiences and lives of consecrated men and women:
 - ✦ Provide information on the consecrated and religious life to parishioners and members of your council. Use our Catholic Information Service’s New Evangelization Series pamphlet *Following Love Poor, Chaste and Obedient: The Consecrated Life*.
 - ✦ Ask your council to host an open house to give priests and religious an opportunity to speak to parishioners and members of your council. Invite them to share their vocation stories and explain what it means to live a consecrated life.
 - ✦ Invite parishioners and members of your council to a holy hour offered for priests and religious in the diocese, that they may faithfully live out their vocations to the consecrated life.
 - ✦ Help organize a Day of Service With Religious, giving parishioners and families the opportunity to volunteer and assist with the work of local religious communities.



March

- Celebrate the International Knights of Columbus Day of Prayer for the Unborn Child on March 25, the solemnity of the Annunciation, by organizing a pro-life Mass or prayer service at your church or with your council. Invite all members of the community, including public officials and health care workers, and distribute *Prayer for Life* cards (#4665).
- Celebrate Founder’s Day on Sunday, March 29, to honor the legacy of Father McGivney. As our founder’s vision was one for the entire Church and called each man to active participation in the sacramental life of the parish, encourage your council to plan events for the parish community. For ideas on how your parish and council can join councils around the world in Founder’s Day and the Orderwide Outreach Week events, visit the “Council” section of kofc.org/service.

Celebration of Consecrated Life



In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared a day of prayer for men and women in the consecrated life. Celebrated this year in parishes during the weekend of Feb. 7-8, the World Day for Consecrated Life helps “the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels.” It is also “a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord” (6 Jan. 1997). This year’s celebrations hold special significance: Pope Francis declared the entire liturgical year of 2015 dedicated to consecrated and religious life. The Year of Consecrated Life, which marks the fiftieth anniversary of the promulgation of Second Vatican Council documents *Lumen Gentium* and *Perfectae Caritatis*, will end on Feb. 2, 2016.

Priests and nuns attend an evening prayer service led by Pope Benedict XVI on the the feast of the Presentation of the Lord Feb. 2 in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. The service also marked the celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



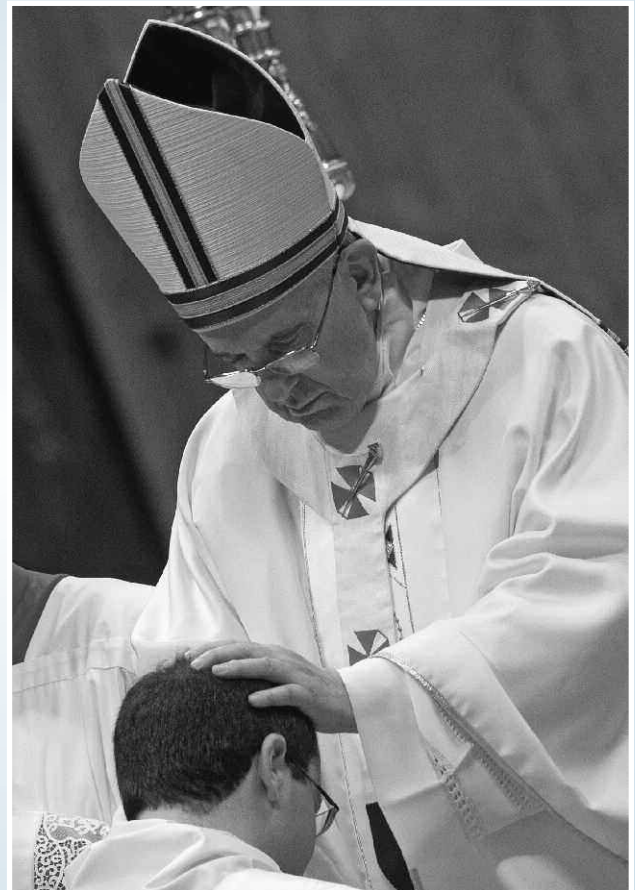
**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

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report

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Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration. Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you. Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who, having found the pearl of great price, treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



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