



At Opening Mass, Knights Give Thanks for the Priesthood

Cardinals, bishops and priests celebrate on feast of St. John Vianney

The vision of Venerable Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, has been responsible for untold good, said Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix during the opening Mass of the 127th Supreme Convention on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Father McGivney provides a model for clergy and laity alike during this Year for Priests, Bishop Olmsted said.

The Mass was celebrated on the feast of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, on the 150th anniversary of the saint's death. Bishop Olmsted said that the liturgy provided an occasion to give thanks to God for the priesthood and all

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Relics of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, were present at the Opening Mass of the Supreme Convention Aug. 4. The Mass was celebrated on Vianney's feast day and the 150th anniversary of his death.

Supreme Knight Delivers Annual Report

Discusses efforts to promote the sanctity of life and marriage

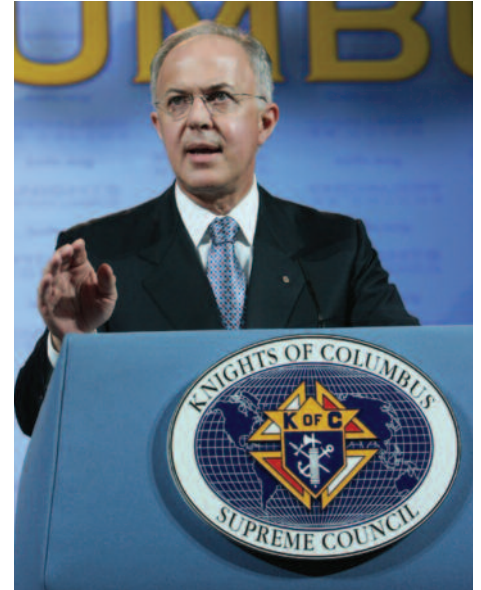
Highlighting the Order's commitment to the defense of life, to marriage and the family, to charity and to volunteer work, as well as its solidarity with the Holy Father and the clergy, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson delivered his Annual Report Aug. 4 at the 127th Supreme Convention in Phoenix.

The convention's first business session opened with a prayer by Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori. Words of greeting from Pope Benedict XVI were then conveyed through a letter from Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican Secretary of State, who was an honored guest at the Knights of Columbus' convention two years ago. Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, read the letter to those in attendance.

In keeping with the theme of the convention — "We Stand With Peter, In Solidarity with Our Bishops and Priests" — the supreme knight began his report by highlighting the Order's support for the priesthood and vocations.

He also outlined the renewed focus within the Order on spiritual enrichment and development of its members, which is taking place, in part, through the work of council chaplains.

Pope Benedict XVI's recent social encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity In Truth), can serve as a blueprint for the Knights of Columbus, Anderson stated.



Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson delivers his Annual Report at the opening business session of the Supreme Convention Aug. 4.

Citing the Order's principles of charity, unity and fraternity, he said that these words were "used so often in this new encyclical that one would almost conclude that it was written for us."

The supreme knight also reported on some of the initiatives the Order has begun to help those in need during the severe economic downturn, such as the K of C Coats for Kids program in the winter, and the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" summit in February that kicked off the Year of the Volunteer.

Devoting his strongest words for the proposed health care reform bills in the U.S. Congress, Anderson declared that "health care reform legislation must be abortion-free."

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Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix elevates the Eucharist at the Opening Mass of the 127th Supreme Convention Aug. 4, as seven cardinals and numerous bishops concelebrate.

'Opening Mass' continued

good and holy priests, and for the gift of the holy Eucharist.

Two relics of St. John Vianney, also known as the Curé of Ars, were carried in the opening procession and placed near the altar.

Bishop Olmsted served as the principal celebrant of the Mass, which was concelebrated by seven cardinals, along with approximately 60 bishops and 80 priests from the various jurisdictions the Order is present. Some 2,000 delegates and their family members were in attendance.

'BE NOT AFRAID'

Reflecting on the Gospel story of Jesus walking on the water to his frightened Apostles, Bishop Olmsted explained in his homily that "slavish fear" causes us to lose hope, but "fear of the Lord," or "filial fear," is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and leads us to cling more closely to Christ.

Today, he said, many people do not follow God and the Commandments because they fear moral demands. This is "a fear that keeps people from surrendering in faith to the Lord," he said.

The demands of the Gospel are real and life is often difficult, Bishop Olmsted acknowledged, citing St. Peter's Epistle: "Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the suffering of Christ" (1 Pet 4:12-13).

Bishop Olmsted said that these words "are timely and full of meaning for us Knights of Columbus in particular, as we pledge again our loyalty to the successor of Peter, Pope Benedict XVI. ... Whatever 'trial by fire' the Lord may give us to endure, whatever fears we may have to face, let us trust the words of our Redeemer: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.'"♦

'Report' continued

He warned that through the United Nations and other international agencies, pressures are increasing on predominantly Catholic countries such as the Philippines, Mexico and Poland to decriminalize abortion.

Delivered before more than 1,000 delegates and their families, who attended as guests, as well as a live TV and radio audience, the Annual Report also outlined the wide-ranging charitable reach of the Knights of Columbus, and the strength of its financial operations.

The supreme knight reported that in 2008, Knights donated more than \$150 million to charities and volunteered 68.8 million hours to their parishes and communities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver expressed his gratitude to the Knights for their lay leadership. He exhorted the delegates, "Show us your leadership so that we can be better leaders for the Church. You are Knights. You are leaders."♦

I thank you in the name of the bishops for your continued commitment to building a culture of life, to supporting priests, bishops and our Holy Father, and to being the "strong right arm" in your local parish.

— From Address of Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, at the States Dinner, Aug. 4

Thursday, Aug. 6

8 a.m.

10 a.m. - closing

3 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Annual Memorial Mass

Final Business Session

Opening of 1st International Marian Congress on Our Lady of Guadalupe

Art and the Image Exhibit, with Laura Castillo, Dr. Adolfo Orozco and Msgr. Eduardo Chávez

Grand Saguario Ballroom

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