



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

Chaplains and Pastoral Leadership

Excerpts from remarks of Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore for the State Chaplains Meeting prior to the 133rd Supreme Convention in Philadelphia

As a parish priest and as the founder of the Order, Father Michael McGivney recognized that the laity are “on the front lines” — at home, at work, at leisure — and he found a way to help the men of his parish to be formed in their faith, to practice their faith, and to live their faith while protecting the financial future of their families.

He didn’t manage the Order or control it, but deeply influenced it by his goodness as a priest, by his holiness, and by his pastoral care and concern.

Part of his genius is that he kept it simple. He didn’t propose a complicated spirituality, or even a unique spirituality. He chose well and wisely principles that are the heart of the Gospel, principles that every Knight could know, understand and put into practice. ... So, what’s a chaplain to do?

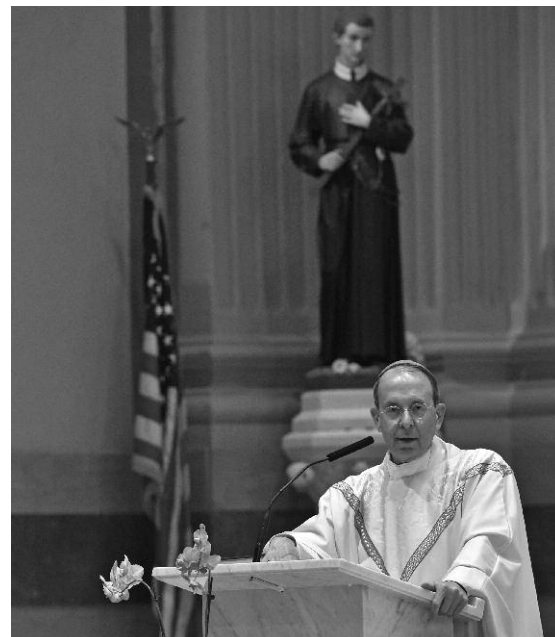
First, brothers, we need to approach the times in which we live with eyes wide open. We are not called to be alarmists or cultural warriors, but we are called to play a prophetic role, to exercise real pastoral leadership. ... For the Order to fulfill its mission, we have to be ministers of unity.

Practically speaking, this means being in communication with your state deputy and developing your relationship with the state officers. Much of this proceeds by way of relationship rather than flow charts and spread sheets. It also means reaching out to the dioceses where we serve to ensure that the Order is included in its pastoral plans ... not just on an ad hoc or emergency basis, but as part of diocesan life. In particular, we should urge dioceses to encourage parish-based councils.

What we are seeking is to develop men whose life of prayer and whose practice of the faith is generative ... men who bear witness to their relationship with Christ and engender that relationship in others.

The Knights of Columbus needs to be there for them.

Vivat Jesus!



Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori before a statue of St. Gerard Majella at the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia.

There, just prior to the State Chaplains Meeting on Aug. 3, Archbishop Lori was the main celebrant and homilist at a Mass attended by more than 80 chaplains.

Monthly Reflection on Building the Domestic Church

Something That Really Matters: The Root of Society

By Father Luis Granados, DCJM

As we finish this first year devoted to building the domestic church, we may ask ourselves: Was it worthwhile? Have we devoted ourselves to something that really matters? In other words, is the family really an essential element for the mission of the Church and the survival of our world?

During September we look at the family as the root of society, as the living cell of the great family of mankind. Roots are hidden, but they are essential for the survival and growth of the tree. Cells are invisible to the naked eye, but without them there is no organism, there is no life. Roots are the origin of the tree, the first development of the seed. Cells are the structure, the support of the body.

Why should we look at the family as the root and cell of society? Our last three popes will help us find the answer.

First of all, Pope Francis is devoting his general audiences of this year to the family. Mothers, he recently said, are the “strongest antidote to

the spread of self-centered individualism.” Fathers are the “irreplaceable guardians and mediators of faith in goodness, of faith in justice and in God’s protection, like St. Joseph.” In this way, parents provide their children the desire and the trust to build the common good. Mothers help us to overcome individualism and to care for others, while fathers give us the confidence to believe in goodness and justice.

Secondly, St. John Paul II — the pope of the family — defines the family as the root of society because it builds the civilization of love (*Letter to Families*, 13). As he explains, the civilization of love means rejoicing in the right (cf. 1 Cor 13:6). In our home we develop very close and intense bonds between persons and generations. These bonds provide us the basic joy and gratitude that will accompany us during our lives. Therefore, as a school of virtues and the place of original trust, the family teaches us to rejoice in the right and transforms our society into a civilization of love.

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Our Journey of Transformation

Excerpts from the homily given by Archbishop Stefan Soroka of Philadelphia, Metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, during the Supreme Convention, Aug. 5

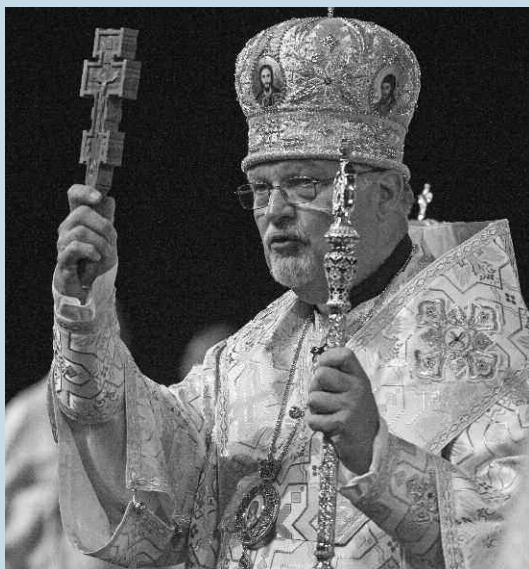
Two hundred and thirty nine years ago, our Founding Fathers pledged “their lives, fortunes and sacred honor” as they gave birth to a new nation. That inspirational document, the Declaration of Independence, to which they affixed their signatures, provides the theme for this year’s supreme convention: “Endowed by Their Creator With Life and Liberty.” I want to commend and thank all of my brother Knights for your defense of the right to life, from conception to natural death, and for your steadfast vigilance against any infringement by the government upon our right to religious freedom and liberty. ...

Behind the altar is an icon of the mother of God, the *Theotokos*. Mary’s tunic is blue, representing her humanity. Her outer garment is red, representing the mantle of divinity she acquires as the mother of God. ...

In a special way, men who choose to become Knights of Columbus — following in the footsteps of our founder, Father Michael McGivney — also experience a special transformation.

As a pastor, I was privileged to assist in the organization of a new council in my parish. I saw men who were never very active in church life join the Knights for the opportunity to work with others in parish programs for youth and children, often their own children being among them. Previously quiet, sometimes shy and

relatively unassuming men were transformed into dedicated and energetic leaders within my parish and the larger community. ...



Archbishop Stefan Soroka, who served as the main celebrant for the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, blesses the faithful.

All of us have witnessed and experienced this transformative power that being a member of the Knights of Columbus has had on our lives and the lives of others. We become transformed, in the words of Our Lord, into “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13, 14). In ancient times, salt was a valuable mineral. ... Salt serves two functions — salt preserves food and it also enhances and improves the flavor of food.

Brother Knights, as the salt of the earth, you too are valuable to the world. You preserve moral, ethical and religious values and teachings in a world challenged with evil and immorality. You also enhance and improve the quality and flavor of life for people around the world through your numerous acts of charity, just as salt enhances the quality and flavor of food. I personally know how thousands of people in Ukraine, including those wounded and psychologically

scarred by war, have had their lives enhanced by the generous humanitarian aid of the Knights of Columbus, for which we are extremely grateful.

Slava Isusu Christu! Glory be to Jesus Christ! Vivat Jesus!

ROOT FROM PAGE 1

Thirdly, Benedict XVI has explained why the family is “the primary living cell of society” (*Message for the World Day of Peace*, 1 Jan. 2008). A healthy family enables its members in decisive ways to experience peace. A child experiences justice and love between siblings, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker, readiness to accept others and to forgive. All of these are fundamental elements of peace, and they “happen” in the family.

Accordingly, Benedict XVI concludes: “The family is the first and indispensable teacher of peace.” In the family we find the first natural society. We do not live together just because we need each other or because we have signed an agreement of tolerance. The prototype of every social order is the family, an intimate communion of life and love, based on marriage between a man and a woman.

We can now better understand why family really matters. The cell of our society is not the isolated individual. Its basic unit is the family. On the other hand, the root of our nation is the family; if we lose it, we lose the “vocabulary” of peace, the “grammar” of respect and gratitude, which all children learn from the example of their parents, even before they learn from their words. Therefore, the real path toward peace and justice on earth is the protection and promotion of the life of the family. Let us work, then, at building the domestic church — the best way of building the common good of our society.

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 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. To order additional items mentioned in this newsletter, please visit knightsgear.com.

Pope Francis Comes to the United States



As Pope Francis travels throughout the United States, pray for the success of his meetings and dialogues. Pray that all those he meets may hear the words of Christ through him, and thus help our nation become a place where life is held sacred, families are respected and religious freedoms are secure.

Best Practice of the Month



A room at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel, temporarily converted into an Adoration Chapel, provides the opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection during the 133rd Supreme Convention.

An admirable practice among Knights of Columbus is that of devout adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Knights witnessed to this devotion at the 133rd Supreme Convention, where a room was set aside to be a place of peace and contemplation for worshipers seeking time with the Lord. A rotating honor guard of Fourth Degree Knights in full regalia was stationed on either side. Dozens of Sir Knights from Calvert Province, as well as an assembly from western New Jersey, volunteered for this honor guard.

George Koch, past state deputy of Pennsylvania and master of the eastern portion of Calvert Province, spoke to the Knights attending the Blessed Sacrament, saying, "You're asked to stand guard for 15 to 30 minutes, and you're standing with Christ during that time. This is a time for prayer and contemplation. Think who you are, where you've been in life and where you're going. How often do you have that opportunity? On top of that, you are Christ's protector, his soldier."

Encourage the Knights in your own council and parish to likewise volunteer to regularly spend time before the Eucharist. The presence of Knights, whether or not in full regalia, demonstrates the Order's continual efforts to place Christ at the center of all their activities. Also explain to the men in your council how having a guard of two Knights during adoration and benediction guarantees that the Blessed Sacrament will never be left unattended and provides your parishioners a concrete witness to the Knights' practical Catholicism.

If you or your council has established a similar practice that reflects Father McGivney's vision for chaplains — that of enhancing the spiritual life of Knights and their families, evangelization and outreach, or membership growth and retention — please send the information to chaplains@kofc.org.

Monthly Suggested Activities

September

- Help prepare the members of your council and parish to welcome Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia (Sep. 22-27) by leading them in a novena for the success of the meeting and the intentions of the Holy Father. You may find an appropriate prayer and more information on the event at worldmeeting2015.org.
- Encourage devotion among your brother Knights through observing special events — such as the World Day of Prayer for Peace (Sept. 11), the feast of St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Sept. 23) or the feast of the Archangels (Sept. 29).
- Bear witness to Father McGivney's active involvement in the community by offering to speak with young people in local parochial or Catholic high schools. After getting to know the students and administrators, introduce them to the officers and members of your local council. Together, they can begin organizing various Youth Activities, such as the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition, soccer challenge or essay contests.

October

- As part of the Orderwide Charitable Service Week (Oct. 3-11), celebrate a special day of prayer at your parish. Invite Knights and their families, and all who may be interested in becoming involved with the missionary and charitable work of the Order. Become involved in your council's outreach programs, offering to bless food and other items being distributed to the community.
- 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 the *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* booklet (#10162).
- Ask your brother Knights to assist you in organizing a Red Mass during the month to honor and 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.

World Meeting of Families Prayer

God and Father of us all, in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church.

May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world
be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel.

May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion
and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!





**KNIGHTS
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Aid for Christian Refugees

During the Supreme Convention, Archbishop Jean-Clément Jeanbart of Aleppo, Syria, described how Christians in the Middle East are being killed, tortured and driven from their homes.

“We have seen people killed, slaughtered, women violated, priests and bishops kidnapped, houses destroyed, churches and governments invaded,” said Archbishop Jeanbart. “But we persist with the help of those who help us, like the Knights of Columbus.”

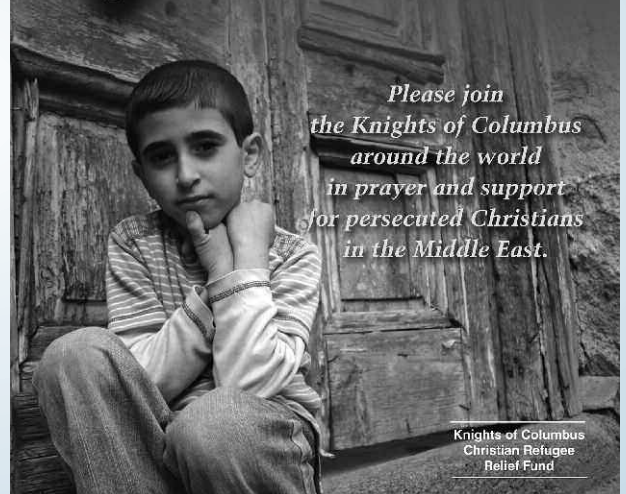
Join your brother Knights in supporting these persecuted men, women and children by ordering 5-inch olive wood crosses (\$5 each, minimum order of 10), crafted by Christians in the Holy Land. The crosses may be sold in your community, with the net proceeds of the sale given to the Christian Refugee Relief Fund.

For specific details on ordering, please send an email to supply@kofc.org. To donate directly to the relief efforts, visit christiansatrisk.org. Or, send checks or money orders payable to Knights of Columbus Charities at P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509-1966.



The **CROSS OF CHRIST**

**A symbol of Suffering
A symbol of Unity
A symbol of Hope**



*Please join
the Knights of Columbus
around the world
in prayer and support
for persecuted Christians
in the Middle East.*

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Christian Refugee
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