Knights Participate in World Youth Day 2008

Together with Sisters of Life, they promote the Gospel of “Love and Life”

A Knights of Columbus delegation including more than 30 college Knights from councils throughout North America was among the 223,000 pilgrims attending World Youth Day (WYD) 2008 in Sydney, Australia. From July 15-18, the Knights assisted the Sisters of Life in running the Love and Life catechetical site, where WYD attendees could learn about the culture of life. The Knights chosen to attend World Youth Day completed an application from the Supreme Council office that asked how they could contribute to and benefit from the Order’s presence in Sydney.

In addition to the 46 Sisters of Life, numerous speakers associated with the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family spoke on issues related to human love and the theology of the body.

“It was a wonderful collaboration of three groups who are dedicated to the protection of human life, the dignity of the human person and the sacredness of human love,” explained Mother Agnes. “What three groups could do it better?”

CELEBRATING THE UNIVERSAL FAITH

The Knights participated in WYD both as pilgrims and volunteers. As pilgrims, they began by attending a prayer service at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Sydney on Monday, July 14, led by Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, CEO of Salt and Light Catholic Television and a member of Toronto Council 1388. The service included quotes from and reflections about the life of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, one of 10 WYD patrons.

As volunteers, the Knights began by unloading boxes, hanging signs and helping assemble a stage and information booths. They also helped with security and in recording each of the lectures. The college Knights assisted as altar servers, ushers and lectors at Masses offered at St. Benedict’s Church, located on Notre Dame’s campus, and the Melkite Catholic Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel.

During the afternoon Youth Fest, concerts by popular Catholic musicians drew large crowds, and approximately 12,000 attended the Love and Life Site over three days. Amidst all the excitement, however, there was still a focus on prayer. A eucharistic adoration chapel was open until 10 p.m. each day, and the sacrament of reconciliation was available at any time. Additionally, Knights led an international rosary in five different languages. During the final evening, Supreme Chaplain Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., presided over an hour-long eucharistic healing procession.

The Knights and Sisters of Life seized every opportunity to share their faith with those around them, especially during the large public events. The Order had produced several booklets, which included personal testimonies about the culture of life, specifically for WYD. Knights and sisters handed out the booklets, along with thousands of K of C prayer cards featuring Pope Benedict XVI, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney and WYD patrons.

Knights also attended screenings of the film Bella and a new documentary titled Road of Hope: The Spiritual Journey of Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan, which was pro-
What More Can We Offer?

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to celebrate World Youth Day 2008 with a delegation of college Knights and other representatives in Sydney, Australia. It was a grace-filled time during which more than 220,000 young pilgrims from 170 nations came together to celebrate our Catholic faith.

This was the third World Youth Day I have attended, and each time I have been impressed by their uniqueness and importance. I can think of no other event that better demonstrates the youth, vibrancy and universal nature of the Catholic Church. In his homily during the closing Mass July 20, Pope Benedict XVI stated: “We have seen the Church for what she truly is: the Body of Christ, a living community of love, embracing people of every race, nation and tongue, of every time and place, in the unity born of our faith in the Risen Lord.”

In our modern world, especially in countries where we enjoy freedom of religion, it is easy to forget the great sacrifices it took to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Yet, when we reflect on the sacrifices of the missionaries of the past, we are faced with a challenge for the future.

Indeed, as Knights of Columbus, we bear a special responsibility. As Knights, we say “Vivat Jesus!” — Jesus lives! If we take seriously the fact that Jesus does in fact live, then that must make a difference for us. It means that we must live in Jesus and he must live in and through us. It begins by making a sincere commitment to the Lord, giving him our talents and gifts. We are also faced with the question, what more we can offer?

This question should be on our minds as the fraternal year unfolds, as we heed Pope Benedict’s call to “Follow me,” and as we invite others to join the Knights and help build up the Church.

Vivat Jesus!

Order Funds Vatican Group Reviewing Mass Texts

Order Funds Vatican Group Reviewing Mass Texts

Vox Clara Committee includes several Knights

A new English translation of the Roman Missal is nearing completion. The book containing the introductory documents and prayer texts for the celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Rite is being reviewed by the Vox Clara Committee of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. The Knights of Columbus has provided funding to the Vox Clara Committee for this project since 2006.

The committee, formed in 2001, is an international panel of bishops who provide advice to the Holy See about English-language liturgical books. Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the congregation, oversees the work of the committee. Among its members are chairman Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, Australia, and U.S. prelates Cardinal Justin F. Rigali of Philadelphia, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans and Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala. All of the U.S. committee members are Knights of Columbus.

In a letter thanking the Order for its financial support, Cardinal Rigali wrote, “The committee finds great encouragement in the understanding and support of the Knights of Columbus.”

Archbishop Lipscomb also congratulated the Knights of Columbus on its involvement. “As has happened so often in the past, the Knights are truly there when you need them.”

In a message to the meeting of the Vox Clara Committee in 2005, Pope Benedict XVI said the translations “will succeed in transmitting the treasures of the faith and the liturgical tradition in the specific context of a devout and reverent eucharistic celebration.”

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World Youth Day pilgrims fill the courtyard of the Love and Life Site on the campus of Notre Dame University adjacent to St. Benedict’s Church in Sydney.

-produced by Salt and Light Television and funded by the Order. On Saturday, July 19, Knights attended a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago for the 15,000 U.S. pilgrims. Cardinal George is the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and a member of St. Cabrini Council 182 in Chicago.

Everyone then gathered at the Royal Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park, which WYD organizers nicknamed the Southern Cross Precinct. Pope Benedict presided over an evening vigil, and the next morning, after the pilgrims had slept under the stars, he celebrated Mass for an estimated 400,000 people.

“It was amazing to experience the Eucharist with so many people from all over the world,” said Jeb Elliott of Council 8250 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Despite their diversity, the pilgrims were “all speaking the common language of faith,” noted Grover Green, past grand knight of Father Vincent J. Guinan Council 13940 at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

For more photos and information about the Order’s participation at WYD 2008, visit www.kofc.org.
Founder's Postulator Enthused by Pope's Actions

‘A wonderful affirmation,’ says Father O’Donnell

The cause for sainthood of Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael J. McGivney was buoyed by Pope Benedict XVI’s April visit to the United States and his mention of the 19th-century parish priest, according to Cardinal Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, who is the postulator of Father McGivney’s cause.

The pope’s apostolic journey was “a great grace for the Church in North America,” Father O’Donnell wrote in the May-June issue of the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter.

Pope Benedict’s reference to Father McGivney came during the Holy Father’s homily at an April 19 Mass for priests, seminarians and religious at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. The pope called Father McGivney an “exemplary American priest” and noted the “remarkable accomplishment” of the founding of the Knights.

“What a wonderful affirmation of the progress being made in recognizing the importance of Venerable Father McGivney as a role model for Catholic men, especially priests and seminarians,” Father O’Donnell said.

“The Holy Father’s reference to Venerable Father McGivney was most fitting in discussing the need for unity within the Church. In doing so, the pope touched on a theme dear to Father McGivney’s heart: unity in faith, unity in charity. In fact, the founding principle on which he organized the Knights of Columbus was precisely that: unity in the faith that would lead to charity among fellow Knights.”

Pope Benedict’s mention of the Knights’ founder came less than a month after he approved a “decree of heroic virtue” on March 15 and granted Father McGivney the title “Venerable Servant of God.” Both actions are seen as significant advances in the cause for canonization, which has been under way for more than 10 years. If canonized, Father McGivney would be the first American-born priest to be so honored.

Since Father McGivney’s cause was opened, the Father Michael J. McGivney Guild has provided information and resources to promote private devotion, including a newsletter. There are currently more than 100,000 Guild members.

“Pope Benedict’s words are significant for every member of the Father McGivney Guild,” Father O’Donnell said. “They express Venerable Father McGivney’s vision and the mission he left to those of us who look to him for spiritual support and guidance.”

For more information about the Father McGivney Guild, visit www.fathermcgivney.org or call the Guild at 203-752-4087.

Supreme Knight’s Book Club Titles for August, September

Pope John Paul II’s papacy was marked by many firsts, and in 1994 he became the first pope to pen a bestselling book with the publication of Crossing the Threshold of Hope (Knopf), an interview with the Italian journalist Vittorio Messori. Their conversation covered a variety of topics, including man’s dignity; pain, suffering and evil; the meaning of salvation and Christian hope; the role of women and the laity in the Church, and more.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson will begin taking reader questions about Crossing the Threshold of Hope on the Order’s Web site, www.kofc.org, Aug. 28 beginning at 5 p.m. (ET).

On Sept. 26, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver will join the supreme knight to discuss his new book, Render Unto Caesar: Serving the Nation by Living Our Catholic Beliefs in Political Life (Doubleday). Archbishop Chaput is an impassioned and forceful spokesman on many of today’s most challenging issues from abortion to immigration. In Render Unto Caesar he offers compelling arguments for why Catholics should become more engaged in political life than they currently are. This session of the Supreme Knight’s Book Club will also begin at 5 p.m. (ET).

ORDER’S BIRTHPLACE NAMED A PILGRIMAGE SITE FOR YEAR OF ST. PAUL

St. Mary’s Church in New Haven has been named a pilgrimage site where Catholics can receive the jubilee indulgence for the Year of St. Paul. Pope Benedict XVI declared the jubilee year in honor of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of St. Paul. The year runs through June 29, 2009. Catholics who visit St. Mary’s, carry out an act of devotion in honor of St. Paul and fulfill the usual conditions required for obtaining an indulgence will be eligible to gain a plenary indulgence once a day for themselves or for a soul in purgatory. The conditions for obtaining an indulgence are: reception of confession within 20 days prior to or following the devotional act; reception of holy Communion; prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions and a sincere effort to eliminate all attachment to sin.

St. Mary’s is where Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 and where he is interred.
How is your life going? Are you happy with your daily activity — the work you do? According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average American spends more than a third of his waking hours each year at work. Most of our days are spent in pursuit of our jobs or careers.

If you’re happy with what you’re doing during those working hours — really happy — you can stop reading now, and accept my congratulations for making a good career choice. But if you have a small twinge of discontent, or a grating feeling in the pit of your stomach that says “Is this all there is?” then read on. And if you know a brother Knight who might be feeling that twinge, please pass this article along.

You have nothing to lose by talking to us about a career with the Knights of Columbus. We have openings all across the United States and Canada for field agents — life insurance salesmen — and it just might be the career you’re looking for: One that lets you do well for yourself while also doing good for others; where the amount of work you do allows you to earn without limit; where you can give your job the time it needs and deserves, and still not miss your child’s next soccer game or school play; where you make a difference in the lives of those you meet; where, when you lay your head on the pillow at night, you can be comforted by the fact that the world is a better place because of the work you do.

The job is not for everyone. Sometimes those who talk to us decide that they would be better served elsewhere, and sometimes we make that decision. Either way, you haven’t lost anything by finding out if maybe there might be a better way to spend your working life.

So what do you think? If that feeling is there — “Is this all there is?” — drop me an e-mail and I’ll get someone in touch. Just a conversation. Nothing to lose.

I’m at thomas.smith@kofc.org and I’d love to help you.

Get in touch if you’re interested in a career as a K of C Field Agent.