



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

Volume II | Issue I | Louisiana State Knights of Columbus Chaplain's Newsletter

The Fraternal Cornerstone

Why did the Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney establish the Knights of Columbus in the first place? In large part, it was to provide for widows and children left behind after the premature death of the family's primary breadwinner. The Insurance Program of our Fraternal Order continues to do this, but this spirit of Fraternity is perhaps best manifest in the good work of Knights and Councils like YOURS who give millions of volunteer hours annually, tangibly illustrating mercy shown in fraternity!

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(Feel Free to Read this at Your Council Meetings in the Absence of Your Chaplain!)

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(Read this Gospel for Your Opening or Closing Prayer which is the Basis of the State Chaplain's Message)

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Chaplain's Spiritual Message

Dear Brother Knights:

Perhaps the day I hate more than any is Black Friday. I remember one year I wanted a new piece of electronic equipment. As I was looking through the paper on Thanksgiving that year, I noticed that Best Buy had it for sale. I knew that the item would be popular and that it would fly off the shelves, and that I would have to get up at the crack of dawn to be in line to get the item since the store opened at 4:00AM. But I had a secret – I knew a parishioner who worked at Best Buy. I figured that instead of waiting in line, I would show up around 3:55AM, call him up, and he would let me into the store before everyone else. Of course, when I arrived at Best Buy there was a line from here to Rome! I picked up my cell phone, called and texted him, and asked him to let me through the side door. But he didn't answer. I waited in line. When I got to the door, I was told that my item was now sold out. I caught sight of my parishioner out of the corner of my eye and flagged him over. I asked him "Can't you just squeeze me in here so I can get my item?" But he sadly shook his head and walked away.

Can I tell you that wasn't the news I wanted to hear! I wanted to get my item as cheap as possible without any inconvenience. So too does the Gospel often give news we don't want to hear. The question is asked, "Jesus, how many people will be saved?" Jesus answers the question by giving a very vivid description to what will happen on Judgment Day: "Many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to." Not everyone will be saved! I'm sure that if you ask 100 people, 95% of them will say that they are going to heaven, but the Lord says that there will be banging and crying at the door, and it will not be opened.

The pathway to salvation is like a narrow gate notes Jesus: everyone must go through the gate one at a time. You're not going to get through simply because you have a baptismal certificate or because you are Catholic. You're not going to get through simply because you're a priest or a deacon, or because you're pious and holy. You're not going to get through simply because you come to Church on Sunday. Salvation requires more than who we are or where we're from.

We know that our God is a God of justice and mercy: which will prevail at our judgment remains to be seen. Salvation requires our faith in God, our firmness of purpose and sharpness of vision, appropriate actions, and constant vigilance. We are required to be more than simply Catholics on paper. What are some ways that we can go about waiting the day of our salvation? Our world affords us numerous opportunities to go out and do works of mercy for those in need. Our Church community offers copious spiritual exercises to keep our purpose and vision sharp. Perhaps the easiest way to prepare for our last day is to live each day as if it is our last: to constantly be prepared for whenever the Lord is ready to take us. In other words, live the fraternal mission of our organization, showing mercy through our fraternal good works!

Salvation requires action and that really is no laughing matter.

~Fr. Jamin David

“Salvation requires more than who we are or where we’re from.”



Gospel for Reflection: Luke 13:22-30

Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’ “But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed, there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Knights’ Connection

Do unto others what you would have them do unto you! Sounds familiar? Jesus said it surely, but it also one of the principles that animates our order. Knights help each other! Knights also help the poor, underprivileged and forgotten in our communities. What have you done to show your support to a brother Knight? How have you and your Council reached out to the “widows” in your community? Have you strived to enter through the narrow gate? And are you practicing the virtue of fraternity for privilege, for status, or simply to help assure your salvation?

The Gospel of the Lord

In his message entitled “Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace,” Pope Francis reflected on the importance of seeing others as brothers and sisters in humanity. “Fraternity is an essential human quality, for we are relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and to treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace.”

The Holy Father seems to be reminding us that Fraternity is a learned virtue; as Brother Knights, we can teach others in the school of fraternity. As a Knight, do you embrace your vocation and call to “school” others about fraternity through your actions?



READ the Scripture Reading on page three of this newsletter.



SHARE the reflection of the State Chaplain with your Council in the absence of your Chaplain!



REFLECT on how you might put this spiritual message into practice in your Council.