



# MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

## *The Fraternal Cornerstone*

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With everyone finally returning to Mass as dispensations are being lifted, the Knights of Columbus play a crucial role in helping the faithful return to Mass. Knights are faithful members of the Church, and they know the importance of the Eucharist to feed and sustain us on our spiritual journey. Opening back up for many parishes is likely much more difficult than shutting down. How will your Council help your Church Parish to reopen? How will you let others know the importance of the Sacraments to our Fraternal Order?

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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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**Knight's Connection**

## Chaplain's Spiritual Message

Dear Brother Knights:

People make extraordinary claims everyday of their lives. Did I ever tell you how I got in the most trouble with Sister Agnes while I was in grade school? She was a mean old cuss; her means of discipline involved pulling your ear when you were out of line. Every day, we were assigned to bring snacks to school. One day, one of my classmates brought in a heaping basket of apples from a trip they had taken to Washington state. Sister put a note on the basket that said, "Take one." Well, not all that many apples disappeared, and I liked them, so I took one for lunch and two more for each of my jacket pockets for later. When I went back in the classroom, I saw Sister had changed the sign. It read "Take ONLY ONE. God is watching." Talk about felt embarrassed! The next day, it was my turn. I had mom bake cookies. I walked in the classroom and put them right next to the basket of apples that was still there, and I wrote a note on it. It said, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

**“May we accept the  
ordinary parts of  
our faith,  
as preposterous as  
they might seem,  
as simple foretastes  
of the glory that  
awaits us!”**

Yes, these preposterous, extraordinary claims are all around us. In a world that is increasingly conscious of health concerns, there are all you can eat buffets at every corner. There are kids that take cookies from the cookie jar who claim they are innocent, but we have the evidence in the form of crumbs all over the place. We who hear these stories have two choices: we can believe the words or dismiss them as mere folly. These claims are something that hit home because our faith is the same way: our faith is one that often makes ridiculous claims.

Think about the extraordinary claim that Jesus makes with his disciples. At the last supper, he departed from the well-known ritual. He told them, "This bread is my body; this cup is my blood; eat and drink these in memory of me!" He must have known that such a claim would be an invitation to court death, a claim that took great courage on his part. Those who heard his words had those same two alternatives.

Is our faith life filled with equally extraordinary claims? We might claim that we are truly transformed as Catholics because we eat His body and drink his blood every weekend, and we can accept this claim as true or dismiss it as false. We might be tempted to rationalize the truth of it all because it seems so preposterous. How can participating in mass change me so radically? Look at me, I have not really changed that much by coming to Mass. I mean, it still looks like bread and tastes like wine. It cannot be more than a symbol, can it? Catholic faith is one that claims extraordinary things: refreshing waters cleanse sins; words and contrition absolve our misgivings; oils provide healing balm; bread and wine become body and blood; we change and are redeemed by this Holy Sacrament. Can all that be true? It all sounds so radical! Yet, that is what our faith is built on! May we accept the ordinary parts of our faith, as preposterous as they might seem, as simple foretastes of the glory that awaits us!

~Fr. Jamin



### ***Knights' Connection***

The Supreme Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus monthly picks a passage of Scripture and asks invites Knights to embrace a challenge for the month. Can the State Chaplain do the same for the Knights of Louisiana?

With our return to Mass, Catholics have varying degrees of understanding regarding the reality and significance of the Eucharist. Of course, we believe that bread and wine truly and substantially become Christ's Body and Blood to share. More Catholics simply must believe this tenant of faith!

This month, I challenge you to have one conversation with a male Catholic friend or family member who has not been to Church in a while. Tell them why the Eucharist is important to you and tell them why the Knights of Columbus help you live out your faith!



**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.

### ***Gospel for Reflection: Mark 14:22-26***

While they were eating,  
he took bread, said the blessing,  
broke it, gave it to them, and said,  
"Take it; this is my body."  
Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to  
them,  
and they all drank from it.  
He said to them,  
"This is my blood of the covenant,  
which will be shed for many.  
Amen, I say to you,  
I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine  
until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of  
God."  
Then, after singing a hymn,  
they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

In his homily on Corpus Christi 2020, Pope Francis reminded all the faithful that the Eucharist not only gives us a chance to focus on the Real Presence but also to satisfy the deepest desires of our heart. He noted "It raises us from our comfortable and lazy lifestyle and reminds us that we are not only mouths to be fed, but also his hands, to be used to help feed others." The Knights of Columbus have always embodied this spirit. How are you sustaining your Knights with the truth of the Bread of Life? How are your serving as Christ's hands to those who are most in need? Or have we become complacent and lazy? There is much work to do out there as Catholic Knights!