



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

The Fraternal Cornerstone

None of us is as good as all of us. Members of the Knights of Columbus all know that **TOGETHER** we can accomplish more than any of us could individually. **UNITY** is thus the cornerstone of the fraternal order. Knights are men who stick together and work together for the common good. Knights don't always agree, and opinions often differ. But as a member of the Knights of Columbus, we rest assured that someone "has our back" and we can count on a fraternal organization to make life better for us, for community, and for country!

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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:

I don't know about you, but I get a little anxious at this time of the year when Jesus starts talking about wars, fake messiahs, insurrections and the destruction of the temple, or how our relatives are going to betray us to authorities. There must be a context here about these "end times" somewhere between fundamentalism and dismissal of the scriptural text. St. Paul might hold the key. Paul established the Church at Thessaloniki as his first only about 20 years after the death of Jesus. Folks there were particularly concerned about Christ's second coming. In his first letter to them, Paul explains that their friends and relatives who have died will still be part of the resurrection when the Lord comes again. There is no need for them to worry but instead they should their work to set a good example.

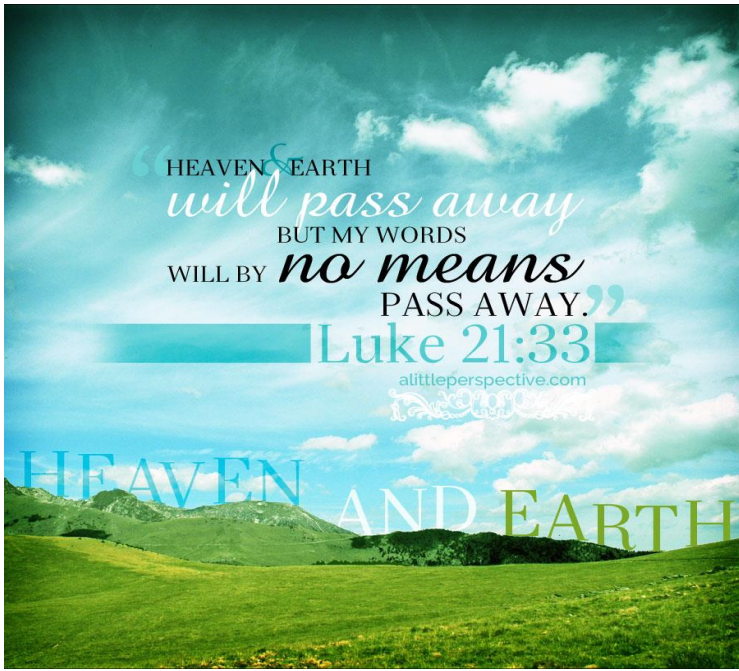
**“Let's not wait for
Jesus to come to
make things better.
Let's work together
to make things
better in His name!”**

But it seems as if some of these Thessalonians decided that since Jesus would come back any day, and since they were already all saved, they would sit back and have a beer, watch a little football, and let others take care of things. And since Paul already told them by letter that Jesus would come back like a thief in the night, some were compulsively examining every clue to see if Jesus really was coming back soon. Could this or that be a sign? So he writes them a second letter telling them that the second coming will not come subtly, and they won't miss it. At the same time, he calls down the slackers. We are all to work to build up the community while waiting for Jesus' return. He's basically saying, do your work; don't be a busybody; don't sit around like a slug. Build up the community and don't say you can't because you're too "busy" waiting for Jesus to save you personally.

What we see in the Scriptures, I think, is a microcosm of the Church today. We have the whole gamut. There are those who take the words of Scripture literally and they look for the end of the world around every corner. There are those who are so worried about their personal salvation, they fail to realize their place in the salvation of others in the community. And there are slugs who simply lounge around awaiting the Parousia. There must be a healthy balance between them all.

We live in a world where people are hungry, suffering from hunger of every single kind. Let's not sit back and wait for Jesus to come and make things better. Let's work together to make things better in his name. And if we need help, the Scripture reminds us. "Turn back; the end is near!"

~Fr. Jamin David



Knights' Connection

As an officer or a general member of the Knights, how do you promote Unity within your Council and within your Church community? Do you spend time engaging in ill conversations about the pastor or about your brother Knights? What are some ways that you personally and your Council can grow together in Unity?



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: Luke 21: 5-10

Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.” “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord

At a General Audience in early 2019, Pope Francis noted that the annual “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity” reminds us to “pray so that all Christians may once again be a single family, according to God’s will so that they may all be one. He pointed out that “ecumenism is not something optional” but it aims “to develop a common and consistent witness that promotes true justice and support for the weakest through responses that are concrete, appropriate, and effective.”

The Holy Father seems to be reminding us all that Christians should remember Jesus’ prayer for His disciples that they may be one so that the world may believe (John 17:21). As a Knight, how do you live out the virtue of Unity in the Order?