



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

The Fraternal Cornerstone

This is the season of giving, isn't it? Did you know that as a Knight, one hundred percent of your donation goes directly to support the Knights of Columbus charitable cause of your choice. Fees and administrative costs associated with Knights' charities are covered by the fraternal order. Whatever your contribution – from warm coats, to advocating a culture of life, to protecting minorities in persecuted lands – every penny you donate goes directly to the charity that you choose. Charity – it's a mark of the fraternal order that we can surely continue to exercise!

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

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Chaplain's Spiritual Message

Dear Brother Knights:

John was the most famous preacher of his generation. People walked for miles to hear this man and to watch his theatrics. He was a sight to see too. But it was his message that got them. Even people who considered themselves devout before meeting John suddenly found themselves dunked in muddy waters to emerge spiritually clean.

But John didn't get through to everyone. He was especially fierce with the religious leaders calling them snakes. He looks at them squarely and tells them "Don't get your Members Only temple gold card out on me. Don't tell me you're saved because you're a child of Abraham. If I were you, I'd get serious because somebody pretty big is coming soon!"

“A general call to follow the Jesus of love is a lot easier than John's shrill call to change.”

We get a taste of John the Baptist in Advent to remind us to ponder all the paradoxes of the season that ultimately shake us up if we take the time to note them. For many, though, Christmas is a pretty straightforward holiday. It's a steady stream of "Fa, la la la la, la la la la," consumerism, and over-gorging. It might make us a little sick, but we go along with it.

It's as if John is telling us right now – "REPENT! Change the way you celebrate Christmas! Stop all this present buying stuff, you brood of vipers. Stop allowing the secular conception of the holiday to suffocate your reflection on Christ's coming. REPENT! Stop paying so much attention to the spruce tree in the living room but water the tree of faith that is supposed to produce much fruit! REPENT! Stop being more interested in the still golden

angel atop the tree and pay more attention to the living angels who are God's messengers to us."

No one wants John the Baptist at their holiday party. He's messy, and he's loud. John is the kind of guest that forces you to wonder what in the world is wrong with him, or better what in the world is wrong with you. We'd rather not pay attention to any of them, but John's voice is one we need to hear! A general call to follow the Jesus of love is a lot easier than John's shrill call to change

Are you willing to listen to this lone voice in the wilderness calling you to shake things up despite the beauty, glitz and glamour that always come with our celebration of Christmas?

~Fr. Jamin David

Gospel for Reflection: Matthew 3:1-8

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: *A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.* John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance."

The Gospel of the Lord



Knight's Connection

Whether at home or abroad, charity is the Order's first principle and the basis for all that we do as Brother Knights. During this time of celebration and plenty, how are you and your Church community going to practice charity? Will you plan some food or coat drive? What are some ways that you personally and your Council collectively can show your love of neighbor and charitable living?



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.

When addressing a church charity group in Rome in May 2019, Pope Francis told them to remember that real charity is about encountering Christ in the poor and needy, not merely handing out aid to soothe someone's conscience. He said, "If we look at charity as service, the Church would become a humanitarian agency. But the church is nothing of all of this; it is something different and much greater. It is, in Christ, the sign and instrument of God's love for humanity and for all of our creation, our common home."

The Holy Father seems to be reminding us all that there is the poor right in our very communities; they are Christ living among us. As a Knight, how do you live out the virtue of Charity in the Order?