



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

The Fraternal Cornerstone

If all we think about is this pandemic, will we ever be able to focus on the robust new life all around us? As Knights of Columbus, despite this continuing pandemic, it is our duty to lead our families, protect our parishes, and to serve our communities. COVID-19 provides us all a unique opportunity to deepen our commitment to the principles that truly define the Order – namely, unity, fraternity, and charity. For over a year now, we have been “dealing” with a new way of living. Despite the many obstacles, how have YOU contributed to spreading the Order’s mission?

Inside This Issue

PG. 2

State Chaplain’s Spiritual Message
(Feel Free to Read this at Your Council Meetings in the Absence of Your Chaplain!)

PG. 3

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

PG. 3

Knight’s Connection

Chaplain's Spiritual Message

Dear Brother Knights:

A mother hand a fidget little boy with her at Mass. He was all over the place. During the homily, she leaned over and whispered something in his ear; let me tell you, he stopped in his tracks and was as good as gold at Mass. Afterward, the priest asked her what she said. She told him, "If you don't behave, father will lose his place and he will have to start the sermon all over again."

Jesus gives us a command to "love one another as I have loved you." Can we recognize that the love that Jesus is calling us to is not an easy love, but rather one that challenges us to empty ourselves and to put others before our desires and dreams?

“Can we recognize that the love that Jesus is calling us to is not an easy love, but rather one that challenges us to empty ourselves?”

What does “self-emptying” love look like? How exactly did Jesus love? Simply put, he embraced all people that he met – those who accepted him, and even those who did not. It was this type of love that kept the woman caught in sin from being stoned. It was this love that forgave his persecutors as they mocked him from the base of the cross. It was this self-emptying love that appointed Peter as head apostle even after three times denying his Savior.

It's this type of love that Jesus calls us to – one that is unselfish, one that forgives, one that is merciful. There are religious, ethnic, and political differences that separate us and alienate us from our brothers and sisters. There might be times when you think there should be limits to your love. But remember that God gives us something today – not a suggestion but a commandment! Love the way as I love.

Mother's Day is this month, and it always provides an example of what this type of love looks and feels like. I read recently that a middle-income family can expect to spend \$350,000 to raise a child born in 2010 to adulthood. That covers food, shelter, and other necessities, but doesn't include childbirth and college. Parents always show what love is by sacrificing so that we might have life.

Do you love someone in your life the exact same way? Would you be willing to go that far for someone? Let us ask God for the courage to live out that command every day by fulfilling our Fraternal Order's mission!

~Fr. Jamin



Gospel for Reflection: John 15: 9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

Knights’ Connection

Knights of Columbus Order wide are encouraged to serve and sacrifice for those around us. Many, including in our own councils and parishes, are isolated and alone in quarantine. Food banks, blood centers, and other essential services have been depleted of their vital supplies. There are many people and places that require urgent help. The Knights of Columbus will be on the forefront of helping their communities recover from this pandemic.

The **Leave No Neighbor Behind** program has been temporarily added as the ninth community category option in the Faith in Action model. Leave No Neighbor Behind will count as a Featured program for the 2020 - 2021 Fraternal year Columbian Award. It’s another way we can love one another tangibly!

In a morning homily on Thursday, May 5, 2015, Pope Francis reflected that “True love cannot be isolated because if it is isolated, it isn’t love.” Rather, it becomes “a spiritualistic form of selfishness, remaining closed within itself, seeking its own benefit.” Rather, the Pope explained that to “abide in Jesus’ love means to do, not just to say; to abide in Jesus’ love means having the capacity to communicate, to dialogue, both with the Lord and with our brothers and sisters.” To love in this way is simple, but it is not easy since because of our selfishness, our own interests draw us away from true love. Do we abide in the true love of Christ? Is our charity evident in joy that we experience?



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.