



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

The Fraternal Cornerstone

The Eucharist deepens our unity with the Church. Unity is one of the marks of our Fraternal Order! Our work helps us to solidify relationships with the vulnerable, unifying us with those in need. To be a Knight of Unity means that we must embrace our Sacrament of Unity. When we prepare to receive him, when we profess our faith in the Real Presence, and when we praise Him, we demonstrate the cornerstone of unity that is part of what makes us truly united Knights of Columbus! Are you willing to share that message of unity in your Council?

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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:

There are hard times all around us, and sometimes we simply want to shrug our shoulders and give up. I wonder if such an attitude is born from a *theological* attitude that we embrace – we forget that with God's help we can do anything. Maybe the wisdom of the Gospel found in John's account is a simple one – never fear the hard times since they help us grow strong.

Prophets are people who must experience the message before delivering it, and this is quite true of Elijah. God tells him to go to Mount Horeb. Do you know where that's at? It's in the middle of the hottest and most brutal desert of the planet! Surely, it's been hot here, but there it is sometimes 130 degrees with a heat index around 150! The Scriptures say it takes Elijah forty days to get there. Let's do the math. It takes one day to walk about 25 miles in the ancient world. Multiply that by forty and that's around 1000 miles. That would be like walking from Boston to St. Louis without any mini-marts, Holiday Inns, or Wal-Marts along the way.

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hard times since
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strong.”**

The experience raises a good question – why is God so difficult? Why meet on top of a mountain in the middle of the desert? Couldn't he just meet us at the rectory in the air conditioning? It would be so much more convenient! The reason is simple – Elijah is going to deliver a message of a seven-year drought to Israel and he's supposed to tell them not to worry because God's got their back in the difficult times so long as they do what he commands. They're going to surely ask “How do you know that? How do you know they won't die?” It's easy. Elijah would now be able to say, “Been there, done that, got the T-Shirt. I know from experience!”

The mistake of the crowd in John's Gospel is easy. They say to the Lord, “You can't do it that way! We can't eat your body and drink your blood. It doesn't make sense. It's impossible.” I think they forget one simple truth about God. He can do anything. What's their problem? Believing in the Eucharist is tough. They are already fearing hard times!

That's Good News for us today when we're constantly told we need to be richer, thinner, bigger, and bad-der than ever. There are hard times for us that constantly make us afraid. But do we believe that we constantly have our Lord here with us? Or are we always fearing the hard times?

My favorite card game to play is poker. If you're like me, every time you get dealt a hand, the first thing you think is “Geeze, how come I always get the lousy cards?” The amazing thing about poker, though, is that if you put on the right poker face, you can still win with a bad hand. You can trade and bluff. It's not really about the cards at all. It's about how you play your hand.

God loves to do the impossible with you. He wants you to do amazing things. It's not about the cards you are handed in life. It's about how you play your hand. Never fear the hard times! ~Fr. Jamin



Gospel for Reflection: John 6:43-51

Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God.* Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Knights' Connection

As brother Knights, may we never forget that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of our Savior, given to us for our salvation! May we never forget its true nature or our desire to receive the Eucharist.

To be faithful witnesses to the mystery that we receive every single Sunday, we should focus on our worthiness. While none of us are really “worthy” to receive Him, do we examine our conscience before walking up for communion? Do we make use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation when appropriate?

This month, I challenge you to spend some time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, asking our Lord to inspire you and your Council to find some creative ways to help others in our community of faith know the importance of frequent but worthy reception of the Eucharist! Maybe this will be an opportunity to participate in a “Faith in Action” program?

At his Sunday Angelus nearest Corpus Christi in 2021, Pope Francis said that “In the Eucharist fragility is strength: the strength of the love that becomes so small so as to be welcomed and not feared; the strength of the love that is broken and shared so as to nourish and give life; the strength of the love that is split apart so as to join us in unity.” Since the Eucharist joins us to Jesus, it inevitably heals us. It draws us closer into his way of living and to respond to brokenness with wholeness, to respond to evil with good. Can we go outside of ourselves following Christ’s example of sacrifice, to love others and to help them in their brokenness to again become whole?



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.