

MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

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

The Fraternal Cornerstone

Prophets are not always welcome in their native place. Jesus knew much about this from his first sermon in his home synagogue. The call to “knighthood” is a difficult one, fraught with challenges as we attempt to be counter-cultural and spread the truth of the Gospel message. Knights of Columbus should be prepared to be rejected as they preach the message that God values all human life, as they live out fraternity, and as they practice charity. Sometimes, Knights too need to be challenged! Are you willing to speak to your Councils honestly about the challenges we all face?

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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:

While he was in high school, a friend of mine was kicked out of the neighborhood drug store. Apparently when he was younger, he got into all kinds of mischief with the owner of the institution. He stole an ice cream cone once; on another occasion, he upset the owner's dog, causing him to wreak havoc during one of the busiest times of the year. The drug store owner had it and he kicked the young lad out, telling him never to return. Twelve years later, the one-time boy was visiting his hometown, and don't you know, he had been ordained a priest. His mom sent him over to fetch something at the same drug store. As he walked in, full Roman collar and all, the owner peered over the counter and said, "I thought I told you to get out!"

Prophets are still rejected today even in our midst. Sometimes we might be the ones who reject the prophets – we are closed to the insights of others, insights that can open our lives to new and exciting possibilities. Sometimes we might feel like the rejected prophet – our abilities and gifts seem overlooked.

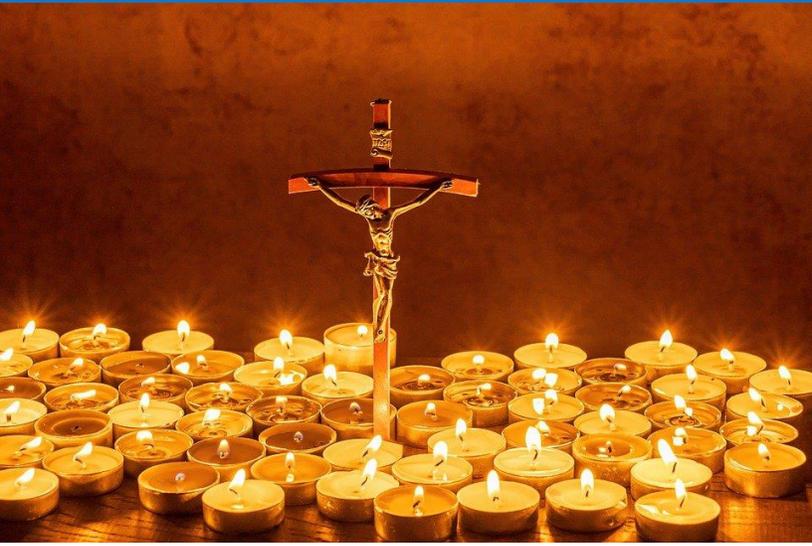
“God may have a prophet sitting right next to you in Church, or on your living room couch, or even at the next restaurant you visit.”

Jesus begins preaching on the Sabbath in his hometown synagogue. Mark's gospel does not tell us what he was preaching about; but Luke's Gospel does. Jesus was telling them that the prophecy he was reading was being fulfilled in their midst. There was no celebration that day, though. Everyone only has negative things to say. Don't we know this family? Isn't he just a carpenter? The people of Jesus' hometown rebel against the idea that someone so familiar to them could possibly fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. And as a result, Jesus does not work as many miracles there and his community misses out on some potentially great prophecy.

Sometimes that happens to us in our relationship with Jesus too. We become complacent! We convince ourselves that we know everything that we need to know about Christ and the faith, and in the end, that becomes an obstacle for allowing the Spirit to permeate our minds and hearts to hear the message of salvation Jesus is so willing to give!

The same thing happens to us still today. Prophets are all around us, but we often reject them. Just like the people of Israel, we should be committed to the covenant, and even when a prophet is sent in our midst, we sometimes reject him. Or we might be like St. Paul – we realize that to be prophets we must abandon that which gets in our way. Or we might simply be like the people of Jesus hometown – when a prophecy is being fulfilled in our midst, we might be tempted banish the prophet.

God may have a prophet sitting right next to you in Church, or on your living room couch, or even at the next restaurant you visit. How are you going to react to his message? Today might be your day for conversion if only you listen to his message disguised in many forms. Keep those eyes open; you never want to miss those prophets that are around us! ~Fr. Jamin



Gospel for Reflection: Mark 6:1-6

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Knights’ Connection

No one of us is perfect, and neither are any of our Councils! The Knights of Columbus are filled with sinners who seek conversion every day. But our faithful brethren too are called to be prophetic voices in our world.

It’s no secret that our Order needs new members, and often times, a simple invitation is all it takes for a man to consider joining our fraternal order. Personal invitation is what works best. And if these men see YOUR faith in action, imagine the fruit that this witness will bear.

This month, I challenge you to have one conversation with someone you know who is not a member of the Knights of Columbus. Invite them to be a part of our fraternal order and tell them what the Knights have done to help you on your journey of 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.

In a weekday homily in 2018, Pope Francis said that a true prophet is capable of weeping for his people who do not need him. “When the prophet speaks the truth and touches the heart, or the heart opens or becomes stone, anger and persecutions are unleashed. That’s how life ends for the prophet.” He mentioned that the Church needs prophets and not critics pray, look to God, look at his people and when the people err, he weeps. Strong words from the Vicar of Christ! How are you being called to this service of prophecy? Do you live out the prophetic call of our Fraternal Organization to be a people called to speak the truth in an ever changing and hostile society?