



# CHAPLAIN'S *report*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS *In service to One. In service to all.*

LEARNING THE FAITH, LIVING THE FAITH ♦ 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326, USA

## Living Lent — A Message From Pope Francis



*A man carries a cross during a Way of the Cross procession through the streets of Washington on Good Friday, April 14, 2017. CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, Catholic Standard.*

“As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a ‘formation of the heart’ (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

During this Lent, then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: ‘*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*’ (Make our hearts like yours).”

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

## A Creative Key to Evangelical Outreach

**Father Jonathan D. Kalisch, OP**

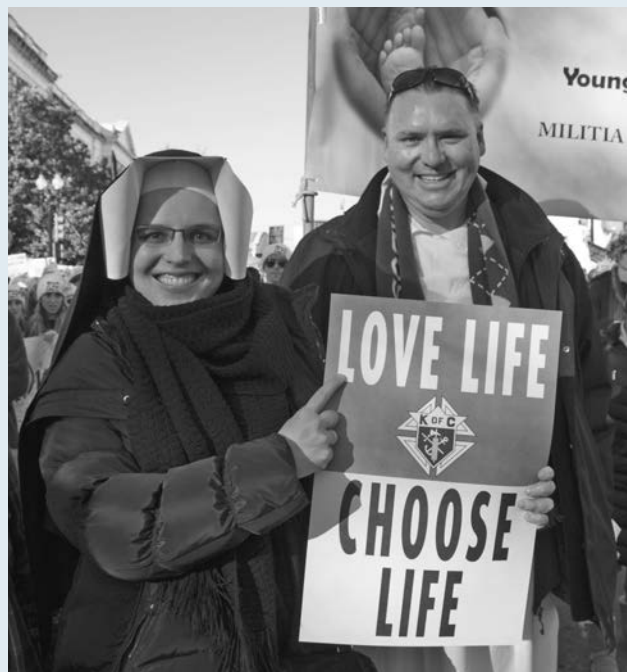
Director of Chaplains and Spiritual Development

As we enter the holy season of Lent and prepare for Easter, let us encourage our brother Knights of Columbus to respond with the appropriate “missionary outreach [which] is *paradigmatic for all the Church's activity*” as Pope Francis says in *Evangelii Gaudium* (15). Many of our K of C councils already plan events such as Lenten fish fries, simple meatless meals and the anticipated coffee and donuts after Mass — these events provide an opportunity for hospitable encounters for evangelization as they allow families to congregate and support the building up of the domestic church.

In addition to these events, which provide parishioners regular opportunities to begin engaging in parish life, it is incumbent on pastors and chaplains to equip and encourage our brother Knights to do more. Invite them to reach out to returning Catholics and seekers who are in the initial stages of faith development. The Holy Father speaks of “*the baptized whose lives do not reflect the demands of baptism, who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church and no longer experience the consolation born of faith.*” Your local council — by inviting others to join in the charity that evangelizes and by offering the personal witness of committed prayerful men — can become the vehicle which “tries to help them experience a conversion which will restore the joy of faith to their hearts and inspire a commitment to the Gospel” (15).

Lent attractively offers all believers an annual time to recommit to ardent works of charity that evangelize and to return to the practice of the sacraments. Seek out the committed men in your local Knights of Columbus council and invite them to engage anew in the pastoral mission of outreach to those whose faith is being stirred into flame. Recalling Pope Francis’ challenge in *Evangelii Gaudium*, let us think again about ways your local brother Knights can creatively be agents of evangelization. “Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way.’ I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities” (33).

*Vivat Jesus!*



*Father Jonathan Kalisch and Sister Gaudia Skass of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy display a Knights of Columbus sign at the 45th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The sign was one of more than 20,000 K of C signs scattered throughout crowd, which was made up of tens of thousands of attendees from various political parties, creeds, ethnicities, ages and backgrounds demonstrating their commitment to the defense of all human life.*

*Photo by Alton Pelowski.*

# Accountability and Perfection — By Way of the Cross

*Help men embrace the challenge to live as Knights, as true Catholics, as brothers in the faith.*



*James Thurman (front right), then a member of St. Joseph Council 1748 in Salem, Ore., joins fellow Knights for a monthly Holy Hour, Feb. 1, 2017.*

*Photo by Corky Miller.*

It's come to our attention that many men in parishes and councils have an intense desire to engage in the faith but don't know where to begin. They pick up various practices, only to quit when the road becomes too rough. They find it hard, or even undesirable, to engage in spiritual challenges that make them stand apart from the world. Others have very little information to rely on; they have little, if any, familiarity with regular devotions and disciplines that Catholic men have engaged in for centuries. More and more, they no longer feel comfortable in the Church.

As a chaplain, you are in the perfect position to encourage these men, to help them discover what it is like to truly live the Catholic faith. Of course, trying to balance such a task in addition to your pastoral or diocesan assignment is daunting. Thankfully, you're not alone in having to face this challenge. Below is a list of resources that can help you and the men of your council hold one another accountable and embrace the challenge to live as Knights and true Catholics, thereby learning what it means to be brothers in the faith.

**2232 MEN** — Begun by Father Larry Richards, 2232 MEN brings men to Christ so they can be leaders of the faith in all they do. Check out its website for 30-minute "Strengthening Summit" videos, which make the perfect tool for a men's Bible study or group. [2232men.com](http://2232men.com)

**Battle Ready** — Created by Doug Barry of EWTN's *Life on the Rock* fame, it serves to "strengthen the fighting spirit in all Christians, especially in men." Sign up and get regular emails, videos and various other support materials that help men engage in and understand spiritual warfare. [battlereadystrong.com](http://battlereadystrong.com)

**Exodus 90** — Prayer. Fraternity. Asceticism. These words make up the base of this three-month program, offered by Those Catholic Men. The goal: Work with a band of brothers as you together live the Exodus regimen for 90 days. Afterward, you'll experience true freedom. [exodus90.com](http://exodus90.com)

**The Fathers of St. Joseph** — This confraternity is designed to help men strive to "become an icon of God the Father." With St. Joseph's Day just around the corner, now is a perfect time to check out the confraternity's website, which includes podcasts, quotes and other resources. [fathersofstjoseph.org](http://fathersofstjoseph.org)

**Fraternus** — Fraternus helps recruit and train men of a parish to be rooted in prayer and genuine virtue, combining faith-building activities with the mentoring of Catholic boys. The program centers around local chapters in Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee and Washington. [fraternus.net](http://fraternus.net)

**The Holy League** — The Holy League works to encourage regular Holy Hours, confession and fraternity under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph. [holyleague.com](http://holyleague.com)

**Intentional Encounter** — This online program helps Catholic men reclaim authentic manhood and encounter the person of Christ by teaching self-discipline through fitness, clean eating and a renewed prayer life. [intentionalencounter.com](http://intentionalencounter.com)

**TrueManhood** — This website offers information on the topics of authentic masculinity, being a husband, fatherhood, fighting pornography and fighting cultural manliness, all while teaching virtue as the means of discovering true manhood. [truemanhood.com](http://truemanhood.com)

**That Man Is You! (TMIY)** — TMIY honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. Found in more than 500 parishes in 40 states, with an estimated 20,000 men participating, TMIY offers countless resources, including five one-year programs: "Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart," "A Light to the Nations," "Revelations of the Father," "The Way of Love" and "Mysteries of the Rosary." [paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you](http://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you)

## Publishers and Programs

*Are the men in your parish not quite ready to engage in a formal men's program? Advise them to check out the content offered by the below organizations. Work with your council to order some sample materials from one or more of the publishers, and then share and discuss the materials together.*

**Ascension** — A wide range of faith-formation videos on the catechism, Church history, Bible study, prayer, the Mass and more. [ascensionpress.com](http://ascensionpress.com)

**The Augustine Institute's "Formed"** — "Formed" offers the acclaimed "Symbolon" adult faith-formation program and the new "Lectio" Scripture study program. Check out the free trial and take a look at its instant resources, available in both English and Spanish. [formed.org](http://formed.org)

**Dynamic Catholic** — This is an expansive set of free or low-cost — but well-researched and engaging — resources on living a better Catholic life. Knights in your council might be particularly interested in a free copy of *77 Ways to Pray With Your Kids* by Jerry Windley-Daoust, or the various sacramental prep programs. Interested people can also sign up for the free "Best Lent Ever" emails. [dynamiccatholic.com](http://dynamiccatholic.com)

**Ignatius Press** — An impressive catalog of print, audio and video materials, including the *Footprints of God* documentaries, biographical films on the saints, and much more. [ignatius.com](http://ignatius.com)

**Lighthouse Catholic Media** — This publishing house offers kiosk displays of audio CDs, as well as downloadable talks on a variety of Catholic subjects. [lighthousecatholicmedia.org](http://lighthousecatholicmedia.org)

## Ideas for Living Lent



Photo by Bob Mullen/The Catholic Photographer

Lent is the time when people take advantage of announced invitations to embrace their faith, yet most people aren't catechized enough to know how to embrace this invitation. Consider the below activities and ideas to help your parish and council experience a life-changing Lent.

- Hold a novena from March 11 to March 19 to mark the feast of St. Joseph. Encourage deeper devotion to St. Joseph as patron of husbands and fathers by distributing the Veritas Series booklet *St. Joseph: Our Father in Faith* (#328) and *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive* (#10162).
- Celebrate Founder's Day by planning events in honor of Father McGivney's legacy. This year, because the anniversary falls on Holy Thursday, we ask that Knights consider Founder's Day an opportunity to combine the joy of Knighthood with the joy of being Catholic. For ideas, check out the December 2017 issue of *Knightline*, available at [kofc.org/Knightline](http://kofc.org/Knightline).
- Encourage councils that hold fish fries to arrange for a witness talk to be held during the dinners. If attendees are not comfortable witnessing during such an event, encourage them to instead show a film, such as those available through the Augustine Institute's online platform, titled "Formed," available at [formed.org](http://formed.org).
- Schedule Stations of Cross for each Friday during Lent, inviting the council, parish, RCIA candidates and greater community to participate. Afterward you might invite a speaker to discuss ways Catholics can fuel their spiritual journey during Lent.
- Invite the men of your parish and council to take part in a spiritual and physical challenge, such as one of the Catholic men's programs listed in this issue. This is a great opportunity to support Knights and parishioners facing the challenge of being real men in today's world.

## Practical Resources for Chaplains

**Insurance Products** — Knights of Columbus long-term care insurance can help you pay for extended medical needs. Visit [kofc.org/insurance](http://kofc.org/insurance) for details.

**ChurchLoan** — This service provides secured loans, unsecured loans and refinancing to institutions affiliated with the greater Catholic community in the United States, United States territories and Canada. For information, visit [kofc.org/churchloan](http://kofc.org/churchloan).

**The Online Catechism** — The Knights of Columbus offers the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in an interactive digital format to help everyone more easily learn about the teachings of the Church. Access it at [kofc.org/catechism](http://kofc.org/catechism).

### Important K of C Contacts

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Office of Chaplains<br>203-752-4115<br><a href="mailto:chaplains@kofc.org">chaplains@kofc.org</a> | • Fraternal Mission Department<br>203-752-4270<br><a href="mailto:fraternal.mission@kofc.org">fraternal.mission@kofc.org</a> |
| • Catholic Information Service<br>203-752-4267<br><a href="mailto:cis@kofc.org">cis@kofc.org</a>    | • Father Michael McGivney Guild<br>203-752-4087<br><a href="mailto:guild@kofc.org">guild@kofc.org</a>                        |

### BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

## A Call to Spiritual Arms

A best practice among councils and chaplains is to work together to provide parishioners with solid and reliable Catholic formation materials, such as Bishop Thomas Olmsted's apostolic exhortation *Into the Breach*. Father Michael C. Kidd Council 14455 in Mitchellville, Md., purchased copies of the apostolic exhortation for the parishioners of Holy Family Parish and distributed them after weekend Masses with the aid of the Ladies of Holy Family Mitchellville.

Chaplains interested in bringing this best practice to their council can order *Into the Breach* (#340) and other resources through Catholic Information Service. Visit [kofc.org/cis](http://kofc.org/cis) for details.



### PUBLISHERS, FROM PAGE 2

**Mass Explained** — This app, available through Apple's Volume Purchase Program (VPP), provides a brilliant and engaging way for families, study groups, confirmation students and RCIA classes to understand the Mass. [massexplainedapp.com](http://massexplainedapp.com)

**Paradisus Dei** — Paradisus Dei provides the "That Man is You!" faith-formation program and the new "Choice Wine" program for married couples. [paradisusdei.org](http://paradisusdei.org)

**The Reason for Our Hope Foundation** — The foundation shares homilies, talks (including the powerful and life-changing "Confession" talk) and more from the dynamic Father Larry Richards, author of *Be a Man!* [thereasonforourhope.org](http://thereasonforourhope.org)

**Roman Catholic Man** — This website is authored by Father Richard Heilman to inspire men who seek the Lord. Launched on Ash Wednesday 2015, this site helps train the Church Militant, assisting them in their mission of combating evil and rescuing the souls of their loved ones. [romancatholicman.com](http://romancatholicman.com)

**Word on Fire Catholic Ministries** — This site features homilies, articles, Scripture reflections, teaching programs and award-winning documentaries from Bishop Robert Barron. It includes *Catholicism*, a multi-part documentary series, and the new *Priest, Prophet, King*. You can also sign up for daily emails offering a meditation on the Gospel reading for the day. [wordonfire.org](http://wordonfire.org)



## A Prayer for Unfailing Faith

*The below prayer — the official prayer of the 2232 MEN apostolate — can help your brother Knights find strength to embrace their daily vocation as soldiers of Christ.*

*“But I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.” — Luke 22:32*

Holy Father, thank you for your love in making us adopted sons in Jesus.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit so we learn to repent and grow in holiness.

Teach us to become the men you created us to be.

Help us to strengthen our brothers and live your will.

We ask this through our Lord and brother Jesus Christ. Amen.