

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Jerome's Catholic Church  
10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, FL 33774 Council 17249

*The Divine Mercy of Jesus*

October 2019

Volume 1 Issue 7



## Polls Offer Disturbing Evidence of Catholics' Belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist



Recently, the Pew research center published poll data showing that a very large number of Catholics in the United States believe Christ's presence

in the Blessed Sacrament is only symbolic rather than a real presence as the Church clearly and firmly teaches. To be precise, 69% of the Catholics in the Pew study said the consecrated bread and wine in Mass are "symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ" rather than Christ himself. The other 31% believe in the real presence.

Twenty-one percent of American Catholics now go to Mass every Sunday. It's reasonable to suppose that most of that group attend Mass weekly because, among other things, they believe in the real presence. As for the 10% who believe but don't attend weekly, these are the wobbly faithful whose practice of their religion is wanting but whose less-than-perfect faith makes them appropriate subjects for prayer that they will pull up their socks and get serious. Disbelief in the real presence is hardly new. In fact, you find it clearly at work in the sixth chapter of John's gospel. The setting is the synagogue in Capernaum. It is only a few days since Jesus

performed one of his most striking miracles, the multiplication of loaves and fishes, which brought the crowd flocking after him eager to make him king. Instead, Jesus stuns them by speaking of the Bread of Life: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life...my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed."

The response of many listeners is utter disbelief. Even some who had been Jesus' disciples up to then turned and left him. And at this low point comes what is perhaps the strongest testimony to the fact of the real presence.

Faced with doubt, disbelief, and outright rejection, Jesus might have backtracked and said he was just using a figure of speech—the bread and wine he spoke of were only symbols of his presence. Rather than do that, Jesus doubles down on his message, declaring: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." Then, determined to have no doubters among his followers, he turns to the Apostles and asks them, "Will you also go away?"

The gospels contain many instances of Peter failing to measure up. But this time he rose fully to the occasion: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Perhaps we should take St. Peter as our intercessor when we pray that belief in the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament will be strengthened in our brothers and sisters if it is weak and restored to them if it has been lost.

~~by Russell Shaw of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference from 1969 to 1987. Edited



FROM AROUND THE WORLD  
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Pope Francis surprises ill religious sister with visit

Married priests are a possible option for the Amazon, says Vatican spokesman

Canadian man receives assisted death after funding cut for in-home care

Planned Parenthood to pull out of Title X program

Catholic hospital in Nova Scotia required to offer assisted suicide, euthanasia

Melbourne archbishop ready to defy law over seal of confession

Pro-lifers condemn testing of 'chemical coat hanger' on African women

Indiana bishop offers cemetery for burial of aborted remains

Federal court: Women's-only shelter not required to admit men

## FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers All:  
October is going to be a time for our council to really step up to many opportunities as Knights and providing leadership and providence within our council and our church family. I am very excited to see how we are coming together as Knights with the number of members attending the "Holy Hour" on the first Wednesday of the month and then for the attendance and participation of our general meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. I have always said that you cannot judge the success of a volunteer organization based on the attendance at meetings. We are providing opportunities for many other ways to be involved. Your leadership teams are working on ways which you can easily participate in the cornerstone activities of the Knights and in

concert with the concept of the Domestic Church. To that end we have established team categories in Family (Jim Cullinan); Life (Danny McConnell, PGK); Community (Pete Grasso, GK); Faith (Jim Hand); and Membership (Gregg Appel, PGK). The Director of Programs is Deputy Grand Knight, Billy Baldwin (PGK). We have basically established a direction for members (and I know we are a very talented group) to contact a team leader if you have a specific calling through desire or past experiences to participate. If you wish to learn more about the categories please look under the heading of programs on the Knights of Columbus website (KofC.org). While in the website, review the concept of the Domestic Church and how it can help our church at St. Jerome. Meanwhile, during this past month we had an outstanding program on emergency preparedness, which we sponsored. In addition, the Knights have been asked to help Sr. Lucia with the Lady of Fatima program in October; with this we will be carrying the statue of Our Lady. We are supporting the Trunk or Treat event on October 25. This is a good opportunity to spend time with your families at a fun event. Our council will provide hot dogs, drinks, and popcorn. We have also been invited to provide ideas on October 12 for the design of the kitchen updating. We have received permission from Fr. Tom to begin providing breakfast on the first Sunday of each month. Our first breakfast will be on November 3. We will provide a simple but delicious southern breakfast. The proceeds will be going to the purchase of an ultrasound machine. God bless everyone. Much more to come...

## WORDS OF WISDOM

The biggest challenge after success is shutting up about it.

Guard well your thoughts when alone and your words when accompanied.

Voice is not just the sound that comes from your throat, but the feelings that come from your words.

Someone will enter your life, at the exact point of need, want, or desire.

In the sea of life, pain is a tide that will ebb and weave, continually.

Take care of your words and the words will take care of you.

The worst part of being okay is that okay is far from happy.

In a world of words, anything is possible.

You cannot be anything if you want to be everything.

Life is just a slide. Back and forth between loving and leaving, remembering and forgetting, holding on and letting go.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights:

I will begin this month to put forward prayers from our Catholic Mass that we can use in the ordinary circumstances of our life. There is a saying in

our Church which proclaims, "Lex orandi, lex credendi (Latin loosely translated as "the law of what is to be prayed [is] the law of what is to be believed)" The idea is to bring our faith to our daily existence and allow the most important of our prayers the Catholic Mass to shape our very lives. I will offer such suggestions in this column throughout the year when I am not addressing other issues.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Morgan

### Mass Prayers for Daily Living

#### The Sign of the Cross

The Christian begins his day, his prayers, and his activities with the Sign of the Cross: "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." The baptized person dedicates

the day to the glory of God and calls on the Savior's grace which lets him act in the Spirit as a child of the Father. The sign of the cross strengthens us in temptations and difficulties.

### 4 TIMES TO MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS (APART FROM YOUR TIME OF PRAYER)



#### WHEN PASSING BY A CHURCH

To honor the Blessed Sacrament present inside.



#### WHEN YOU HEAR A SIREN

To heal those in danger of dying.



#### WHEN PASSING BY A CEMETERY

As a prayer for the Holy Souls and those who have passed recently.



#### WHEN YOU SEE AN ACCIDENT

As a protection for those in peril.



# Knights Hold Hurricane Preparedness Seminar

On Saturday, September 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. the Knights of Columbus Council 17249 at St. Jerome's Parish held its first hurricane preparedness seminar in which the Pinellas County Emergency Management team, Mike Clay from Bay News 9, and the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Department joined in educating participants in what it takes to be as prepared as possible in our area. Many feel that we are long overdue for a major hurricane to hit our area, so we welcomed this seminar. It was arranged by Pete Grasso, the council's Grand Knight. Many excellent points were made and are summarized below:

- Run from water, hide from wind.
- Do not evacuate unless you feel you really must, especially if you live in a no-evacuation zone. It's better to hunker down than to be stuck in traffic with nowhere to go. However, if you are told to evacuate, you **MUST** evacuate. You should not return until authorities say it is safe to do so.
- Avoid using candles. They are dangerous. Try LED lights. They use less power and are very bright.
- If you stay home, stay in the bathroom until the worst is over, and have plenty of water and food.
- Do not venture outside for a week after the hurricane subsides, and be aware of downed power lines. Keep tuned to 860 AM.
- Have plenty of batteries.
- Think twice before going to a hurricane shelter. It probably won't have



Marshall Eiss  
Pinellas Suncoast  
Fire Department



Mike Clay  
BayNews9  
Meteorologist



Mary Burrell  
Community Program  
Director

- a generator, it will be crowded and noisy, bathrooms will be limited, and you will be there for several days. Not all facilities accept pets. Also, be sure to take your medication.
- Consider a Home Host program in which you help care for the elderly or handicapped.
- Categories are not necessary. All storms at Cat. 2 and above are dangerous.
- October is the most likely month to experience a hurricane.
- Spaghetti models are unreliable unless they are on top of each other.

- Cell towers probably won't work; however, you might be able to text.
- Emergency personnel won't be of help after winds of about 45 mph. Fire trucks are easily blown over.
- If you buy a generator, be sure it is installed correctly. If not, you could be electrocuted. NEVER run one in a garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning and be sure it is at least 10 feet away from any structure.
- Here are some phone numbers to keep handy for help: 727-464-3800 (Pinellas County Emergency Management and 727-464-4333 (Citizen Information Center.)



October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7. To understand this feast, we need to go back in time. In the 16th century, the Islamic Ottoman Empire presented a serious military threat to western Europe and sent a fleet of ships to attack Christian defenses in southern Europe. Pope Pius V recognized the grave danger and organized a fleet to confront the navy of the Ottoman Turks. On October 7, 1571, the two navies engaged in a pivotal battle that would

determine who controlled maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean seas. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships (it was the largest naval battle in Western history for centuries). Pius V knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented. The next year, Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honor of the Blessed Mother, originally called Our Lady of Victory. After a few centuries, the name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary to more clearly recognize that prayer was the greatest power at work that day on the seas.

Sr. Lucia, one of the children Mary appeared to at Fatima, stated in a 1957 interview...

"The Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live, has given new efficacy in the recitation of the Holy Rosary.  
"She has given this efficacy to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in families, of the families in the world, or of the religious communities, or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be solved by the Rosary.

"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Once again St. Jerome's Catholic Parish will sponsor a Trunk or Treat evening on Oct. 25, 2019, from 6 to 7:30. Our council will help as needed. Entertainment will be in charge of Ralph Frizzle.

Erica DeCiglie and Tina Bowen are both working on this event to make it as popular as always.



## CORPORAL MASS

On Saturday, October 26, our council will attend the 5:30 Mass and then proceed to the Parish Center where we will have our meal together.



## THANKSGIVING DINNER

This year's Thanksgiving dinner will be held Thursday, November 28 in the parish center. Louise Carotenuto is in charge of the meal and is glad to hear that our council will be there to help her.



## ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH RETREAT FOR MEN

JOIN US ON THE JOURNEY TO THE  
FULLNESS OF MANHOOD...LET US WALK THE  
PATH TOGETHER.



**LED BY: FR. ROB CADRECHA**

**RETREAT MASTER: FR. OMAR  
HUESKA**

**ON: NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>—23<sup>RD</sup>**

**AT: ST. JEROME CATHOLIC  
CHURCH/EDUCATION BUILDING**

**FRIDAY 6:30 PM (DINNER)—9:00 PM**

**SATURDAY 9:00 AM MASS (CHAPEL)—5:00 PM**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE  
CONTACT THE ST. JEROME CHURCH OFFICE AT (727) 595-  
4610.**

**THE RETREAT IS FREE TO PARTICIPANTS, HOWEVER, THOSE  
WHO WISH TO DONATE TO OFFSET THE COST TO ST. JEROME  
MAY DO SO BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD TO THE CHURCH  
OFFICE.**





# SPOTLIGHT on Rick Hendrickson

"I planned on being a high school history teacher when I graduated from high school," said Rick Hendrickson, "but similar to a lot of other things in life, that didn't work out." Rick did not plant roots where he was born, Brooklyn, NY.

"I am not a Viet Nam vet," he said, "although I grew up in that time frame. During those early years of waiting to be called up was unsettling, which kept me in a kind of limbo, resulting in different kinds of jobs after high school as I tried to find myself," he said, "but I eventually ended up in the pharmaceu-



**Rick Hendrickson**

tical world." He said he enjoyed marketing pharmaceuticals and eventually ended up in Regional sports' marketing. The major company he worked for was Warner-Lambert. "They made such products as Listerine, Bromo Selzer, Efferdent, and Benadryl, things like that," he said. When asked if that required a college degree, he said yes, but he didn't have one. "However, based on courses I had taken in college and already familiar with regarding merchandising skills, I was given a pass on a four-year college degree."

"I befriended a representative and recruiter with Warner-Lambert and he suggested that I interview with their company, so I did and things worked out. I doubt that that would happen nowadays." At times he did feel at a disadvantage, though, without a degree or especially any knowledge about chemistry, but he toughed his way through it. "I like to make lemonade out of lemons," he said with a laugh. "I learned a little bit about a lot of things."

He got to work with the Marlins, the Rays, the Universities of Alabama, North Carolina, and Miami, plus Arena Football and the NBA as well as getting to see a lot of the United States. He retired after 30 years.

He was 55 when he retired but was so restless, he decided to get his real estate broker's license with Coldwell Banker. He also spent 4 years in Hilo, Hawaii, selling real estate.

With regard to his journey of faith, Rick said, "I was a cradle Catholic, but for quite some time I have felt like an incomplete Catholic, as though something is missing. When I saw in the bulletin about a new Knights of Columbus council forming at St. Jerome's, I contacted Pete Grasso and soon joined. It's nice to be part of something that's forming. I enjoy learning about my fellow Knights. Pete is a very sincere person and a good leader," he said.

Rick is married to a beautiful girl from Charleston, West Virginia, whom he met in Tampa. Rick has three grown children--Rick and Ryan--living in North Carolina and Renee, living in Georgia. Rick also has seven grandchildren from four to twenty-seven years old.



Matthew 5:38-39: "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to

them the other cheek also.

Proverbs 15: A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

I'm sure that most, if not all, of you are familiar with the above scriptures. I have been aware of them for years, but I cannot honestly say that I have tried to model my life after them. I have been blessed to have a temperament that helps me achieve those traits without trying. I say this as humbly as I can. It's a fact, not a boast. I want to share an incident with you that proves, for me at least, the validity of those passages.

I was a member of a local Elks Lodge for 10 years, holding the position of bulletin editor. My wife and I also attended many meals at the lodge and enjoyed the entertainment that often accompanied the meals.

The lodge has a standing rule that the dance floor should not be walked on when a member is carrying food or drink. Something spilled on the hardwood floor could cause a nasty fall. Everyone knows that and there is even a small sign to keep it fresh in our minds.

One Tuesday evening, Jean and I were getting ready to enjoy some spaghetti and meatballs. She asked me to get her a drink of water, so I went to the stand and got myself a glass of ice as well. On the way back to our table, I walked across a corner of the dance floor, paying no attention to what I was doing. As soon as I sat down, there was Sam, standing there with fire in his eyes. What he said stunned me, so I can't remember exactly what was said, but it went something like this: "What are you doing! Don't you know you're not supposed to walk across the dance floor with food or drink?" I was so shocked I don't know what I said or did. Whatever it was, it caused Sam to say, "Bullshit! Bullshit! I'm

calling you out!" Then he abruptly turned and walked away. I looked at Jean and shrugged, not knowing what else to say or do. We began eating, keeping our thoughts to ourselves. The evening wasn't ruined at all, much to my surprise.



After getting home, Jean and I continued to talk about the incident, trying to figure out how Sam's outburst should be handled. I felt abused, but I realized Sam did too. It was a stalemate, so I decided to leave it alone for a couple of days before I decided what to do. We both remembered what Sam's wife had told us previously about his attitude and stubbornness: Once Sam writes off someone as a friend, that's the end of the friendship. Even so, I wanted to try to salvage it, in

part because Sam and his wife live in the same condo we do and I didn't want to have to be on the lookout for Sam each time I took our dog for a walk or took the trash out.

The third day after the incident I walked over to their unit and rang the doorbell. His wife opened the door and invited me in. There was Sam, leaning against a kitchen countertop with a questioning look on his face and his right hand rubbing his chin. I can't remember what I said because I was very nervous, but I do remember asking him what it was I had said that had "disrespected him," as he put it. (In hindsight, I think he disrespected me, but I'm glad I didn't bring that up.) How surprising for both of us when he said, "I don't remember." Now what? After I offered a few more conciliatory comments, Sam began to relax and I could see he was softening. Perhaps he was embarrassed about not being able to remember what I had said that was so terrible. At any rate, we both suddenly stuck out our right hands and shook. The worst was over, so we made small talk before I left.

This incident took place at least a year ago, and I'm pleased to say that Sam has been nicer to me than before the incident. He's very polite, considerate, and a helping hand when I have a problem. I couldn't ask for a better outcome.

I am convinced that the philosophy of the aforementioned scriptures took care of the problem for me. It was not of my doing; it was the effect of abiding by the Holy Spirit. Vivat Jesus!

# The Feast of St. Francis: October 4, 2019



As he grew up, Francis became the leader of a crowd of young people who spent their nights in wild parties. His biographer who knew him well said, "In other respects an exquisite youth. He attracted to himself a whole retinue of young people addicted to evil and accustomed to vice." Francis himself said, "I lived in sin."

Francis fulfilled every hope of his parents, even falling in love with France. He loved the songs of France, the romance of France, and especially the troubadours of France who wandered through Europe. And despite his dreaming, Francis was also good at business. Francis

wanted more than wealth, but not holiness! He wanted to be a noble, a knight. Battle was the best place to win the glory and prestige he longed for. He got his first chance when Assisi declared war on their longtime enemy, Perugia.

Most of the troops from Assisi were butchered in the fight. Only those wealthy enough to expect to be ransomed were taken prisoner. At last Francis was among the nobility like he always wanted to be but chained in a harsh, dark dungeon. All accounts say that he never lost his happy manner in that horrible place. Finally, after a year in the dungeon, he was ransomed. Strangely, the experience didn't seem to change him. He gave himself to partying with as much joy and abandon as he had before the battle.

The experience didn't change what he wanted from life either: Glory. Finally, a call for knights for the Fourth Crusade gave him a chance for his dream. But before he left, Francis had to have a suit of armor and a horse, no problem for the son of a wealthy father. And not just any suit of armor would do but one decorated with gold with a magnificent cloak.

Francis never got farther than one day's ride from Assisi. There he had a dream in which God told him he had it all wrong and told him to return home. And return home he did. What it must have been like to return without ever making it to battle, the boy who wanted nothing more than to be liked was humiliated, laughed at, called a coward by the village and raged at by his father for the money wasted on armor.

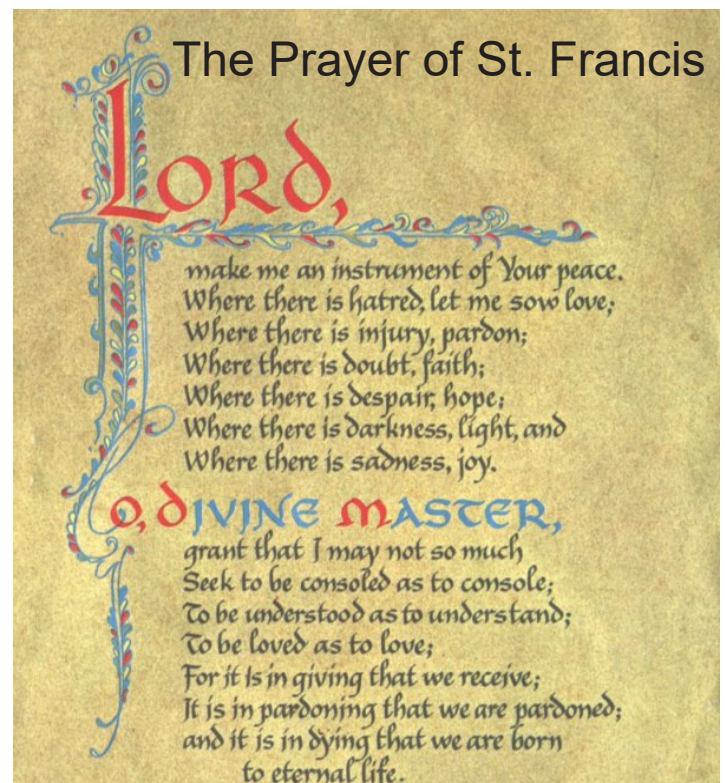
Francis' conversion did not happen overnight. God had waited for him for twenty-five years and now it was Francis' turn to wait. Francis started to spend more time in prayer. He went off to a cave and wept for his sins. Sometimes God's grace overwhelmed him with joy. But life couldn't just stop for God. There was a business to run, customers to wait on. One day while riding through the countryside, Francis, the man who loved beauty, who was so picky about food, who hated deformity, came face to face with a leper. Repelled by the appearance and the smell of the leper, Francis nevertheless jumped down from his horse and kissed the hand

of the leper. When his kiss of peace was returned, Francis was filled with joy. As he rode off, he turned around for a last wave and saw that the leper had disappeared. He always looked upon it as a test from God and that he had passed.

His search for conversion led him to the church at San Damiano. While he was praying there, he heard Christ on the crucifix speak to him, "Francis, repair my church." Francis assumed this meant church with a small c, the crumbling building he was in. Acting again in his impetuous way, he took fabric from his father's shop and sold it to get money to repair the church. His father saw this as an act of theft -- and put together with Francis' cowardice, waste of money, and his growing disinterest in money made Francis seem more like a madman than his son. Pietro dragged Francis before the bishop and in front of the whole town demanded that Francis return the money and renounce all rights as his heir. The bishop was very kind to Francis; he told him to return the money and said God would provide. That was all Francis needed to hear. He not only gave back the money but stripped off all his clothes -- the clothes his father had given him -- until he was wearing only a hair shirt. In front of the crowd that had gathered he said, "Pietro Bernardone is no longer my father. From now on I can say with complete freedom, 'Our Father who art in heaven.'" Wearing nothing but castoff rags, he went off into the freezing woods, singing. And when robbers beat him later and took his clothes, he climbed out of the ditch and went off singing again. From then on Francis had nothing...and everything.

Soon Francis started to preach. (He was never a priest, though he was later ordained a deacon under his protest.) Francis was not a reformer; he preached about returning to God and obedience to the Church. Francis must have known about the decay in the Church, but he always showed the Church and its people his utmost respect. When someone told him of a priest living openly with a woman and asked

(Concluded on the next page.)





# Knights in Action, Faith in Action

The Knights of Columbus offers men a place to lead their families and communities in faith and service and put their faith into action. Faith in Action is the new program model of the Knights of Columbus. This model offers a mission-driven platform designed to consider the needs of men and their families in the twenty-first century. Knights of Columbus members, parishes, and families have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference through Supreme Council-recommended pro-

grams. Organized into the Faith, Family, Community, and Life categories, the Faith in Action Program model empowers Knights to come together to share their Catholic faith, celebrate fraternity with loved ones, and do what they do best--stand shoulder to shoulder in service to the community and to defend life at all stages and in every condition.

The program director for each of the following categories is Billy Baldwin, PGK:

**COMMUNITY** Pete Grasso GK, Chairman



Coats for Kids  
Wheelchair Mission  
Habitat for Humanity  
Disaster Preparedness  
Free Throw Championship  
Soccer Challenge

**LIFE**

Danny McConnell PGK, Chairman



March for Life  
Special Olympics  
Ultrasound Program  
Refugee Relief  
Pregnancy Center Support  
Novena for Life

**FAMILY**

Jim Cullinan, Chairman



Food for Families  
Keep Christ in Christmas  
Consecration to the Holy Family  
Family Prayer Night  
Family Week

**FAITH**

Jim Hand, Chairman



Marian Prayer Program  
Building the Domestic Church  
Rosary Program  
Spiritual Reflection  
Holy Hour  
Sacramental Gifts

## St. Francis, continued from the previous page.

him if that meant the Mass was polluted, Francis went to the priest, knelt before him, and kissed his hands -- because those hands had held God.

Slowly companions came to Francis, people who wanted to follow his life of sleeping in the open, begging for garbage to eat, and loving God. Francis knew he now had to have some kind of direction to this life so he opened the Bible in three places. He read the command to the rich young man to sell all his good and give to the poor, the order to the apostles to take nothing on their journey, and the demand to take up the cross daily. "Here is our rule," Francis said. He was going to do what no one thought possible any more -- live by the Gospel. Francis took these commands so literally that he made one brother run after the thief who stole his hood and offer him his robe!

Francis never wanted to found a religious order. He thought of what he was doing as expressing God's brotherhood. His companions came from all walks of life, from fields and towns, nobility and common people, universities, the Church, and the merchant class. Francis practiced true equality by showing honor, respect, and love to every person whether they were beggar or pope.

Francis' brotherhood included all of God's creation. Much has been written about Francis' love of nature but his relationship was deeper than that. We call someone a lover of nature if they spend their free time in the woods or admire its beauty. But Francis really felt that nature, all God's creations, were part of his brotherhood. The sparrow was as much his brother as the pope.

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF LIFE

One of the most effective ways in which the Knights of Columbus has helped thousands of women save their children is through its Ultrasound Initiative.

Ultrasound exams, which are medically necessary throughout pregnancy for a variety of diagnostic reasons, use ultrasound waves to scan a woman's abdomen, creating a picture or "sonogram" of the baby in her uterus. Without K of C support, most pregnancy care centers would be unable to purchase the ultrasound machines, each usually costing tens of thousands of dollars.

Providing ultrasound machines to pregnancy resource centers has enabled many thousands of pregnant women to see that their unborn child is a living human being. Ultrasound technology allows a mother to see her developing child and recognize the miracle of life within her. As a result, thousands of mothers have decided to have their babies.

The Supreme Council shares the cost of ultrasound machines with state and local councils. Since the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative launched Jan. 22, 2009 on the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the United States, state and local councils have assisted qualified pregnancy centers by raising half the cost of ultrasound machines.

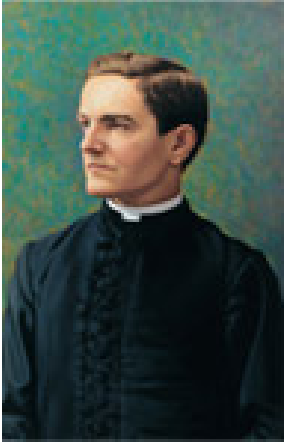
When a local council raises 50% of a machine's purchase price for a qualified center, the Supreme Council matches the amount toward the purchase price of the machines, starting at about \$20,000. Contributions are drawn from the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life fund.

In addition to the Ultrasound Initiative, the Knights of Columbus is in the forefront of marches for life all around the world: in the United States, where the annual March in Washington, D.C., has now been supplemented by similar events in dozens of state capitals as well as the West Coast Walk for Life in San Francisco; in Canada, where the March for Life in Ottawa draws thousands, and where marches are now being held in every provincial capital; and in the Philippines, where Knights helped lead Walk for Life events in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The Knights seek nothing less than the transformation of today's culture into a new culture of life. And the foundation of this effort must be the bedrock of the inviolable dignity of human life at every stage and the realization that in the great family the Lord intends for his people, we are all our brother's keeper.



# Fr. McGivney's Path to Sainthood



Since Venerable Father Michael McGivney is at the stage of the canonization process in which a miracle is needed for him to be beatified, the Guild often receives questions about what exactly is needed for a

miracle to be accepted. What standard does the Vatican use in declaring some events miraculous and others not?

A book could be written on the subject, but to put the issue in simple terms, what the Vatican is looking for in most cases is a physical healing that cannot be explained by medical science. Let's look a little more closely at the whole process of "making a miracle."

The first thing to understand is that only God can perform a miracle, since a miracle is understood to be a suspension of the created natural order. When we say that Father McGivney needs a miracle for beatification, what we mean is that a proven miracle must be attributed to his intercession before God.

## Identify

With that important fact understood, we are ready to walk through the process of how a proposed miracle is brought to the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Step one is identifying a possible miracle for which people close to the situation prayed to a sainthood candidate — in this case, Father McGivney. The Congregation for Saints considers almost exclusively extraordinary physical healings and recoveries, since those incidents usually have verifiable facts such as medical tests and records, as well as objective and widely accepted measurements for diagnosing a serious condition and declaring a person healed. Examples of non-medical miracles that have been approved by the Vatican congregation include cases of survivors walking away unscathed from accidents that should have been fatal, such as falls from a church ceiling and mountain climbing mishaps. Certainly, there are other types of miracles that involve moral, psychological and spiritual phenomena, but physical healings are easier to investigate and prove in an objective, scientific manner.

## Report

How would we identify a possible miracle through Father McGivney's intercession? Someone must report it. We cannot stress this enough. The only way for the Guild to learn about a possible miracle is for someone with knowledge of the case to report it to us. So Knights, their families and anyone devoted to Father McGivney must be on the lookout for possible miraculous healings.

## Pray

Next to consider is how a possible miracle would be attributed to Father McGivney's intercession. There has to be positive evidence that people close to the event truly prayed exclusively to Father McGivney for the miracle. Again, this is why the Guild constantly urges prayer to Father McGivney, especially in cases of serious illness. When you know someone is facing a serious medical condition, start praying for a miraculous healing and ask family, friends and council members to do so too. If this is done, we now have a strong case that is worth investigating.

## Investigate

The initial investigation would be conducted by the vice postulator of the canonization cause in New Haven, who will interview people close to the case, including doctors. If there is a general sense that there is no apparent scientific or medical explanation for the healing and that Father McGivney was exclusively invoked, then the evidence will go to the cause's experienced postulator in Rome. If the postulator finds that the case is strong enough, he will send a request to the bishop of the diocese where the possible miracle occurred, asking him to form a tribunal to conduct an official inquiry into the case. Tribunal

The diocesan tribunal is a formal ecclesiastical court, convened under the local bishop, that calls witnesses, gathers testimony, collects medical records and other supporting documents, and ultimately makes a judgment on whether to refer the case to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Once the case reaches the congregation in Rome, it is reviewed by experts in canon law, medicine and theology who meet in separate panels to examine and discuss the evidence and then vote whether or not to approve the case as a miraculous healing that involved the intercession of Father McGivney. The case would

then go to a board of cardinals and finally to the Holy Father, whose approval is needed for the acceptance of a miracle.

## Join. Pray. Report.

The process is long and painstaking for good reasons. The Church does not want to declare as miraculous any event that may later be called into question. We hope and pray that a miracle will finally be attributed to the intercession of Venerable Michael McGivney. You can help the process with the simple formula: "Join. Pray. Report."

Join the Guild. Pray the Prayer for Canonization daily. Report any extraordinary healings.

Together, we can do this.

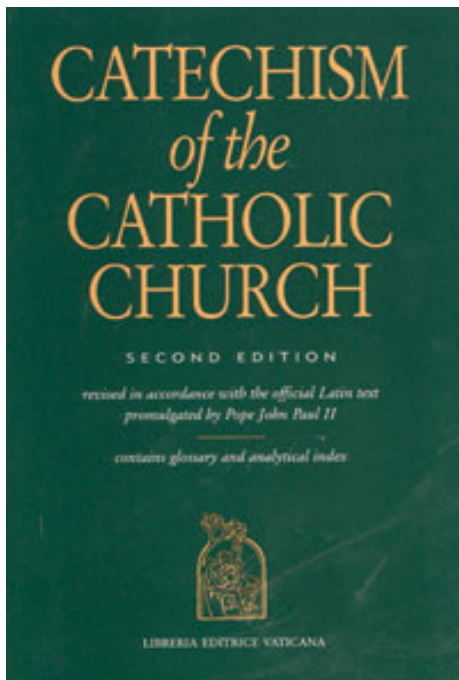
*God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church.*

*Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your venerable servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Amen.*



In the grotto of St. Patrick's Basilica in Ottawa, Canada, a display of a statue of Father McGivney encourages prayer and devotion to the Knights of Columbus founder.





## What does the Catechism say about Interior Penance?

1430 Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, "sackcloth and ashes," fasting and mortification, but at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false.

1431 Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace.

1432 The human heart is heavy and hardened. God must give man a new heart. Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him: "Restore us to thyself, O Lord, that we may be restored!" God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God's love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him.

1433 Since Easter, the Holy Spirit has proved "the world wrong about sin," i.e., proved that the world has not believed in him whom the Father has sent. But this same Spirit who brings sin to light is also the Consoler who gives the human heart grace for repentance and conversion.