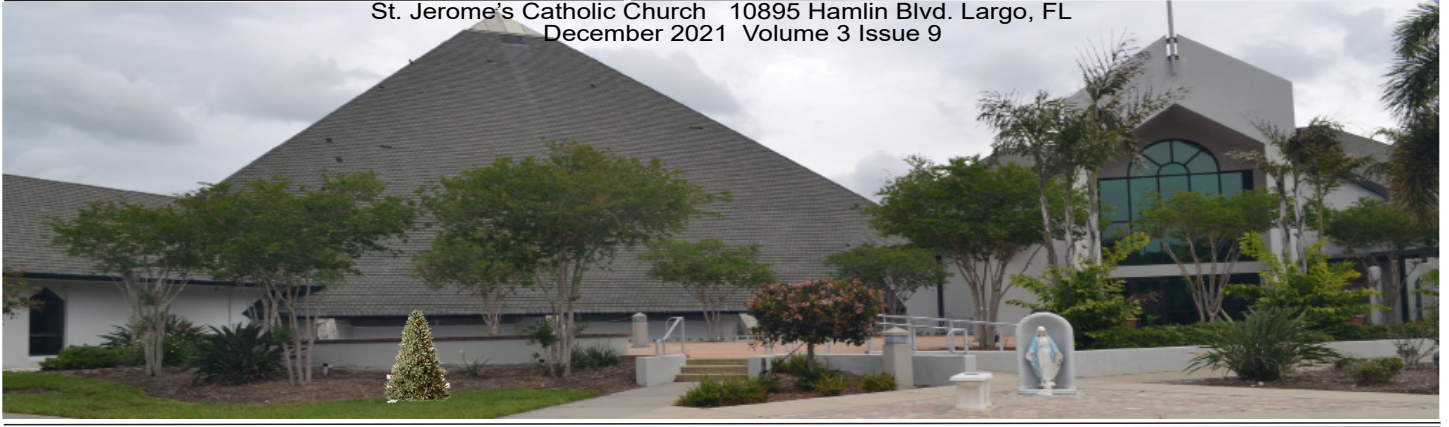


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Divine Mercy of Jesus Council 17249

St. Jerome's Catholic Church 10895 Hamlin Blvd. Largo, FL
December 2021 Volume 3 Issue 9



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Bill McClelland

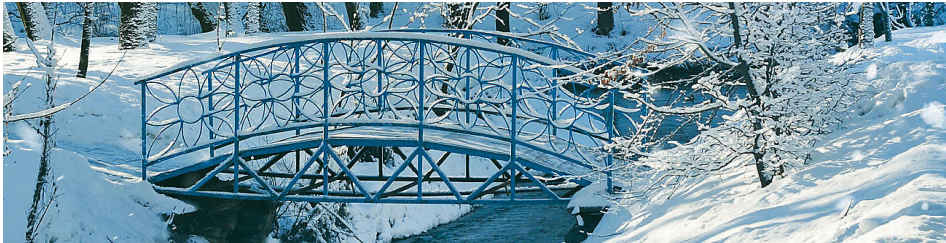
Brothers,

By now, most of you have seen the slide show of the work our parish was able to do in Louisiana. Due to very generous gifts (and the use of Brother Ralph Frizzle's truck), not only were we able to deliver much needed supplies to people devastated by Hurricane Ida, but we were able to send back over \$5,000 to continue the renovations. The work we were able to do to help those in desperate need was very fulfilling to all those who were able to make the trip.

We have also hosted our first pancake breakfast of the year. By all accounts, it was a great success! Thanks to all who were able to set up, cook, serve and clean up.

We served 136 customers and netted a profit of \$76.00 after expenses. The "After Action Review" (AAR) brought up very good points to improve the next event. Our next breakfast will feature biscuits and gravy and is scheduled for December 19. Again, thanks for everything you continue to do.

Vivat Jesus,
Bill



FROM THE DESK OF OUR PASTOR



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Friends:

We have begun our Advent journey that will lead us to walk with Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and with them to their home in Nazareth on December 26th. I have included on the next page many of the great opportunities that will occur at our parish over the next four weeks. It is our hope that you will be able to participate in many of the events. Happy Advent!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Morgan

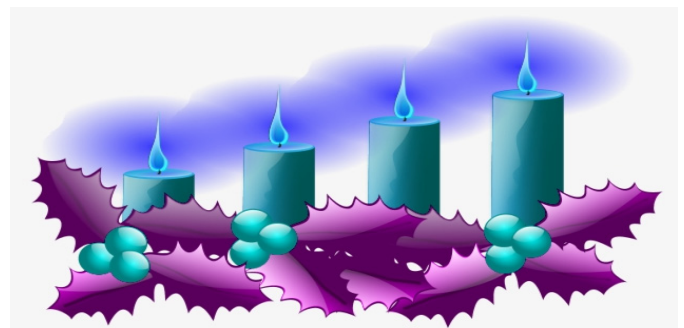
The Meaning of Advent

Advent, (from Latin adventus, "coming"), in the Christian church calendar, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. In Western churches, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30 (St. Andrew's Day) and is the beginning of the liturgical year. In many Eastern churches, the Nativity Fast is a similar period of penance and preparation that occurs

during the 40 days before Christmas. The date when the season was first observed is uncertain. Bishop Perpetuus of Tours (461-490) established a fast before Christmas that began on November 11 (St. Martin's Day), and the Council of Tours (567) mentioned an Advent season.

The liturgical meaning of the Advent season referred to the dual "coming" of Jesus—then Roman Catholicism the traditional liturgical colour for Ad-

vent is violet; many Protestant denominations have adopted blue or purple. The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, is commonly marked by the use of rose-coloured vestments and candles.



LAUGHTER
~ is the best ~
MEDICINE

1. My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo, but I had to put my foot down.

2. I went to buy some camo pants but couldn't find any.

3. I can't even count how many times I failed math.

4. I used to have a handle on life, but then it broke.

5. I was wondering why the frisbee kept getting bigger and bigger, but then it hit me.

6. I heard there were a bunch of break-ins over at the car garage. That is wrong on so many levels.

7. I want to die peacefully in my sleep, like my grandfather, not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

8. When life gives you melons, you might be dyslexic.

9. Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.

10. I told him to be himself; that was pretty mean, I guess.

12. I know they say that money talks, but all mine says is 'Goodbye.'

13. My father has schizophrenia, but he's good people.

14. The problem with kleptomaniacs is that they always take things literally.


DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS




Ed Wirth
December 1



David Bright
December 4



Thuy Nguyen
December 8



Rick Hendrickson
December 9



Scott Sacchi
December 11



Chster Wejerhoski
December 11



Ray Boduch
December 21



SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER

- 12/2** 9:30 am Exposition 10:20 am Benediction **12/3** Erica DiCeglie Christmas Concert 7:30 pm to 9:00
- 12/4** First Saturday 9:30 am Exposition 10:20 am Benediction
 ECC Winter Wonderland 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm church parking lot
 Day of Service Landscape Cleaning by Youth Group, Knights, etc. Contact is Chris McBride
- 12/5** Second Sunday of Advent – Blessing of Hay
- 12/7** Immaculate Conception Mass Vigil 4:00 pm
- 12/8** Immaculate Conception Mass 7:00 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, 12:30 pm & 7:00 pm
- 12/9** 9:30 am Exposition 10:20 am Benediction; Christmas Tree Lighting 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm Gathering Space
- 12/11 & 12/12** Third Sunday of Advent Baminelli Sunday -Blessing of baby Jesus from home Nativity scenes
- 12/12** Anointing of the Sick 10:00 am to 10:30 pm Church; Our Lady of Guadalupe 4:30 pm through 6 pm.
- 12/13** Advent Penance Service with individual Confessions 9:30am & 7:00pm
- 12/16** 9:30 am Exposition 10:20 am Benediction
- 12/19** Fourth Sunday of Advent 1:45 pm Christmas Oplatek Gathering in the chapel
- 12/23** 9:30 am Exposition/10:20 am Benediction
- 12/24** Parish Office Closed – Christmas Eve
- 12/24** Christmas Vigil Masses 4:00 pm (Children’s Nativity) church and 4:00 pm – parish center, 6:00 pm church
- 12/25** No drive-through Confessions scheduled for this day Christmas Day Masses 12:00 am, 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:45 am, and 12:30 pm Illuminatio begins – prayers included in Christmas bulletin for the home
- 12/30** 9:30 am Exposition 10:20 am Benediction
- 12/31** PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – New Year’s Day Celebrated 4:00pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Knights Take up Preparing Breakfast for Parishioners Once Again



Gregg Appel practices getting the grill cool enough to fry pancakes. The finished flapjacks were very good though. (What is a flapjack?)

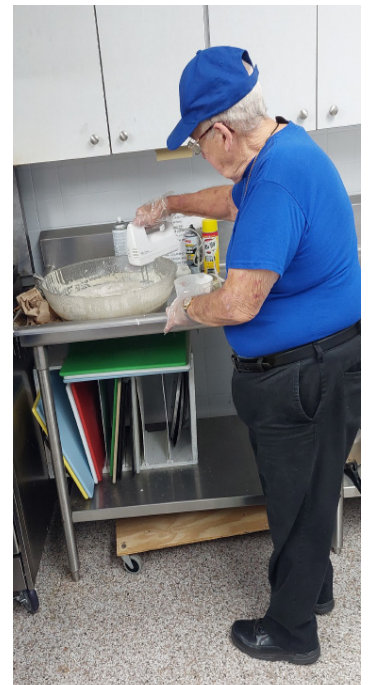
Council 17249 is happy to get back to work again on the 3rd Sunday of each month to prepare breakfast for our parish. There is always a great deal of camaraderie among us and each time we are together it seems to grow. We enjoy doing projects for others and helping Fr. Tom as much as he asks. So far we have not let him down. Last year when the pandemic hit, our breakfasts were moving along well. We hope to pick up steam with each passing month. All money gained will be donated to our council's charities.



Joe Moore tackles the eggs which will be scrambled for a delicious breakfast.



Paul Lee and Gene Sanders work on everybody's favorite: BACON!



Joe Ghezzi puts his wood-working skills aside and tackles pancake batter.



On Oct 30, our council made a donation of 100 chickens to Lifeline. Pictured are The Silly Sintaras along with representatives of our council.

Supreme Court Soon to Tackle Roe vs Wade....Again

Starting December 1, the nine justices of the Supreme Court will begin work in earnest on what already looks to be the court's most closely watched—and probably most controversial—ruling in nearly half a century.

When the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is handed down, probably next spring or early summer, it will do one of three things: either overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion, together with *Planned Parenthood v.*

Casey, the 1992 decision affirming the central holding of *Roe*; or else permit individual states to impose meaningful restrictions on abortion, though without reversing *Roe* and *Casey* entirely; or else, heaven forbid, deliver a bitter setback to the prolife movement by permitting death-dealing *Roe/Casey* regime of abortion on demand to remain in place.

December 1 is the date set by the court for oral arguments in *Dobbs*. The case comes from Mississippi and concerns a law enacted in 2018 that bars abortions after the 15th week of pregnancy except in cases of medical emergency or severe fetal abnormality. Lower courts have ruled against this law as a violation of *Roe*.

The intense interest in the new case has already generated a virtual tsunami of pre-argument commentary. Much of it, coming from the pro-abortion side, has adopted a remarkably vituperative tone and apparently been designed to intimidate prolife members of the Su-

preme Court. Further heightening the tension was the hubbub accompanying the Texas "heartbeat" law argued before the court November 1. The Texas law bans abortions after the point at which a fetal heartbeat becomes detectable—usually, the fifth week of pregnancy.


Guessing how individual justices will vote is risky. But with that qualifier, a pattern seems clear enough. Three—Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan—are certain pro-abortion votes. Three others are good bets to favor overturning *Roe/Casey*—Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch. That leaves three—Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett. All are pro-life, but one or more of them might favor some modification of *Roe* over outright reversal. Give it six months or so, and we'll find out. Are you listening, Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Kavanaugh and Barrett?





DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Officers' meeting Parish Center East 7 pm	2	3	4 Winter Wonderland 6 - 9 pm Campus Cleanup by Youth; ends around noon.
5 Coffee and Donuts Knights at all Masses to drive golf cart for those who need assistance.	6	7	8 Holy Day of Obligation Christmas Party in the Parish Center After the 6 pm Mass	9	10	11 Knights at all Masses to drive golf cart for those who need assist- ance.
12 Coffee and Donuts Knights at all Masses to drive golf cart for those who need assistance. Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession at 4:30 pm	13	14	15	16 Council 1448 Christ- mas party at St. Pat's Msgr. McCall Hall. 6 pm. \$25 a couple.	17	18 Knights at all Masses to drive golf cart for those who need assist- ance.
19 Knights of Columbus Breakfast	20	21	22	23	24	25  Christmas Day
26 Coffee and Donuts Knights at all Masses to drive golf cart for those who need assistance.	27	28	29	30	31	

The Elephants Knew

Some say there is no God. Try to tell that to the elephants...

Lawrence Anthony was a legend in South Africa and author of 3 books including the bestseller *The Elephant Whisperer*. He bravely rescued wildlife and rehabilitated elephants all over the globe from human atrocities, including the courageous rescue of Baghdad Zoo animals during US invasion in 2003.

On March 7, 2012 Lawrence Anthony died. He is remembered and missed by his wife, 2 sons, 2 grandsons, and numerous elephants.

Two days after his passing, wild elephants showed up at his home, led by two large matriarchs. Separate wild herds arrived in droves to say goodbye to their beloved 'man-friend'. A total of 31 elephants had patiently walked over 12 miles to get to his South African

House.

Witnessing this spectacle, humans were obviously in awe, not only because of the supreme intelligence and precise timing that these elephants sensed about Lawrence's passing, but also because of the profound memory and emotion the beloved animals evoked in such an organized way. They walked slowly for days, making their way in a solemn one-by-one queue from their habitat to his house. Lawrence's wife, Francoise, was especially touched, knowing that the elephants had not been to his house for well over 3 years!

But yet they knew where they were



going. The elephants obviously wanted to pay their deep respects, honoring their friend who'd saved their lives, so much respect that they stayed for 2 days 2 nights without eating anything.

Then one morning, they left, making their long journey back home.

Something in the universe is greater and deeper than human intelligence.

Brother Joe Ghezzi Uses His Woodworking Skills to Help ECC

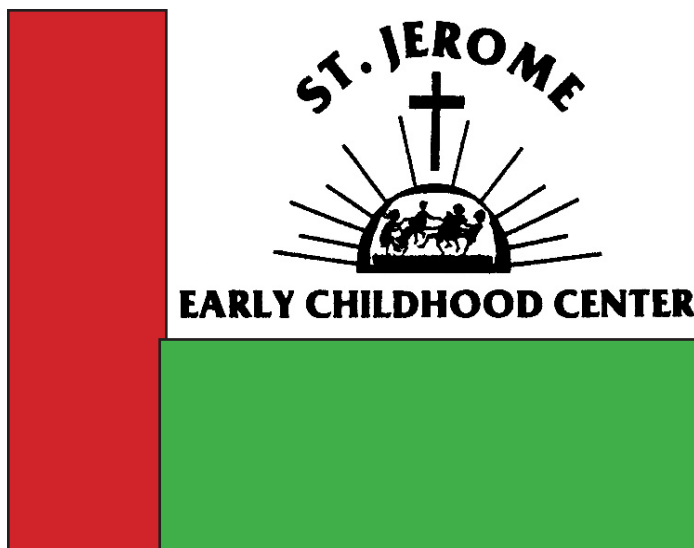
Joe was very generous with his time & talent when help the ECC. We wanted to provide the children in Room 1 (age 3) with a prayer table that was built at the children's level. We asked that it have space underneath for baskets which the teachers could fill with items the children could use themselves to talk to God (items such as small statues, prayer cards, "candles", linens, etc). Joe built exactly what we needed, and the children love it!

We were having a challenging time figuring out how to meet the requirements of our NAEYC (National Association of the Education of Young Children) Accreditation regarding the diaper pail in our two-year-old classroom. We needed a way to contain our diaper pail to prevent the children from touching it

(for obvious hygiene reasons). I explained to Joe the concept I was thinking would work (building a box around the diaper pail with tall sides so the teacher could reach the pail but not the children – it needed to be connected to the changing table so it was stable and have a piece cut out of the bottom so the teacher could step on the foot pedal to open the top of the diaper pail). Not only did Joe meet all the specifications, he did such a great job on the piece that it looks like it was built with the changing table; the wood is such a great match!

We are so very grateful for Joe's hard work, skill, and willingness to be of service. The Knights always come through for us when we need help, and we are so very grateful.

~~Tina Bowen



R.C.I.A. to Get New Name

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, or RCIA, as it has been more commonly referred to, will have its name changed to Order of Christian Initiation for Adults, or OCIA. The name change applies both to the process by which one enters the Church and the book that contains the ritual text and prayers for those steps. Following the trend of updating all liturgical texts to reflect greater fidelity to the original Latin, the U.S. bishops, meeting in Baltimore for their annual fall assembly, approved on Nov. 17 a revised English edition of the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults. The English version passed 215-0 with two abstentions.

The action still needs the approval of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments before it takes effect.

On May 7, 2001, Pope John Paul II published a document on the use of vernacular languages in the publication of the books of the Roman Liturgy. This document set in motion a translation effort aimed at preserving the closest wording of the Latin liturgy. People in the pews may be most familiar with the way this effort affected the translation

of the Mass.

Book by book, the bishops' conferences of each language have translated updated versions of the various rites in the Church, renaming the Rite of Penance to the Order of Penance, for instance, after the Latin "Ordo paenitentiae."

This is the latest book to undergo the translation effort. Because RCIA was also the name popularly associated with the process of going through the restored catechumenate, the process also has been renamed, a potentially confusing switch that may leave people wondering if anything else changed within the process.

In a slight revision, the traditional categorization of those petitioning for full acceptance into the Church has been changed. The new revision includes four groups: catechumens (who are unbaptized adults); unbaptized infants; baptized non-Catholic Christians, and baptized Catholics in need of confirmation.



Additionally, individuals in RCIA were usually referred to as a "candidate." OCIA will be split depending on where the candidate is in the initiation process. Terms used will be "inquirer," "catechumen" and "elect."

In order to become a Catholic, individuals go through several rites with the final being at the Easter Vigil when they are welcomed into the Catholic Church. The Easter Vigil rites have also been adjusted. They will now focus more on the validity of baptisms received in other Christian denominations.

The new edition will also include texts for infant baptisms at the Easter Vigil, a feature not widely practiced before this change.

BITS AND PIECES

\$2.00 each. The menu will be crab legs, shrimp, wings, ham. The proceeds will go to VAVS, the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service.

3. Breakfasts have now begun the third Sunday of the month because the church a/c has been fixed and masses are in the church.

4. Two Knights have transferred to our council: Josphé Campagnola and David Unkrich.

5. We will have a soccer challenge this month, but there is no definite information in yet.

6. Be sure to check the Winter Wonderland sponsored by the ECC. This will

be the second year for it. Phyllis Steele and her little dwarfs did a wonderful job last year with their presentation.

7. A Christmas dinner has been planned on December 8, a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate Mass at 6 pm and eat directly after. The meal will be catered with Art Corby in charge; Kevin Manning and Jeff Puscarick will help Art. We do not know the cost of the meal yet. Wives are asked to bring a dessert.

8. Worthy Advocate Gregg Appel hopes to have 5 Knights to volunteer to be a part of an exemplification team, ready to read a part of the ceremony as we welcome new members into our council. He thinks a live presentation is much more impressive as we bring new members in. We will hear more about this later.

1. It has been decided by the officers to use any money garnered from the sales of breakfasts to the charities of our council: The Divine Mercy of Jesus.

2. Faithful Navigator Bob Anderson stated that 4th Degree is sponsoring a Christmas dinner Thursday, December 16, at 6 p.m. in the Msgr. McCall Hall. Tickets are \$25 a couple. Liquor will be



Knights of Columbus Online Exhibit Explores Baseball's Catholic History



Boston Chapter Knights of Columbus Baseball Team taken at the Huntington Avenue Grounds after the Boston team lost to New York, 17-6. Identifiable are: Mike Sullivan, top row, third from left, Tommy McCarthy, top row, fourth from left. Mike Sullivan pitched for Boston professionally in 1898 and 1899. McCarthy played for Boston from 1884-1885 and 1892-1896.

The Knights of Columbus are releasing a four part series presentation exploring the historical connection between the fraternal organization and America's pastime, baseball.

"For the Knights of Columbus," the group wrote in an Oct. 1 statement, "the game served as an early avenue of assimilation for Catholic immigrants and first-generation Americans."

The presentation, "Knights of Columbus Baseball: An American Story," is an online exhibit and a presentation by the Knights of Columbus' Andrew Fowler, who has researched Blessed Michael McGivney's connection to baseball.

Fowler is splitting up the exhibit into four phases, or "bases". First base was released Oct. 1. Second base will be released during spring training of 2022. Third base will be released around the 2022 All-Star game, and home base will be released during the MLB playoffs in 2022.

In his presentation of "first base," Fowler explains the Knights' participation and contributions to the beginnings of baseball in the United States.

Jim O'Rourke, was the first man to get on base in a national league baseball game in 1876. O'Rourke went on to become a Knight of Columbus and serve on the Council 16 World War I war fund.

"So literally," Fowler said, "a Knight of Columbus christened the new and oldest active professional league in American sports."

Throughout the 19th century, many baseball teams were formed, "and the Knights of Columbus was no different." Fowler explained the difficult path for Catholics in America during the late 1800s, because they were seen as outsiders as having allegiance only to Rome. Catholics wanted a way to assimilate, and used baseball as a means for that end.

"So what did they do? They formed baseball leagues. And these leagues also served the purpose of promoting inter-council fraternity," Fowler says.

Fowler added that Knights of Columbus leagues began popping up all over the country, noting that Chicago had 42 teams participating. He said that these leagues included major leaguers, notably Joe Quinn and Ross Youngs.

Fowler continued to list "prominent Knights in baseball", such as Connie Mack, John McGraw, Johnny Evers, and Willie Keeler. More than 200 Knights were on Major League rosters by the mid-1910s, Fowler said.

Fowler says that Blessed Michael McGivney is recorded as playing in at least one game while at seminary in 1872. Displaying the box-score card

from the game, Fowler notes that McGivney scored three runs, batted "cleanup", or fourth hitter in the order, and played in left field.

Most games during the time were not played with a fence, Fowler added. "With McGivney playing left field, he said, "McGivney most likely had a decent throwing arm." Batting cleanup, McGivney was probably one of the better hitters on the team, he added.

Deeming Blessed Michael McGivney the "patron of baseball," Fowler noted that the Knights' founder "not only played the game, but he saw value in the game as a tool for evangelization and for bringing the community together."

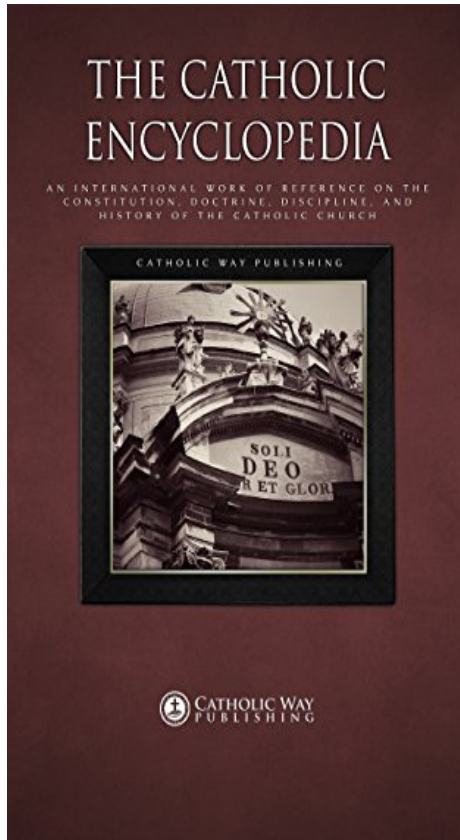
Citing a 1908 Boston Globe article, Fowler, "Strange to say baseball has a spiritual side. This is a fact, and the Knights of Columbus have done much for the members of the profession, for the player Knights are bound to do their duty, and protect, as far as possible, the young men breaking into the business, making the game cleaner and more wholesome all round."

Giving a preview of "second base," Fowler announced that he would explore how Babe Ruth, himself a Knight, revolutionized the game. He will also touch on the Knights' World War I baseball efforts and the Black Sox Scandal.

Volunteers Deal with the Aftermath of Hurricane Ida



What Does the Catholic Encyclopedia Say about the Dance of Death?



The "Dance of Death" was originally a species of spectacular play akin to the English moralities. It has been traced back to the middle of the fourteenth century. The epidemics so frequent and so destructive at that time, such as the Black Death, brought before popular imagination the subject of death and its universal sway. The dramatic movement then developing led to its treatment in the dramatic form. In these plays Death appeared not as the destroyer, but as the messenger of God summoning men to the world beyond the grave, a conception familiar both to the Holy Bible and to the ancient poets. The dancing movement of the characters was a somewhat later development, as at first Death and his victims moved at a slow and dignified gait. But Death, acting the part of a messenger, naturally took the attitude and movement of the day, namely the fiddlers and other musicians, and the dance of death was the result.

The purpose of these plays was to teach the truth that all men must die and should therefore prepare themselves to appear before their Judge. The scene of the play was usually the cemetery or churchyard, though sometimes it may have been the church itself. The spectacle was opened by a sermon on the certainty of death delivered by a monk. At the close of the sermon there came forth from the charnel-house, usually found in the churchyard, a series of figures decked out in the traditional mask of death, a close-fitting, yellowish linen suit painted so as to resemble a skeleton. One of them addresses the intended victim, who is invited to accompany him beyond the grave. The first victim was usually the pope or the emperor. The invitation is not regarded with favor and various reasons are given for declining it, but these are found insufficient and finally death leads away his victim. A second messenger then seizes the hand of a new victim, a prince or a cardinal, who is followed by others representing the various classes of society, the usual number being twenty-four. The play was followed by a second sermon reinforcing the lesson of getting ready for death.