

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

The Divine Mercy of Jesus

July 2019

Volume 1 Issue 3



Interview Published Concerning the Family and the End of Times

There is a prophecy by Sister Lucia dos Santos which concerns "the final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan." The battlefield is the family. We know that she was given charge by John Paul II to plan and establish the Pontifical Institute for the Studies on Marriage and the Family.

"The final battle between the Lord and the reign of Satan will be about marriage and the family. Don't be afraid, because anyone who operates for the sanctity of marriage and the family will always be contended and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. However, Our Lady has already crushed its head," Sr. Lucia said.

If the founding pillar of the family is touched, the entire building collapses and we see this now, because we are at this point and we know it.

This should not come as any surprise to those watching the events currently unfolding in the Church. Various apparitions in the past that are related to this have been referenced, beginning with Our Lady of Good Success in the 17th century: "Thus I make it known to you that from the end of the 19th century and shortly after the middle of the 20th



Pope John Paul II and Sr. Lucia of Fatima

century, passions will erupt and there will be a total corruption of morals. As for the Sacrament of Matrimony, which symbolizes the union of Christ with His Church, it will be attacked and deeply profaned. Freemasonry, which will then be in power, will enact iniquitous laws with the aim of doing away with this Sacrament, making it easy for everyone to live in sin and encouraging procreation of illegitimate children born without the blessing of the Church. In this supreme moment of need for the Church, the one who should speak will fall silent."

(Concluded on page 3)

Note:

As soon as our council becomes more organized and begins to take part in various functions and events at St. Jerome, I will highlight those kinds of things and include less international and national Catholic news.

Jim Hand Newsletter Editor



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Not ruling on apparitions, Pope allows pilgrimages to Medjugorje

17-year-old with Down syndrome becomes pro-life advocate in Canada

Pope discusses deaconesses, need for nuns to be servants not 'maids'

Catholic bishops urge 'solidarity vote' in support of European Union

Books take different approach to study of Catholic sacraments

Days of covering up abuse allegations are over, says Vatican adviser

Never lose hope for a better future, Pope tells Gypsy communities

Incoming priests have varied professions before entering seminary

Pope says study on women deacons was inconclusive

Early evacuation in India spares more than 1 million from deadly cyclone

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso GK

Brother Knights. We begin our July with many accomplishments for our Knight family. In our last meeting in June, we adopted our Constitution and Bylaws, and this was followed by

election of our officers for the 2019-2020 year. Congratulations to all brothers who stepped into their respective positions and may God give you the wisdom and guidance to move our Council, *The Divine Mercy of Jesus*, forward. Our first meeting of July will kick off our Educational/Prayer meeting idea with a discussion on the Rosary. I have read where the Rosary is our biggest combat weapon against satan and his evil doers. It is also a wonderful tribute to Our Lady. The officers' meeting will begin at 6:30 and the prayer meeting will

begin at 7:00. We are getting some really good thoughts on the Educational/Prayer meeting and are now laying out the next six months. Please keep the great ideas coming.

We are starting to be asked to assist with our wonderful ministries at St. Jerome. The first one is to coordinate the new golf cart to assist the parishioners to get to the front door of the church. We have some plans put together, but with Fr. Tom out of town, the plans have been put on hold until he returns.

The upcoming project is the Trivia Night sponsored by the Youth Ministry. We will participate in both attending the fun activities and also helping out with their needs. We will be talking about volunteers at the next meeting, but please plan on coming and bringing your kids and grandkids for a fun evening and support a very worthy cause. Let's do everything we can to help bring and keep families together.

Please mark July 28 on your calendar for our first-ever installation night. We will begin at the 5:00 p.m. Mass and then walk over to the Parish Center where we will have a wonderful catered meal and the installation. The dress for this is coat and tie. I am still getting some prices for the meal, but expect it

to be \$15 per person. We have a new District Director, Jorge Mercado, whom we all will be meeting soon.

See everyone at the meeting and around church.

Vivat Jesus.

Pete

The Touch of the Master's Hand



'Twas battered and scarred,
And the auctioneer thought it
hardly worth his while
To waste his time on the old violin,
but he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bid, good people," he
cried,
"Who starts the bidding for me?"
"One dollar, one dollar, Do I hear two?"
"Two dollars, who makes it three?"
"Three dollars once, three dollars
twice, going for three,"
But, No, From the room far back
a gray bearded man
Came forward and picked up the bow,
Then wiping the dust
from the old violin
And tightening up the strings,
He played a melody, pure and sweet
As sweet as the angel sings.
The music ceased and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said "What now am I bid
for this old violin?"
As he held it aloft with its bow.
"One thousand, one thousand,
Do I hear two?"
"Two thousand, Who makes it three?"
"Three thousand once,
three thousand twice,
Going and gone", said he.
The audience cheered,
But some of them cried,
"We just don't understand."
"What changed its worth?"
Swift came the reply.
"The Touch of the Masters Hand."
"And many a man with life out of tune
All battered and bruised with hardship
Is auctioned cheap
to a thoughtless crowd
Much like that old violin
A mess of pottage, a glass of wine,
A game and he travels on.
He is going once, he is going twice,
He is going and almost gone.
But the Master comes,
And the foolish crowd
never can quite understand,
The worth of a soul
and the change that is wrought
by the Touch of the Masters' Hand.
- Myra Brooks Welch

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Brother Knights of *The Divine Mercy of Jesus* Council:

We celebrate our American Independence Day on the Fourth of July and the birth of the United States of America as an independent

nation. It is appropriate for us to recall what Jesus taught in Luke 12:48: "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." As we acknowledge once again the many freedoms that we enjoy and the expectations that come from being a citizen in such a great nation, I would like to share with you some of the teachings of our Lord's Church from our Catechism, regarding citizenship:

"It is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community." *Catechism of the Catholic Church #2239

"Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country..." *CCC #2240

"The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or to the teachings of the Gospel." *CCC #2242

"Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance." *CCC #2288

"It is not the role of the Pastors of the Church to intervene directly in the political structuring and organization of social life. This task is part of the vocation of the lay faithful, acting on their own initiative with their fellow citizens." *CCC #2442

In addition to these teachings, I absolutely believe that we as citizens should take to heart St. Paul's words in 1 Timothy 2:1 & 2: "First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone... for [leaders] and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity."

God bless the United States of America! and may the Divine Mercy of Jesus bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan



SPOTLIGHT on Paul Craig

"I always try to do things that most people don't."

Forty-year-old Paul Craig feels that statement pretty sums up his life. It certainly explains his choices while in the armed services. His first 6 years in the Navy were on a Ohio Class Submarine the USS Kentucky SSBN 737 and then 14 years in the Army Charlie Company 4-3 flying Black Hawk helicopters.



Paul Craig feeling.

Born in St. Petersburg, Paul graduated from Gibbs High School and joined the Navy before graduating. He likes to be challenged so he chose to learn the ins and outs of being deployed on a submarine. Paul completed 8 strategic deterrent patrols aboard the Kentucky as a missile technician maintaining America's strategic SLBM nuclear weapons. He made 7 patrols in the Atlantic when the Kentucky was homeported in Kings Bay GA and 1 in the Pacific when the Kentucky changed home port to Bangor WA. As for which job he

enjoyed more, he said he enjoyed flying helicopters better than being in a sub, but as far as a branch of service, he liked the Navy better.

Upon leaving the Navy, Paul joined the Army and immediately began learning how to fly helicopters. He eventually became a Pilot-in-Command, Flight Lead and an Air Mission Commander.

Paul has made several combat deployments. He spent almost many years being deployed. Before leaving the Army, Paul was an instructor pilot at Fort Rucker AL teaching future Army aviators how to fly a Black Hawk. "I love teaching," he said. "When my students were finally on their own and no longer needed my guiding hand, I knew that I had done my job. It was a great

feeling." Paul's rank upon leaving the Army was a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (Promotable).

When asked how he determined what to do after leaving the armed services, Paul said, "I was content to let God lead me in any direction He wanted." Presently, he said that he wouldn't mind being a deacon. "When I was little," he said, "I wanted to be a priest. As a child, my mom used to take me to Saw Grass Park and I pretended that the pavilions were my churches," he said. He had

Irish Catholic grandparents who would pray that someone in the family would get the call to vocation and of course they hoped one of their children would become a priest. When asked what he is currently working on for God he said, "I'm in time out right now," he said, "trying to figure out what God wants me to do next. This is a necessary time for me in my quest to serve God."

With regard to becoming a Knight, Paul said his neighbor across the street is a Grand Knight who talked to him about joining. "I wanted to know about the Knights so I could learn before joining," he said. He liked what he learned about charity because giving of himself appeals to Paul. He wants to serve his community. He is thinking about becoming a Sacristan and Eucharistic Minister. He would also like to become a part of the R.C.I.A. ministry.

Paul's fiancé is also a Catholic and wants to become a Eucharistic Minister and sacristan too.

As far as hobbies go, Paul is a hot rod fanatic. He's in a car club and is in the process of rebuilding a 1990 Ford Ranger. He also has a 1963½ Ford Galaxie. "I'm a Ford guy," he said. His grandfather worked for Ford for 40 years and was one of his role models. "My mom named me Paul after the Apostle Paul, but I think Peter might have been better, because my personality is more like his," Paul said. "I'm hard-headed, like a rock."

FAMILIES AND THE END OF TIME

(Concluded from page 1)

"The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres, churches and altars sacked. The Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord," she said.

Catholics are not required to believe in even the most approved and venerated private revelations, but many choose to do so. How long will the final battle will last, and what will come after?

It is impossible to know. But the notion that there is at this very moment a battle taking place for the heart of the Church and the souls of the faithful is no longer in dispute.

~By Steve Skojec, the Founding Publisher and Executive Director of OnePeterFive.com.

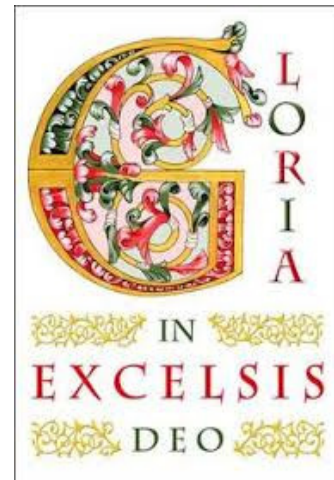
Changes to The Lord's Prayer and The Gloria are on the way

OUR FATHER,
who art in heaven

Pope Francis has approved a revision third edition of the Italian Missal, including changes to the Lord's Prayer and Gloria.

On May 22nd during the General Assembly of the Episcopal Conference of Italy, President Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti announced the approval of a third edition of the Messale Romano. The revised translation will include changes to the Lord's Prayer and Gloria. The Lord's Prayer will change from "and lead us not into temptation" to "do not let us fall into temptation." The Gloria will change from "Peace on earth to people of good will" to "Peace on Earth to people beloved by God."

The changes to the Italian Missal was a 16 year undertaking with aims



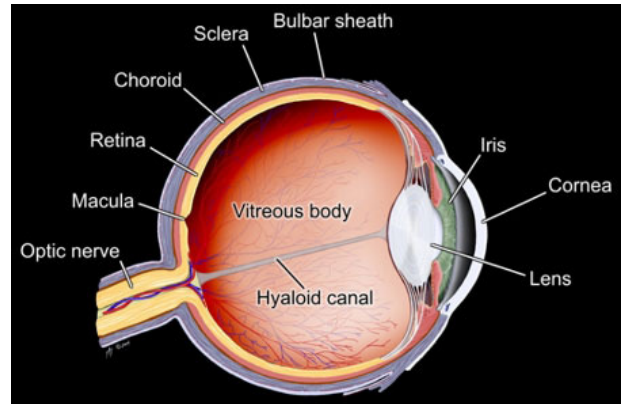
to "contribute to the renewal of the ecclesial community in the wake of the liturgical reform."

"Bishops and experts worked on improving the text from a theological, pastoral and stylistic point of view, as well as on fine-tuning the presentation of the Missal."

The upcoming change has received confirmation from the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments.

SEEING IS BELIEVING: THE DESIGN OF THE HUMAN EYE

An article to strengthen your faith



If one of your friends asked you, "How do you know God exists?" what would you say? There are many different ways to prove God's existence, because God has given us so much evidence.

Sometimes we find that evidence in things we see in the Universe, for example, the Sun. The Sun is like a giant nuclear engine. It gives off more energy in a single second than mankind has produced since the Creation. It converts 8 million tons of matter into energy every single second, and has an interior temperature of more than 20 million degrees Celsius.

Sometimes we find evidence in the animal kingdom. Take the golden orb spider for instance. Pound for pound, the dragline silk of this spider is five times stronger than steel, and is twice as strong as the material that currently makes up SWAT teams' bullet-proof vests. In fact, due to its amazing strength and elasticity, it has been said that you could trap a jumbo jet with spider silk that is the thickness of a pencil.

And sometimes the evidence for God's existence can even be found within our own bodies. The writer of the book of Hebrews spoke about this evidence when he said: "For every house is built by someone, but he who built all things is God" (3:4).

One of the best examples of design within the human body is the eye. Even Charles Darwin struggled with the problem of how to explain how such a complex organ as the eye could have "evolved" through naturalistic processes. In *The Origin of Species* he wrote:

To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest sense.

Evolutionist Robert Jastrow wrote:

The eye is a marvelous instrument, resembling a telescope of the highest quality, with a lens, an adjustable focus, a variable diaphragm for controlling the amount of light, and optical corrections for spherical and chromatic aberration. The eye appears to have been designed; no designer of telescopes could have done better. How could this marvelous instrument have evolved by chance, through a succession of random events?

In his book *Does God Believe in Atheists?* John Blanchard described just how complex the eye really is.

The human eye is a truly amazing phenomenon. Although accounting for just one fourth-thousandth of an adult's weight, it is the medium which processes some 80% of the information received by its owner from the outside world. The tiny retina contains about 130 million rod-shaped cells, which detect light intensity and transmit impulses to the visual cortex of the brain by means of some one million nerve fibers, while nearly six million cone-shaped cells do the same job, but respond specifically to color variation. The eyes can handle 500,00 messages simultaneously, and are kept clear by ducts producing just the right amount of fluid with which the lids clean both eyes simultaneously in one five-thousandth of a second.

Statements like these prove that the eye was so well designed, and so complicated, that it could not have happened by accident, as evolution teaches.

Since the eyes are one of the most important organs in the body, they must be taken care of constantly. And God designed just such a built-in cleaning

system, consisting of the eyelashes, eyelids, and lacrimal glands. The lacrimal glands produce a steady flow of tears that flush away dust and other foreign materials. The tears also contain a potent anti-microbial agent known as lysozyme that destroys bacteria, viruses, etc. The eyelids and eyelashes work together to keep dirt and other debris from entering the eye. The eyelids act like windshield wipers, blinking 3-6 times a minute to moisten and clean the eye.

Only a master engineer with superior intelligence could manufacture a series of interdependent light sensitive parts and reactions. That master engineer was God. The writer of Proverbs knew this when he wrote, "The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the Lord has made them both."

(Edited from *Apologists' Press*. Written by Tayler Richardson.)



"Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5,6

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7

"And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Hebrews 11:6

The Warriors to Lourdes share their stories

"The Knights of Columbus has a long history of supporting the troops and conducting military pilgrimages," Supreme Knight Carl Anderson said, "the Warriors to Lourdes program May 16 – 19 being the latest."

While he may have an important role leading the Knights, Anderson stressed that he was just a pilgrim like everyone else. "I went to Lourdes like any Catholic," said Anderson. "It's a special place for Our Lady, and it's a special place to be with people who are taking significant steps on their spiritual journey in life."

Anderson said he has been to other Marian apparition sites, but there is something "very special" about Lourdes, due to all the people seeking some form of healing.

Many of the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrims are Catholic, but they are very different in the practice of their faith. Some attend daily Mass, and others have a more complicated relationship with the Church. For Sgt. 1st Class Mary Katzenberg, who is a public affairs chief assigned to Ft. Bragg, the pilgrimage gave her the chance for her to attend her first Mass in about 20 years. "I reconnected with God about a year ago after a 20-year stint of thinking I could do things on my own or do things my way," she said.

After receiving an email about Warriors to Lourdes from her unit's chaplain, Katzenberg said she felt called to apply. "I wanted to see if it was something God wanted me to do." She said that she was completely unfamiliar with the story of Lourdes prior to being accepted for the pilgrimage.

Katzenberg had the chance to visit the Lourdes baths. Visiting the baths was "a very emotional experience," said Katzenberg. "I prayed for God to cleanse my soul, and it almost felt like it was kind of like a second baptism. It moved me." The experience has inspired Katzenberg to return to the Catholic faith.

Even though the Knights of Columbus are a Catholic fraternal organization, and Lourdes is home to numerous Catholic churches and chapels, Maj. Brian Minietta, a Methodist chaplain, said he did not feel out of place at all as a Protestant. He credited his experience in the Army for how he was able to work alongside the other chaplains. "In the Army," he said, "we work in a pluralistic environment, and so we kind of have this thing where we say we perform and provide. And so, I perform the things that I can perform as a Protestant chaplain, but it's also my job

to provide, so I brought people from my unit on this pilgrimage."

The armed forces are often compared to a tribe. For one couple, there was also a literal tribe back home praying for their pilgrimage. Ben Black Bear III and his wife Jennifer Black Bear made the journey to Lourdes from the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Both are members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The Black Bears both work for their church, and both were familiar with the story of Lourdes prior to the pilgrimage. Given the sheer distance between South Dakota and France, Ben described the pilgrimage as his "one-

in-a-million chance" to visit the Grotto. "It was a really big honor for us, and also our parents, and also our future generations," he said. They said they took Lourdes water back to their reservation.

Some people go to Lourdes hoping for a miracle from its waters. The Fisk family has already experienced theirs.

Julian Fisk, the 14-month old son of Army Captain Adam Fisk and Morgan Fisk, did not have the easiest entrance into the world when he was born in January of last year. "He came out not breathing for six minutes," his father said. "He was immediately evacuated to a neonatal intensive care unit where doctors took quick action to attempt to prevent any brain damage due to his lack of oxygen at birth." While some of their efforts were successful, Julian had suffered a subgaleal hematoma, which Adam described as "...a very large pocket of fluid that had been built up in his head" that could potentially cause major health issues. Doctors predicted it would take up to a month for the hematoma to heal.

Adam's father-in-law, Deacon Mark Mitchell, flew in from Georgia to Texas to be with Morgan, Adam, and Julian while Julian was hospitalized. Mitchell had been to Lourdes, and brought some of the healing water with him to the NICU. "He sprinkled some on Julian's head and along his body, and he prayed over him," Adam explained. "The next day, the hematoma was gone and it baffled the doctors. Obviously, it

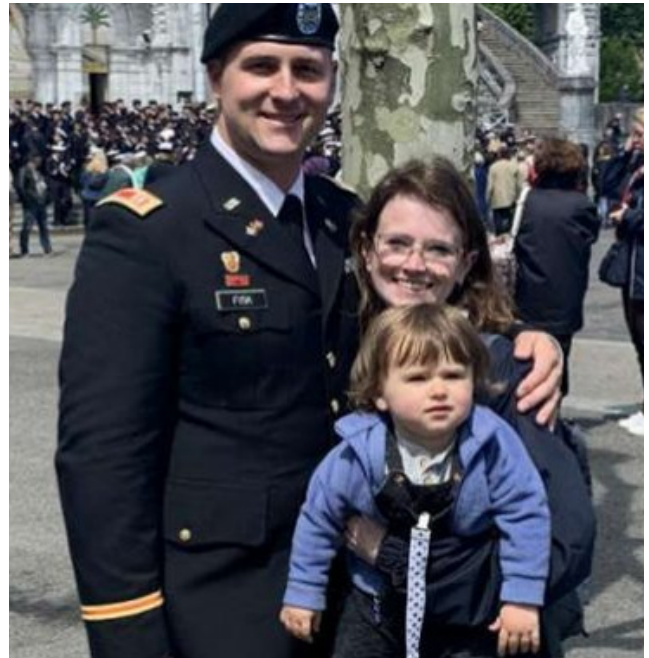
was a miracle to us."

Julian has now been entirely cleared by his doctors and is "...completely where he needs to be for his age," said Adam. A few months after his miraculous healing, Adam was encouraged to apply for Warriors to Lourdes by Deacon Mitchell, who is also on this year's pilgrimage. Adam jumped at the opportunity.

Julian was able to join his parents on the pilgrimage to Lourdes, and is one of the youngest people in the program. Adam said it was "amazing" to be in Lourdes, and to see the Grotto and the spring.

The Fisks have not yet had a chance to enter the baths, but they eagerly await the opportunity—having first-hand knowledge of how healing the water can be. Morgan has a progressive form of Lupus, and Adam said that they are praying for some sort of spiritual or physical feeling for her as well. "We're excited to do that as a family," said Adam.

(Edited from the *Catholic World Report*.)



Army Captain Adam Fisk, Morgan Fisk, and their son Julian on the Warriors to Lourdes trip.

THE BISHOPS URGE YOU TO **STOP ABORTION COERCION.**
CONTACT CONGRESS TODAY

Installation of Officers

We will celebrate our quarterly corporate communion Mass together at the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, July 28. Following Mass we will have a catered buffet dinner in the Parish Center. Attendees will pay \$15 per person for the meal. We need to have an approximate number of those attending before we order the food, so would you email me to let us know that you and a guest will be attending? My email address is editorjhand@tampabay.rr.com. Following the dinner, we will have the ceremony for the installation of officers of our council for the 2019 fraternal year. Finally, we have a new District Deputy. His name is Jorge Mercado. I believe he will be in attendance at our first meeting in July.
 ~~Jim Hand Newsletter Editor

Our Newest Member



Meet Rick Hendrickson. To further his welcome, we let Rick win his first 50/50 attempt at a council meeting. Once and done!



On the next page there is an article entitled Journey of Faith. It will explain itself as you read it. However, I'm hoping that it will inspire many of you to share various thoughts you have had about life and your own faith journey and that you will be willing to share your thoughts in this fashion or perhaps at our council's first-Wednesday-of-the-month meeting. Please give this some thought. I think your insights will be a great addition to our newsletter.
 Jim Hand Newsletter Editor

I'm smarter than you...

It's difficult now to imagine a time in America when being Catholic meant a life of discrimination, a short life which often left small children without one or both parents. It's hard to imagine being completely dependent on one's local parish for support in times of need. But this was America 130 years ago. Then God chose a sickly priest to form the Knights of Columbus and take care of Catholic families. That priest would die young without fully achieving his goals or knowing what his Knights would become.

Today the average American in pov-

erty has a cell phone and a car, and no one cares if someone is Catholic. Even Catholics don't care they are Catholic. It's hard living the faith and dying to self, especially for the men who take the challenge of being a Knight seriously. The act of self-gift done in humility is difficult because pride can take hold of even the simplest act of piety. Getting to that grace-filled state of humility means submitting to that quiet voice of God saying, "Trust me...I'm smarter than you."
 Much like Fr. McGivney did for us those many years ago.



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JOHN WAYNE'S CONVERSION TO CATHOLICISM

This American icon of masculinity and patriotism appeared in more than 175 movies. He won an Academy Award for his portrayal of crusty Rooster Cogburn in True Grit. He played dozens of cowboys in a wealth of Westerns. If you remember an old war movie, it probably starred the Duke.

How did this thrice-married, hard-drinking, larger-than-life megastar make his leap to Catholicism? Faith danced around John Wayne all his adult life. All three of his wives had been raised Catholic, and all seven of his children were brought up in the Church. His first wife, Josie, who prayed for Duke's conversion till the end, convinced him to attend numerous parish events with her. He sometimes complained



to friends that he was up to his neck in Catholics, but perhaps as he interacted with genuine, faithful people, misconceptions and prejudices fell away.

Despite his early upbringing in the Presbyterian Church, Duke never had any denominational loyalty and was impatient with the infighting of Christianity. Wayne's son Michael thought his father was a man who quietly believed in God even as he shunned church attendance. "There must be a higher power," Wayne said in the year he died, "or how does all this stuff work?"

Catholic priest Fr. Matthew Muñoz, who knew Wayne simply as "Granddaddy," hints that obstacles to his grandfather's conversion toppled slowly as Wayne grew in knowledge of Catholicism. "After a while," Fr. Muñoz said, "he kind of got a sense that the common secular vision of what Catholics are and what his own experience actually was were becoming two greatly different things."

In the mid-1960s, Duke was fighting a persistent cough. His wife urged him to have it checked, and since he needed to renew an insurance policy anyway, he had a physical. When he returned to the clinic the next day for results, he ran into the technician who'd performed the tests. The young tech revealed what he thought the star already knew: it was lung cancer.

John Wayne did beat lung cancer, as everyone knew he would. He became a vocal advocate for those fighting the disease, and his family eventually established the John Wayne Cancer Institute.

Then in 1974, when the star began battling repeated respiratory illnesses, he feared that lung cancer had returned, but the doctors told him not to worry. Symptoms of seemingly unrelated illnesses plagued him over the next

few years until finally, in 1978, an accurate diagnosis was made. John Wayne had stomach cancer. He deteriorated quickly. By the following year, he was extremely sick, wasting away, and often hospitalized.

Wayne had watched his friend John Ford suffer from the same kind of cancer just a few years before. Ford had been a Catholic; he died with priests in the room and a rosary in his hand. Ford's faith and its uplifting effect on his life and death were etched into Wayne's psyche. Duke remembered the comfort and courage Catholicism had given his friend.

On May 14, 1979, Michael asked his father if it would be okay to have Archbishop Marcos McGrath come and visit. Duke said yes, and the two men spent an afternoon together talking. Wayne agreed that day to call for a priest before he died. Duke had often joked with his family that he was a "cardiac Catholic," that at the last minute he'd call in a priest. With the end near, Wayne was in constant agony.

Two days before he died, his son Patrick asked him if they should call the priest now. "Yeah," Duke said, "I think that's a good idea." Fr. Robert Curtis, UCLA Medical Center chaplain, arrived. He baptized the dying man, probably conditionally, as Wayne had grown up in a Christian church, and administered last rites. That night, Wayne fell into a coma. "I don't know the technicalities of the Church or what constitutes a conversion," said Michael. "But Dad did die in the Church."



As another part of our council question of What Makes Us Different?

GK Pete Grasso wants to highlight a time in which we can enrich each other when we gather at a first-Wednesday-of-the-month meeting. Here's how it will work: Starting at 6:30, officers will meet in the glassed-in room while regular members, little by little, arrive for a starting time of 7:00 for an enriching session.

At that time, the officers will wrap up their meeting and file into the meeting room at which time Edgar Lecuyer will lead an hour-long program of various ways to grow in the Holy Spirit. This time will be a potpourri of ideas similar to the following: Someone has requested some instructions on how to say the Rosary, not just verbally while we finger beads, but spiritually while we meditate on various aspects of Christ's life.

Another member, Bill Bannon, who is involved in the R.C.I.A. ministry would like to explain why it exists, how it works, and how anyone can be involved and enrich their lives.

As we often hear, everyone has a story. I love to hear someone else's conversion story and share mine as well. Both occasions lift me up and make me glad I am a Christian.

Following is an example of something I might have said if given the opportunity at such a meeting as Pete has in mind.

The other day I came across an interesting comment: "He was the kind of man who writes checks on eternity." I had to think for quite some time before I could come up with some sort of explanation as to what it might mean.

I was reminded of the fable of the Grasshopper and the Ant in which the grasshopper daily sings "Oh the world owes me a living" while the ant gathers food for hard times. When winter arrives, the grasshopper sees the ant inside his nest with his friends, eating what they had stored while he reamins outside, starving.

And that, my friends, is how I con-

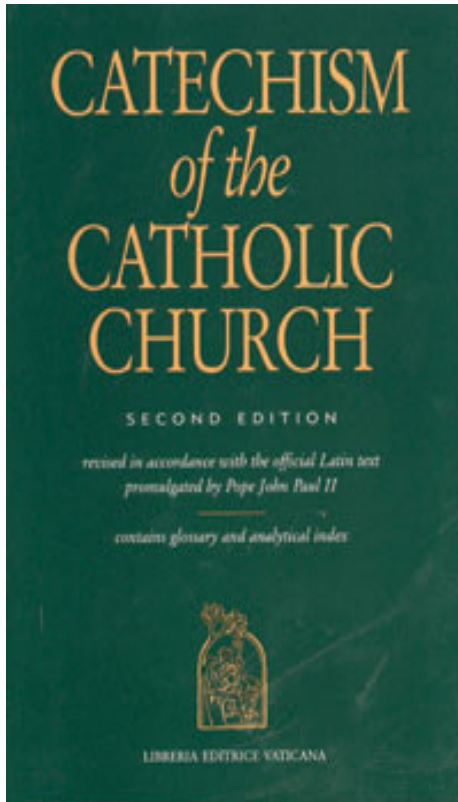
cluded what "He is writing checks on eternity" means to me: ignoring the moment and failing to prepare for what's coming. And, since I am 82 years old, my mortality has become more prominent to me than ever before. The good health that I have been blessed with for so many years has left me, and I have a new normal where I talk to friends about "Going to Hell in a handbasket." (Oh no, another expression that I'm going to have to try to figure out!)

As I ponder this, I realize that God has given me a wonderful life, much more than what I deserved. I loved my career (I was a high school English teacher for 36 years), I've been in excellent health for many years, I have many people who love me and whom I love, and I belong to St. Jerome, a wonderful parish.

Little by little I have come to realize that I'm not afraid of death, that I pray to the Holy Spirit daily, and that as Timothy said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Each day I try to write checks for the moment, not eternity.

Jim Hand Newsletter Editor



What does the Catechism say about corporal acts of mercy?

2447 The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities.

242 Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead

243 Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

244 He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food must do likewise.

245 But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you.

246 If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving things needed for the body, what does it profit?