

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

The Divine Mercy of Jesus

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Catholic Student Government Hopes to Block Porno Sites



don't need one another for sexual fulfillment. We can summon imaginary partners at the touch of a button."

Reproductive technology such as artificial contraception has reinforced the idea, Garvey asserted, that if sex is merely a form of recreation, then "any partner will do, even a virtual one. Our students are right to be concerned about the trend in this direction, because the digital revolution's ambition is to make virtual reality indistinguishable from life," he noted.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes pornography as a "grave offense." It "...offends against chastity because it perverts the conjugal act, the intimate giving of spouses to each other" and does "grave injury to the dignity of its participants."

Of course, Garvey acknowledged, blocking pornography on the university's internet system will not solve students' appetite for porn—they can still use their phones or access a site that is not yet blocked.

"But it does communicate a point of view that our students say they want to hear," Garvey wrote.

"It says that this is not the sort of relationship they should be looking for, and we're not going to lend our system to help them find it."

The president of The Catholic University of America has voiced his support for a student government resolution that has asked the university to block the 200 most popular porn sites from its internet system.

"I am so proud of our students," CUA president John Garvey wrote in an op-ed for the Arlington Catholic Herald April 24, 2019. "I told them we'd be happy to," he said.

Garvey noted that pornography has become more accessible than it once was. In the past it could only be found in "leather-bound books in gentlemen's clubs and private libraries." Today, "Any 6-year-old can find it on a cellphone."

In addition, pornography has become more graphic, and advances in technology not only make pornography more addictive, but also make it easier for people to slip into the mindset of "We



FROM AROUND THE WORLD
OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Report Shows Increased Hostility toward Christians across Europe

Restoration of Holy Stairs Lets Visitors to Rome Follow in Pilgrims' Knees

Polish Church Compared to Nazis after Public Book Burning

Growing Percentage of U.S. Catholics Rethinking Their Commitment after Abuse Scandal

Why Did Nonbelievers Grieve for Notre-Dame?

South Korea Rules Anti-Abortion Law Unconstitutional

Pope Francis to Allow Access to Holocaust-Era Documents of Pius XII

Hackers infiltrate Ohio parish's email system, steal \$1.75 million

Louisiana bishop urges state to put an end to capital punishment

Pope Francis donates \$500,000 to help migrants in Mexico

To our friends who transferred from Council 4892:

For the next few issues, I am going to reprint an article or two that appeared in your previous newsletters because I think they are important enough for Council 17249 *Divine Mercy of Jesus* members to see.

Jim Hand

Newsletter Editor

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso GK

Brother Knights. Our Divine Mercy of Jesus Council is off and running, thanks to the tireless efforts of our Financial Secretary Jim Blackwell.

Normally there is a good deal of paperwork and coordination, which we all know goes on, but in the development of a new organization there is a tremendous amount of paperwork in development of the charter: organization of all the membership forms and cards; Formation Degree meetings; and just keeping it all together. Brother Jim is making it happen. Brother Danny McConnell is using

his experience and hours and hours of work; Brother Jim Hand is producing this amazing newsletter which is keeping us informed; and many hours are given of our Brothers in help and prayer. We are truly blessed as a group and are positioned to do a mighty mission for our church, priest, and for God. At this point we are setting up our EIN (Employer Identification Number) and getting our bank account established. It is VERY important that all of our Brother Knights attend the meetings in June. June 5, which would normally be our officers and prayer meetings (First Wednesday of the month) will be used to discuss our constitution and bylaws and to produce our slate of officers, both which will need to be completed and voted on at our general meeting on June 12. Your input, suggestions, and vote will shape the future of our organization, and believe me, we have many

really good ideas from the membership. Thank you all. It is truly a joy and blessing to be a member of the Knights of Columbus. God Bless you and your families.
Pete

WORDS OF WISDOM

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead, so why should you?

I don't know why some people change churches. What difference does it make which one you stay home from?

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN



Fr. Tom Morgan

The month of June will present us with several important liturgical celebrations which include the following: The Ascension of the Lord, June 2 (659-664); Pentecost Sunday, June 9 (731, 732, 2623); The Most Holy Trinity, June 16 (232-260); The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, June 23 (1322-1405); and The Nativity of John the Baptist, June 24 (523, 717-720). The numbers in parentheses above, next to each liturgical feast are item numbers from the Catechism for further explanations and study regarding the individual feasts.

In addition, June 28, 2019, is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (368, 478, 766, 2669), and June 29 is the solemnity of Peter and Paul (642, 2177). These feasts affirm for us essential elements of our faith.

I would encourage all Knights to have their own copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* promulgated by St. John Paul II, in addition to having their own personal copy of the *New American Bible Revised Edition*.

There is also an excellent Catechism search engine on the internet: <http://www.scborromeo.org/ccs.htm>

May the Divine Mercy of Jesus bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan

NEW MEMBERS JOIN COUNCIL



On Wednesday, May 1, these men joined St. Jerome's Knights of Columbus Council 17249.

Front, L-R Chester Wojciechowoski, Jim Allen
Back, L-R Paul Craig, Anthony Jwanouskos, Jamie Ford



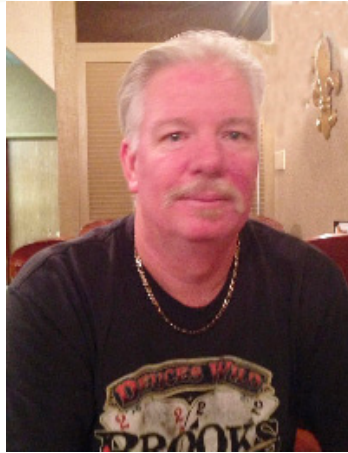
SPOTLIGHT

on
Jim Cullinan

"I ain't here."

That unusual taped telephone greeting doesn't begin to help you understand Jim Cullinan, a recent convert to the Catholic faith, thanks to the R.C.I.A. ministry. Jim is a Cracker, meaning he was born and raised in Florida, specifically Orlando, where he lived until 2003. When asked what plans he had upon graduation from high school, he said, "I couldn't tell you." He was just a happy young man, looking for a place to be and a way to earn money. His first jobs—washing dishes and washing cars—helped him pass the time until he could go fishing or play baseball.

After meeting a man in Orlando who owned a printing business, Jim began working for him. Little by little he learned the business which has now become a



Jim Cullinan

part of his life. In fact, the word printer is part of his email address. "I finally found my niche," he said with a laugh. Jim met his wife—Cheryl—in 1986 and were married two years later. Their marriage was blessed by Fr. Tom. She is a cradle Catholic and, to be polite, Jim went to Mass with her over the years and was a believer of sorts but

never felt the urge to join the church. They had a daughter, Alison, who died in 2016. They have a son, David, and two daughters, Amy and Ashley.

Jim and Cheryl have much in common, especially motorcycles. "She had one before I got mine," he said. They have ridden many miles together, their longest trip being to Key West. Cheryl's career was in education, and she often rode her motorcycle with a laptop on it to the place

she needed to be on any particular day. Her job eventually brought her to Largo so Jim followed her, even though he still worked in Orlando. He eventually got used to the long commute, but he never did really like it, he said. "I'm working in Tampa now and I don't even like that drive," he said with a grin.

Their daughter's death impacted them both dramatically and caused Jim to begin to get serious about the Catholic Church and seek a deeper meaning to life. They were attending St. Jerome and were very impressed by St. Lucia's faith and welcoming manner. "Her interactions rubbed off on me," he said. He said that Bill and JoAnn Bannon also were a great influence on him and his journey of faith.

Much to Cheryl's delight, Jim decided to become a part of the R.C.I.A. ministry last year and, at this year's Easter vigil, he was baptized and confirmed. Cheryl was his sponsor. He still is attending R.C.I.A. meetings, now call Mystagogia, a Greek word which means "learning about the mysteries," namely the sacraments. "I enjoy helping others enrich their faith by helping them learn more about the Catholic faith. I'd call it Catholicism 101. There's so much to know." He said he is still enriching his faith by learning from others, and he wants to pass that blessing on.

"Pete Grasso and Danny McConnell influenced me the most about becoming a Knight of Columbus," Jim said. "I recently received my 3rd Degree," he said. "I don't have much desire to be an officer. That's just not me. In addition, R.C.I.A. meets on Wednesday nights and I'm committed to that."

"Even if I never become an officer for the Knights, I'll be a good soldier for them," he said.

St. Jerome's Knights of Columbus Council 17249 Attends Mass As It Promotes Its Parish Presence



Front, L-R: Jean Push, Chuck & Dolly Lake, Kathy Moore, Lissy, Gabi, & Billy Baldwin, Shirley & Jack Fitzgerald, Danny McConnell, Jim & Yanna Blackwell
Rear, L-R: Jim Hand, Anne & Edgar Lecuyer, Pete Grasso, Joe Moore, Mary Ellen & Gregg Appel, unidentified couple, Kathy & Gene Sanders

On Sunday, April 28, the council attended the 5 p.m. Mass and sat together. Fr. Tom noted its presence and explained to the parishioners why they were there.

After Mass ended, they processed out
The Knights of Columbus Council 17249.....

with Fr. Tom and handed out Knights of Columbus flyers to exiting parishioners. Next they went to Jimmy Guana's for a meal and companionship.

"It was a wonderful evening to share with one another our faith and friend-

ship, said Pete Grasso, Grand Knight. "Bonds were strengthened and new faces became immediate friends."

The council hopes to do this again every three months. Stay tuned for more information.

You Don't Need Insurance

Many people don't *need* insurance but almost everyone should *want* it, because it's not simply about what we leave our loved ones, but what we can do with it while we're still alive.

Insurance is simply one of many financial tools that can be used to secure one's future. If you don't think this is true, give your Field Agent the opportunity to go over the options. He will find a way to help.

Sadly though, insurance participation rate among the officers of the Knights of Columbus in our region is less than 40%, and closer to 30% if we subtract small annuities that were mostly

purchased to help win Star Council awards. That's also about average nationally.

Preexisting insurance or preexisting conditions is why some in leadership are only Associates, but that shouldn't equate to this large of a disparity. When we consider the moral and financial advantages of the Knights, why do we have so many Associate members and even more Associate leaders? There is something wrong with our messaging and with our branding.

If we don't fix this, we will some day fail. Email or call if you have thoughts... or better yet references.



CHURCH SOON TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF PENTECOST



On the weekend of June 2, the Church will celebrate Pentecost, one of the most important feast days of the year that concludes the Easter season and celebrates the beginning of the Church. Pentecost always occurs 50 days after the death and resurrection of Jesus and ten days after his ascension into heaven. Because Easter is a moveable feast without a fixed date and Pentecost depends on the timing of Easter, Pentecost can fall anywhere between May 10 and June 13.

The timing of these feasts is also where Catholics get the concept of the Novena - nine days of prayer - because in Acts 1, Mary and the Apostles prayed together "continuously" for nine

Shavu'ot is sometimes called the festival of weeks, referring to the 7 weeks since Passover.

In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is the celebration of the person of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Apostles, Mary, and the first followers of Jesus who were gathered together in the Upper Room.

A "strong, driving" wind filled the room where they were gathered, and tongues of fire came to rest on their heads, allowing them to speak in different languages so that they could understand each other. It was such a strange phenomenon that some people thought the Christians were just drunk. but Peter pointed out that it was only

the morning and that the phenomenon was caused by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit also gave the apostles the other gifts and fruits necessary to fulfill the great commission - to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. It fulfills the New Testament promise from Christ (Luke 24:46-49) that the Apostles would be "clothed with power" before they would be sent out to spread the Gospel.

It was right after Pentecost that Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, preached his first homily to Jews and other non-believers in which he opened the scriptures of the Old Testament, showing how the prophet Joel prophesied events and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. He also told the people that the Jesus they crucified is the Lord and was raised from the dead, which "cuts them to the heart." When they asked what they should do, Peter exhorts them to repent of their sins and to be baptized. According to the account in Acts, about 3,000 people were baptized following Peter's sermon.

For this reason, Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. Peter, the first Pope, preaches for the first time and converts thousands of new believers. The apostles and believers, for the first time, were united by a common language, and a common zeal and purpose to go and preach the Gospel.

FAMOUS CONVERSION STORY



Norma McCorvey
"Jane Roe"

In 1970, Norma McCorvey, under the pseudonym "Jane Roe," filed a law suit challenging the Texas laws that criminalized abortion. Eventually, the case reached the U.S. Supreme Court

as the now-famous *Roe v. Wade*. She is described as a pregnant woman who "wished to terminate her pregnancy by an abortion 'performed by a competent, licensed physician, under safe, clinical conditions'; that she was unable to get a 'legal' abortion in Texas. . . She claimed that the Texas statutes were unconstitutionally vague and that they abridged her right of personal privacy. McCorvey describes herself as having been relatively ignorant of the facts of her own case, and claims that her attorneys simply used her for their own ends. She was pregnant with her third child and wanted to end her pregnancy, but she was not aware of all the implications of abortion or even what the term itself meant. She did not fully realize that this process would end a human life. In the end, Norma never had an abortion. She gave her baby up for adoption.

In the 1980's, she became involved in the abortion movement. Around 1992, she began to work at abortion

clinics. In 1995, a pro-life group moved into the same building as the abortion clinic, leading to a series of encounters between Norma and pro-life activists. Over time she became friends with many of them and began to have serious doubts about the morality of abortion.

Emily Mackey, the 7 year-old daughter of one of the pro-lifers, particularly affected her. Eventually, she started going to church, and began to reject her past involvement with the pro-abortion movement.

Since her conversion she has dedicated herself to pro-life work, starting her own ministry, "Roe No More," in 1997, and continues to speak out against abortion and for life. In 1998, she became Catholic and has worked to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

Norma McCorvey teaches us that we need not be defined by our past. Sometimes the lessons we learn from our past prepare us to minister to others in the future.



Vivat Jesus – a Timeless Call to Faith

Vivat Jesus. This phrase is the Latin motto of the Knights of Columbus. While many of us have heard those words spoken or have seen them written, how many of us have given thought to what the phrase actually means? In English, Vivat Jesus translates to "Jesus Lives."

The phrase, just two words long, articulates something profoundly powerful which has special significance during the Easter Season. This is the time when the entire Church prepares for the greatest feast in the Liturgical calendar, when we, as Christians celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over death. We celebrate that Jesus lives!

In the long and storied history of the Knights, the use of Vivat Jesus is a recent practice. Originally used by St Bernadine of Siena, who lived over 6 centuries ago, it was introduced to the Knights by Bishop Charles P. Greco, the Order's Supreme Chaplain from 1960 to 1987 and a member of the Order since 1918.

Bishop Greco had encountered the phrase while reading about St. Bernadine during his studies at the seminary. The story of St. Bernadine deeply touched the young seminarian. Born to a noble family, St. Bernadine became an orphan at a young age. He later became a Franciscan priest and

toured all over of Italy to bring the gospel to the masses, often preaching for days on end. He was widely thought of as the greatest preacher of his age and Pope Pius II even called St. Bernadine the second Paul. It was this man, and his special devotion was to the Holy Name of Jesus, that inspired Bishop Greco to adopt St. Bernadine's favorite prayer, Vivat Jesus, as the motto for his life and priestly vocation.

What better time than the Easter season to promise to commit ourselves to those ideals underlying why our former Supreme Chaplain chose Vivat Jesus as his motto: to make Jesus live in the hearts of His people. At a time in our nation's history when tenets of our Holy religion are under attack by nearly every aspect of secular society, when spirituality and religion are thought of a passé and unnecessary, let us greet each other with confidence with a hearty Vivat Jesus! Two simple words, profoundly powerful, Jesus Lives!

It's time for Catholics (and all religious people) to wake up: The real danger posed by the California Confession Bill

By Bishop Robert Barron (*Edited*)

SB 360, a piece of proposed legislation currently making its way through the California state senate, should alarm not only every Catholic in the country, but indeed the adepts of any religion.

In California, as in almost every other state, clergy members (along with a



Bishop Robert Barron

variety of other professionals, including physicians, social workers, teachers, and therapists) are mandated to report any case of suspected child abuse or neglect to

law enforcement. However, California clergy who come by this knowledge in the context of "penitential communication" are currently exempted from the requirement.

SB 360 would remove the exemption. Sen. Jerry Hill, the bill's sponsor, characterized the scope and purpose of his legislation as follows: "The law should apply equally to all professionals who have been designated as mandated reporters of these crimes—with no exceptions, period. The exemption for clergy only protects the abuser and places children at further risk."

Since the canon law of the Church stipulates that the conscious violation of the seal of confession results in automatic excommunication, every priest, under this new law, would be threatened with prosecution and possible imprisonment on the one hand or formal exclusion from the body of Christ on the other. And does anyone doubt that, if this law is enacted, attempts will be made to entrap priests, effectively placing them in this impossible position?

We are dealing here with an egregious violation of the principle of religious liberty. In its stipulation that Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, the first amendment holds off, if you will, the aggression of any religion toward the civil state. But in its further stipulation that Congress shall never legislate in such a way as to obviate the free exercise of religion, it blocks the state's aggression toward religion. The framers of the Bill of Rights were legitimately alarmed at the prospect of the government meddling in the affairs of a religious community, monitoring its beliefs and policing its behavior. But such meddling and monitoring is precisely what SB 360 involves.

I realize that non-Catholics and non-believers might not appreciate how precious the sacrament of Confession

is to Catholics and why the seal of Confession matters so profoundly. Why do we Catholics take this sacrament with such seriousness? We do so because we believe that through this sacramental encounter, a sinner accesses the healing and forgiving grace of Christ.

In the context of Confession, the priest, we hold, is operating in the very person of Christ, and therefore, the penitent is speaking to and hearing from the Lord himself. Thus, absolutely nothing ought to stand in the way of a sinner who seeks this font of grace. In light of these clarifications, one can understand the indispensable importance of the seal. If a penitent thought that the priest to whom he confessed were likely to share with others what was given in the most sacred confidence, he or she would be reluctant indeed ever to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation.

This is why the Church has striven so strenuously to protect, at all costs, the integrity of Confession. But with SB 360, the secular authorities are reaching into the inner life of the Church, into its sacramental practice and discipline. Catholics should, of course, rise up in strenuous protest against this very aggressive incursion—but so should anyone who cares about the freedom of religion in our society.

Corner

Prayer

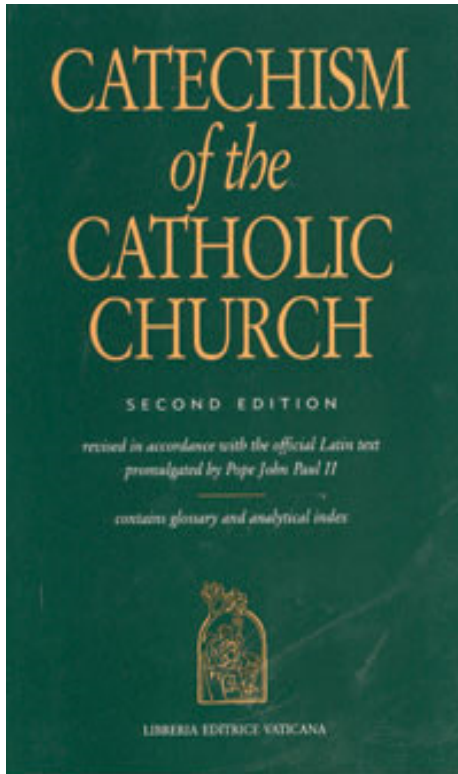




Our Lady, Queen of the Knights, bless all the activities of our Order. Keep us true to our pledge, to extend the kingship of thy divine son on earth.

Through Thine intercession, win for us the grace, ever to exemplify in our public and private lives, the virtues that should characterize those especially dedicated to the service of the heavenly court. Make us always aware that as your Knights, we are constantly observed, our faith judged, and our Order appreciated.

Accept, O Mary, this renewed pledge of loyalty and devotion, of Thy Servants, the Knights of Columbus.



What does the Catechism say about the church's precepts?

The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor.

The first precept is "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.

The second precept is "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." This ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation.

The third precept is "You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season." This guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

The fourth precept is "You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church." This ensures the times of penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts.

The fifth precept is "You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church." This means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.