



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MILTON COUNCIL 7027



DEACON'S TEACHING



Why Do Catholics Call Priest 'Father'?

"Call no one on earth your father," Jesus teaches. *"You have but one Father in heaven"* (Mt 23:9). In light of these words from the Gospel, many non-Catholic Christians object to Catholics calling priests "Father." How do Catholics understand this passage?

In this situation, Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees for their pride (see Mt 23:2-10). He reminds them that God alone - God the Father - is ultimately the source of all authority, even the authority these men wield within the religious community.

Is this simply an admonition to the proud, or does Jesus actually mean that under no circumstances are we ever to refer to anyone as "father"? Just consider: If the latter is true, then we could never legitimately speak of Church fathers, founding fathers, or even our biological daddies as father.

This cannot be Jesus' intent, given the words of Jesus on other occasions reported in the gospels. The truth is that our Lord himself uses the term "father" numerous times (see for example, Mt 15:4-6; 19:5, 19, 29; Jn 8:56). In telling the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus even has the rich man use the title "Father Abraham" three times to refer to the ancient patriarch (see Lk 16:24, 27,30). Later on, St. Paul certainly has no qualms about calling himself a "father" to other Christians (see Phil 2:22; 1 Cor 4:15).

All this can be said as well of Jesus' instruction immediately before his words about not calling anyone "father." He warns, "Do not be called 'Rabbi' [literally, "Teacher" in Jesus' native tongue, Aramaic; see Jn 1:38]. You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8). Do those who object to calling priests "Father" refrain from calling anyone "teacher" as well?

Jesus himself speaks of teachers (see Mt 10:24-25; Lk 6:40; Jn 3:10). Paul calls himself a teacher (see 1 Tm 2:7; 2 Tm 1:11) and noted that teachers are in fact one of the ministries God has set in the Church (see 1 Cor 12:28-29; Eph 4:11). Any Bible concordance will reveal many other occurrences of the words "father," "fathers," "teacher," and "teachers" throughout Scripture.



FIELD AGENT'S REPORT



"Live On" or "Leave On" Money

As your working life progresses, your priorities will likely shift. Many major life events (weddings, births, education costs for children, etc.) are probably behind you. Your focus shifts to those "golden" retirement years when you can enjoy your hobbies, grandchildren, travel or simply relax at home.

"When it comes to decisions about your finances and your family's future, don't leave things to chance."

During my career as a field agent, I've had members ask me what they should do with a sum of money they are looking to "dump" somewhere for safe keeping.

First, I tell them that there is no safer place to put their money than with the Knights of Columbus. No one has ever lost money using our retirement products. There are no risks assumed by you, the members. Second, I ask the member a question: Is this money to "live on" or "leave on"?

I ask this because the answer makes all the difference. If you want a guaranteed flow of cash in retirement, one of our annuity options might meet your needs. If this money is intended as a gift for grandchildren, to assist your wife in the event of your passing or to give to your favorite charity, a Single Premium Whole Life policy might be the best product.

When it comes to decisions about your finances and your family's future, don't leave things to chance. Discuss the options with a brother Knight who knows how to help. Someone who's helped many other Catholic families not too different from yours. Someone who can offer you life insurance, long-term care, disability income and retirement products backed by the strength and security of an insurance provider rated among the top in the industry.

Call me today to set up a time to meet. You'll only regret that you didn't call sooner.

May God Bless You All,

Jeff Fischer, FICF, LUTCF

Knights of Columbus, Field Agent

Office: 850-981-8207

Email: Jeff.Fischer@KOFC.ORG



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