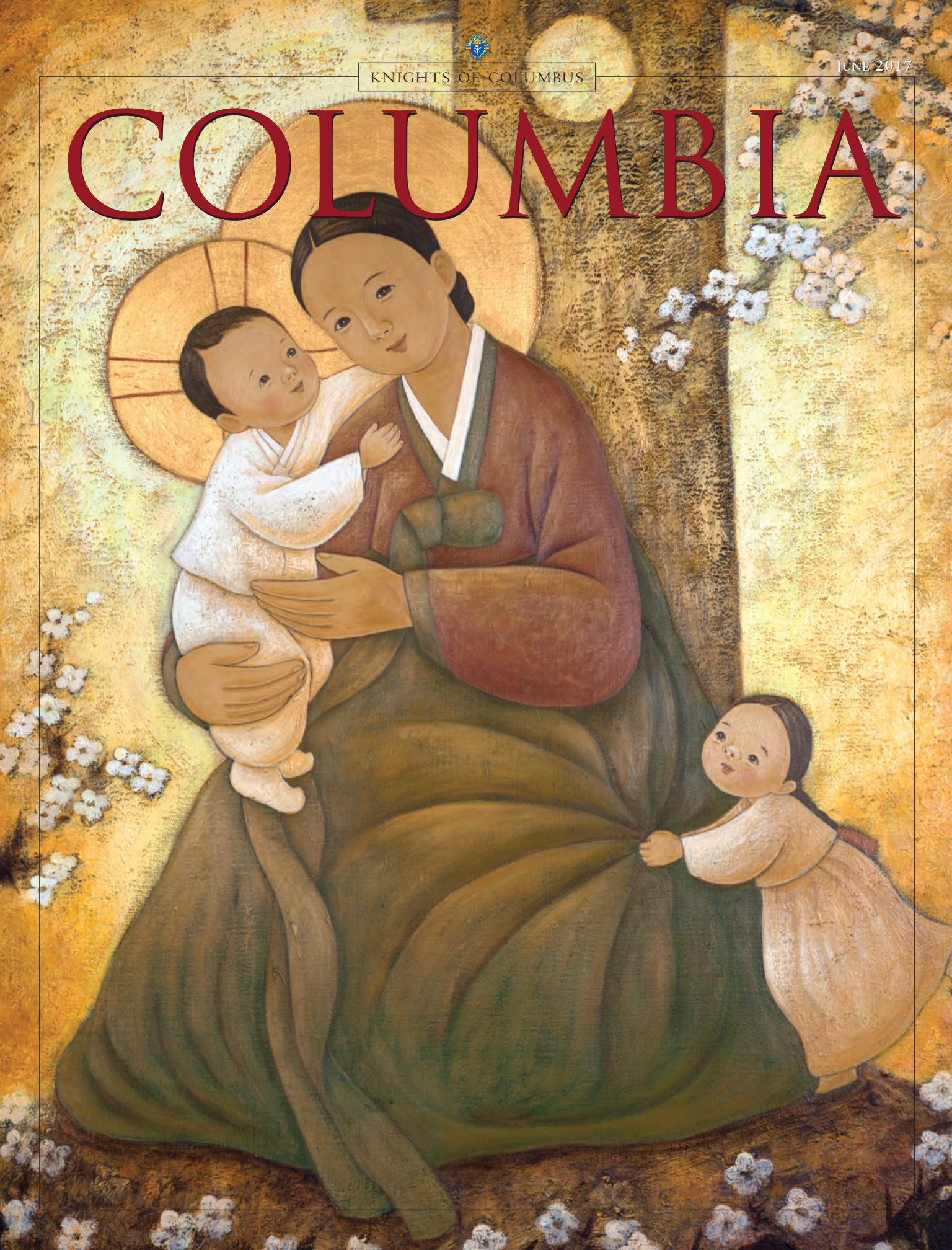




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FEATURES

- 8 **Calling for Peace in Egypt**
Pope Francis addresses persecuted Christians and government leaders during his apostolic journey to Egypt.
BY JOHN L. ALLEN JR.
- 14 **Korea's Martyred Mothers**
Seoul's 'Mothers' Shrine' celebrates the faith of women killed in one of Korea's great persecutions.
BY ALEX JENSEN
- 18 **Generations of Brotherhood**
For many Knights, service to the Church and the Order is a family tradition uniting fathers, sons and grandsons.
BY MATT HADRO
- 22 **A 'Miraculous Way' for Student Moms**
North Carolina Knights support a unique residence for single mothers pursuing a college education.
BY SUEANN HOWELL



Jewels of office held by members of the Hassan family, which includes four generations of grand knights and district deputies, are pictured at the Hassan family home in Warrenton, Va. (see article on p. 8).

DEPARTMENTS

- 3 **Building a better world**
Our Order's presence in Korea has given the Knights an extraordinary opportunity to serve the Church.
BY SUPREME KNIGHT CARL A. ANDERSON
- 4 **Learning the faith, living the faith**
The feast of Corpus Christi invites us to worship Christ in the Eucharist and bring his presence to the world.
BY SUPREME CHAPLAIN
ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM E. LORI
PLUS: Catholic Man of the Month
- 6 **Knights of Columbus News**
Supreme Knight Meets With Knights, Leaders in South Korea
• Order Provides Easter Food Baskets to Displaced Iraqi Families
• Knights Walk for Life in the Philippines
- 13 **Fathers for Good**
Our children need to learn that the wonders of the Catholic faith and of the created world go hand in hand.
BY TODD H. AHERN
- 26 **Knights in Action**



Passing on the Faith

WHEN FRANCIS Choe Kyeong-hwan and Mary Yi Seong-rye married as teenagers in early 19th-century Korea, then known as the Kingdom of Joseon, it was not an easy time to start a Catholic family. The kingdom had begun executing Catholics several decades earlier, and Francis and Mary's family was in constant danger. They moved frequently and lived in poverty before establishing a secluded Catholic village south of Seoul. After their arrest in 1839, Francis and Mary were killed for their faith. By this time, their first son, Thomas Choe Yang-eop, was studying as a seminarian. When he was eventually ordained, Thomas became Korea's second native-born priest.

Together, St. Francis Francis Choe Kyeong-hwan, Blessed Mary Yi Seong-rye and Venerable Thomas Choe Yang-eop provide an extraordinary example of virtue and fidelity lived and taught through the family (see page 14). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us of the essential task of parents as "the principal and first educators of their children" (1653). This responsibility includes spiritual formation: "Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the 'first heralds' for their children" (2225).

In places where Christians face the threat of martyrdom — and even extinction — due to persecution today, evangelization within the family takes on heightened urgency. Nonetheless, in the Western world, the duty of Christian parents to practice their faith and witness to their children is no less serious. As faith is

undermined by dominant ideologies and met with increasing indifference or scorn, Christianity in the West is threatened by an extinction of a different kind — related in no small part to the collapse of the domestic church, the family.

The love of a mother is unquestionably important and irreplaceable in the lives of her children, but fathers also play an indispensable role, especially when it comes to passing on the faith. According to a major study that the Swiss government conducted in 1994 and published in 2000, the strongest predictor of a child's future church attendance is the religious observance of the father. The study found that between 66 and 75 percent of children whose fathers regularly attend church go on to become at least irregular churchgoers as adults, even if the mother does not practice. If the father does not practice, however, at least 60 percent will stay away from church altogether, even if the mother is devout.

From this perspective, the mission of the Knights of Columbus bears greater weight. Strengthening the faith of Catholic men, building up the domestic church, practicing a charity that evangelizes — these are vital to the future of the Church. In anticipation of Father's Day, June 18, this issue of *Columbia* features a few of the countless K of C families consisting of multiple generations of brother Knights (see page 18). Such families build a legacy of faith that extends far beyond their shared fraternity. ♦

ALTON J. PELOWSKI
EDITOR

CIS Resource: *Saint Benedict for Busy Parents*

Saint Benedict for Busy Parents (#327) by Father Dwight Longenecker explains how the practical principles of St. Benedict of Nursia, the father of Western monasticism, can help busy parents integrate spirituality and ordinary life. Part of the Catholic Information Service's Building the Domestic Church Series, the booklet shows how St. Benedict's famous *Rule* offers a framework for balancing prayer and everyday work. To download or order this resource, visit kofc.org/cis. ♦



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ON THE COVER

A painting in Seoul depicts the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child and a young girl representing all who turn to her in time of need.



A Pilgrimage to Korea

Our Order's presence in Korea has given the Knights an extraordinary opportunity to serve the Church

by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

IN APRIL, Dorian and I spent Holy Week in South Korea visiting brother Knights and their families. Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard and his wife, Linda, and other K of C representatives accompanied us. The visit coincided with the Holy Week pastoral visit of Auxiliary Bishop F. Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., to various military bases in Korea.

Our pilgrimage began as we prayed with Korean Catholics during Palm Sunday Mass at the Myeong-dong Cathedral in Seoul for the peaceful reunification of their country. We concluded by joining Bishop Spencer and praying with U.S. armed services personnel and their families during the Good Friday liturgy at the Yongsan Garrison chapel.

We returned to the United States on Holy Saturday, just hours before Vice President Pence departed to South Korea.

During the pilgrimage, we met with Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, archbishop of Seoul, who had warmly welcomed us during our previous visit to the city. On this occasion, we discussed with him the challenges confronting the Church in Seoul, which is one of fastest-growing Catholic dioceses in the world, and how the Knights of Columbus could assist him in his pastoral mission. Bishop Francis Xavier Yu Soo-il, who is head of the Military Ordinariate of Korea and a Fourth Degree Knight, joined this meeting as well.

We also met with the Mayor of Seoul, Mr. Park Won-soon, who outlined his work to encourage greater philanthropy and charity throughout the city. He invited our local councils to be part of these efforts.

Leaders of the recently established St. Andrew Kim Taegon Council 16000 and St. Paul Chong Hasang Council 16178 gave updates on their progress, and we discussed their initiative to assist some of the thousands of children who escaped with their families from North Korea and now live in Seoul. These

In many ways, the growth and service of the Knights in Korea has been a response to the Holy Father's call.

children confront extraordinary challenges as they begin a new life in South Korea. One indicator is hard to believe: A report recently stated that by age 7, North Korean children are on average 8 inches shorter and weigh 22 pounds less than children growing up in South Korea. I am tremendously proud that some of our newest brother Knights are seeking ways to help these children build a new life.

We also traveled to the Korean Demilitarized Zone. As we stood just feet away from an active mine field and looked through binoculars at military and other installations in North Korea, we could better appreciate the sacrifices that our active military and



their families make each day as they maintain a constant state of readiness. During our entire time in Korea, we were — like them — within range of North Korean artillery and missiles.

On Good Friday morning, we were especially moved during our visit to the Dangggogae Martyrs' Shrine in Seoul, at the place where nine saints and one blessed were martyred during the persecution of Catholics in 1839. Because three of the martyrs were mothers with young children, it is also known in Korea as the Mothers' Shrine. St. Magdalena Son So-byok, for example, was martyred with the eldest of her 11 children,

St. Barbara Choe Yong-i. It is also the place of martyrdom of Blessed Mary Yi Seong-rye, the mother of Father Thomas Choe Yang-eop, for whom our latest council in Korea, Council 16685 in Wonju, is named.

I presented the charter to Council 16685, as well as to Father Herman G. Felhoelter Council 16678 at Camp Walker in Daegu, earlier in the week.

Pope Francis has urged Catholics to go out to the peripheries with the Good News of the Gospel and with works of charity. In many ways, the growth and service of the Knights of Columbus in Korea has been a response to the Holy Father's call.

Vivat Jesus!



Come, Let Us Adore Him

The feast of Corpus Christi invites us to worship Christ in the Eucharist and bring his presence to the world

by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



WHEN I WAS about 10 years old, I was very proud and happy to begin serving at holy Mass, but I was also nervous that I would make some pretty serious mistakes. I got over that nervousness and, if I may say so, became a seasoned altar server. I memorized my responses to the Latin prayers and continually tried to improve my pronunciation. I learned the best techniques for lighting the high altar candles, for handling the incense, and so forth. And to this day, celebrating the liturgy correctly and reverently remains one of the greatest priorities and joys of my life.

At one point, my home parish had its annual 40 Hours devotion. Parishioners were invited to come and spend time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which was placed in a monstrance on the altar. As one of the altar servers, I was expected to take a turn kneeling in the sanctuary for about an hour. An hour can seem like an awfully long time to a boy of 12, and I was no exception. But something happened during that hour. What my parents and teachers had taught me about the Eucharist began to sink in. I realized that I really was in the presence of Jesus and that he loved me. It was as simple as that. It was a watershed moment in my young life.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST Pope Benedict XVI wrote, “Being Christian is not the result of an ethical

choice or a lofty idea but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 1). Kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament so long ago, I could not have said it so eloquently, but that’s what happened to me. I didn’t have many lofty ideas or thoughts on ethics, but I did truly encounter the Lord. I realized that he loved me, and that made all the difference. This is why I strive, in spite of

Once we have welcomed the eucharistic Lord into the depths of our hearts, nothing remains the same.

all my faults and failings, to be a follower of Christ and a member of Christ’s Body, the Church. This is why I am a priest.

In this month of June, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This great feast, also known as Corpus Christi, is an invitation for us to encounter the Lord more deeply in the Eucharist. It is also a grace-filled opportunity for us to renew our understanding and love of this sacrament, for it is the most powerful and effective way to enter into the presence of Jesus and encounter his love for us.

At the heart of the Church’s teaching on the Eucharist is a wonderful

and consoling truth. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God who became one of us, preached the Good News, died and rose to save us, and is now exalted at the Father’s right hand, remains with us in this sacrament. By the invocation of the Holy Spirit and the words of consecration uttered by the priest, bread and wine are completely changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. Although the appearances of bread and wine remain after the consecration, they are no longer such but rather the living personal Presence of Christ, crucified, risen and exalted. We call this miracle that takes place on our altars “transubstantiation.” This is how Jesus becomes our spiritual food and drink so as to nourish our souls.

JESUS AWAITS

Even after Mass has ended, Jesus remains with us in the tabernacles of our churches. For this reason, the Church lovingly invites us not only to attend Mass but also to take part in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and to take time to pray before the Eucharist reserved in the tabernacle.

As St. John Paul II once wrote, “The Church and the world have great need for eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go



LEARNING THE FAITH, LIVING THE FAITH

and meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to making amends for the serious crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease” (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1380).

Once we have welcomed the eucharistic Lord into the depths of our hearts, nothing remains the same. Christianity becomes not a sideline but a way of life. What we say and what we do, the choices we make, the way we treat others — most especially the poor and the troubled — all are shaped by our repeated encounters

with the Lord. United deeply to Christ our life, we commit ourselves to the Church’s mission of spreading the Gospel. We see the Church not merely as an institution but as the Body of Christ, of which we are living members. We want everyone to know Jesus and to welcome him into their hearts. We want the Church to be strong and unified so that others may believe.

Who knows what graces will be ours as we unite in prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist? How many hearts will be touched with the truth and

beauty of the Gospel? How many vocations to the priesthood and religious life will be fostered? How many sinners will be converted? How many sins atoned for? How many bodies and souls healed of physical and spiritual infirmities? How many lukewarm Christians converted into ardent followers of Christ?

As the family of the Knights of Columbus, let us find in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar the source and summit of our charity, unity and fraternity. Let us take the feast of Corpus Christi to heart. ♦

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POPE FRANCIS: CNS photo/Paul Haring — ST. JOSÉ DE ANCHIETA: Image courtesy of the Jesuit Curia, Rome

CATHOLIC MAN OF THE MONTH

St. José de Anchieta (1534-1597)

JOSÉ DE ANCHIETA was born March 19, 1534, on Tenerife, the largest of Spain’s Canary Islands. The third of 10 children, he was part of a noble family related to St. Ignatius of Loyola. At age 14, Anchieta entered the University of Coimbra in Portugal. During his studies, he read the letters of St. Francis Xavier, which were circulating throughout Europe.

At age 17, Anchieta made a private vow of celibacy and service to the Church. He entered the Jesuit order, and during his novitiate contracted an ailment that curved his spine and left him in constant pain. His superiors sent Anchieta to the missions of Brazil in 1553, believing that the change in climate would improve his health.

The following year, Anchieta helped to found the mission that would become the city of São Paulo. He taught Latin at a new Jesuit college and evangelized the local Tupi Indians. Soon fluent in their language, he authored and published the first Tupi grammar and dictionary.

Anchieta co-founded the city of Rio de Janeiro in 1565 and was ordained a priest a year later. Father Anchieta



traveled widely on foot, strenuously working to eradicate cannibalism, polygamy and sorcery while defending the Indians from colonial abuses. Using poetry and drama to evangelize, he wrote catechetical plays that were performed in Tupi and Portuguese.

Father Anchieta also served as Jesuit provincial of Brazil from 1577 to 1587. Throughout his ministry, he gained such a reputation for reconciliation, healing and holiness that he was called a miracle worker. He is credited with baptizing more than 1 million people.

After Father Anchieta’s death in Reritiba, on June 9, 1597, the bishop of Bahia dubbed him “the Apostle of Brazil.” Pope Francis canonized Anchieta in April 2014. ♦



Supreme Knight Meets With Knights, Leaders in South Korea



Korean members of the Fourth Degree join Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Master Dennis J. Stoddard (far left) and Col. Charles H. Gallina, advisor of K of C military and veterans affairs (far right), following an exemplification in the base chapel of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan on Palm Sunday, April 9.

SUPREME KNIGHT Carl A. Anderson and Supreme Master Dennis J. Stoddard, together with their wives and other K of C representatives, spent Holy Week in South Korea April 9-14. Coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the first K of C council in Korea, the week included meetings with church, military and civic leaders, visits with military and civilian Knights, and the presentation of charters to two new councils.

Received April 10 by Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung, archbishop of Seoul, the supreme knight expressed gratitude for the cardinal's support of the Order in Korea and discussed ways that members could be of service to the Church. Bishop Francis Xavier Yu Soo-il, head of the Military Ordinariate of Korea and a Fourth Degree Knight, also took part in the discussions, together with Bishop Richard Spencer of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA.

On April 11, the supreme knight presented a charter to Father Herman G. Felhoelter Council 16678 at the U.S. Army Garrison in Daegu, named after the first U.S. chaplain killed during the Korean War. The following day, during a visit to the

Osan Air Base, several military chaplains expressed their gratitude for the Order's *Armed With the Faith* prayer book, which is distributed to military members on active duty.

In remarks to Korean K of C leaders April 12, Supreme Knight Anderson thanked them for being "pioneers" in bringing the Order to "the most important Catholic country on the mainland of Asia." Emphasizing the mission of the Knights to strengthen the Church, the supreme knight said, "We are not planting wheat that will just come up quickly; we are planting a forest of trees which, over time, will grow and make a huge difference."

The next day, the supreme knight met the mayor of Seoul, Park Won-soon, and members of St. Andrew Kim Taegon Council 16000. Named for the first Korean-born priest and martyr, Council 16000 was chartered in 2015 as Korea's first domestic council and the first council to be instituted on mainland Asia outside of a U.S. military base.

On April 14, the supreme knight met with Maj. Gen. Michael A. Bills at the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan and discussed the Order's efforts to

support the members, families and veterans of the U.S. military.

A Fourth Degree exemplification, with several charter members of Council 16000 participating, took place in the base chapel of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan at the beginning of the week.

The exemplification was followed by a fraternal banquet, during which the supreme knight presented the charter for Father Thomas Choe Yang-eop Council 16685 in Wonju. There are now a total of six councils on the Korean peninsula — three on U.S. military bases and three domestic councils with Korean members.

In remarks during the Fourth Degree banquet April 9, the supreme knight commended the services of military personnel and chaplains, emphasized the Order's mission to strengthen Catholic family life, and reflected on the Church in Korea.

The challenge facing the Church in Korea today "is to find ways of charity, unity and brotherhood that can be the cause of reconciliation," he said. "It is my profound hope that by working together the Knights of Columbus will help the Catholic Church in Korea to fulfill its great mission." ♦



Order Provides Easter Food Baskets to Displaced Iraqi Families

NEARLY 12,000 displaced Iraqi Christian families received an Easter gift this year when food packages donated by the Knights of Columbus were distributed throughout the Christian shelter areas of northern Iraq April 1-11.

For almost three years, Iraqi Christian families have been living as refugees in their own country — from the main Christian enclave of Ankawa, just outside the Kurdish capital of Erbil, to camps for displaced Christians in Alqosh, Dohuk and Zakho, near the Turkish border.

These families received a sign of Christian solidarity in the form of basic foods and special items for the holiday, including Easter eggs for the children.

For 10 days beginning April 1, volunteers from the displaced community, priests and lay leaders contributed to the effort.

The distribution of the packages was made possible by the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund and the Order's ongoing partnership with the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, led by Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda.

"Providing these Easter packages is just one more example of how the Knights continue to show the persecuted Christians of Iraq that they are not alone," said Archbishop Warda.

The emblem of the Order, the archbishop added, is becoming well known to the Christians of Iraq as a sign of Christian charity and solidarity.

"Three years ago, none of these people knew who the Knights were. Now, because of the constant support that

they have received from the very beginning of this crisis, they know that when they see the emblem of the Knights, something of Christian decency and trust is there for them," he said. "Whether it is a holiday food package such as for this Easter, or a medical clinic, or housing, the Knights have become a name that the Christians of Iraq now know and trust."

Father Salar Kajo, vicar general of the Diocese of Alqosh, where many of the Easter packages were distributed, echoed the words of Archbishop Warda.

"The people have been forced from their homes for almost three years now," he said. "Believe me, they know the people who have stood with them during this time. When they see the sign of the Knights they are thinking, 'These are our Catholic brothers from around the world, who are with us.'"

Standing on a hill overlooking the recently liberated Christian town of Teleskov, where more than 400 Christian families are beginning to

return, Father Kajo reflected, "We have people right now returning to these homes just in time for Easter — the first Easter Masses in this town in years. The only reason we still are here is because of people like the Knights, who helped us, who supported us, during this time. Maybe the people in the U.S.A. and other places cannot really understand this, but we could have already disappeared here. We all thank God for the Knights, I can tell you that."

To donate to the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Relief Fund, visit christiansatrisk.org. ♦



Knights Walk for Life in the Philippines



Knights and their families participate in a Walk for Life event in Quezon City, Philippines, March 18. Supreme Director Jose C. Reyes Jr. spoke at the rally before the walk. Former Supreme Director Alonso L. Tan was also present, together with members of councils from Metro Manila and the Luzon North jurisdiction.

Knights and their families from throughout the Philippines joined thousands at Walk for Life rallies in February and March. Their presence gave witness to the large number of people across the nation willing to stand up for the dignity of all human life. The walks and rallies for life held particular weight this year, taking place soon after the Philippines House of Representatives voted to reinstate the death penalty. ♦



CALLING FOR PEACE IN EGYPT

*Pope Francis addresses persecuted Christians and government leaders
during his apostolic journey to Egypt*

by John L. Allen Jr.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was adapted from coverage previously published on *Crux*, a Catholic news and commentary website operated in partnership with the Knights of Columbus.

Heading into his two-day trip to Egypt, it was unclear exactly how direct Pope Francis might be about the threats faced by the local Christian community.

The pontiff came to Egypt April 28-29, after all, to build bridges of friendship with the Muslim establishment, and

he also didn't want to embarrass his hosts in the Egyptian government.

However, it turned out that Francis decided to be fairly blunt, and the day of his arrival seemed to capture the pope in a "put it all on the line" mood.

CHRISTIANS: INTEGRAL TO EGYPT

On Friday, April 28, in an address to political and civil authorities in the world's sixth most populous Muslim nation, Francis made an unmistakable reference to the gap between



Pope Francis attends an ecumenical prayer service with Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and other religious leaders at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Cairo April 28. The church, part of the St. Mark's Coptic Cathedral complex, was the site of a December 2016 bombing by an Islamic State militant that killed 29 Coptic Christians.

rhetoric and reality when it comes to the fate of Egypt's Christian minority, which represents somewhere between 10 and 20 percent of the national population.

"I think in a particular way of all those individuals who in recent years have given their lives to protect your country: young people, members of the armed forces and police, Coptic citizens and all those nameless victims of various forms of terrorist extremism," the pope said.

"I think also of the murders and the threats that have led to an exodus of Christians from northern Sinai. I express my gratitude to the civil and religious authorities and to all those who have offered welcome and assistance to these persons who have suffered so greatly," Francis told the crowd at the Al Masah Hotel, which is owned and administered directly by Egypt's Ministry of Defense.

"I also think of the victims of the attacks on Coptic churches, both last December and more recently in Tanta and Alexandria," Francis said. "To the members of their families, and to all of Egypt, I offer my heartfelt condolences and my prayers that the Lord will grant speedy healing to the injured."

He was referring to a bomb attack at Cairo's main Coptic cathedral complex Dec. 11, 2016, that left more than two dozen dead, as well to the April 9 (Palm Sunday) bombings that killed at least 47 people at St. George Coptic Church in Tanta and St. Mark's Coptic Cathedral in Alexandria.

In less spectacular fashion, Copts in Egypt routinely complain of low-level oppression and harassment, including difficulties in finding positions and opportunities for advancement in employment and political life. While Christianity has had a foothold in Egypt from the very beginning, and although the Egyptian Constitution ostensibly guarantees religious freedom, Christians generally say the reality on the ground is mixed and becoming tenser.

In that context, Pope Francis sought to deliver the Christian community a shot in the arm, recognizing the Coptic, Greek, Byzantine, Armenian and Protestant Christian churches of Egypt.

"Your presence in this, your country, is not new or accidental but ancient and an inseparable part of the history of Egypt. You are an integral part of this country, and over the course of the centuries you have developed a sort of unique rapport,



Pope Francis delivers a speech at a conference on international peace hosted by Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, grand imam of Al-Azhar University (seated at center on stage), in Cairo April 28.

a particular symbiosis, which can serve as an example to other nations,” he said, drawing strong applause.

Francis also suggested the country’s Christians have an ecumenical vocation.

“You have shown, and continue to show, that it is possible to live together in mutual respect and fairness, finding in difference a source of richness and never a motive of conflict,” he said.

A ‘REGENSBURG SPEECH’

Earlier that same day, the pope gave a powerful address at an international conference on peace hosted by Cairo’s Al-Azhar mosque and university, widely considered the most prestigious center of learning in the Sunni Muslim world.

In effect, what Francis delivered was almost his version of Pope Benedict XVI’s celebrated, and controversial, 2006 speech in Regensburg, Germany. In arguing that spreading faith through violence is contrary to reason, Benedict quoted a line that linked the Prophet Mohammed with violence,

which stirred a firestorm of protest.

Francis avoided the incendiary quotation but nevertheless delivered a clear call to religious leaders — which, in the Egyptian context, unmistakably means Islam — to reject violence in the name of God.

“Let us say once more a firm and clear ‘No!’ to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or the name of God,” he said. “Together let us affirm the incompatibility of violence and faith, belief and hatred.”

Addressing a nation gripped by a rising tide of Islamic extremism, and one in which the Muslim Brotherhood movement led a government as recently as 2013, Francis insisted that it’s urgent to “unmask the violence that masquerades as purported sanctity.”

“We have an obligation to denounce violations of human dignity and human rights, to expose attempts to justify every form of hatred in the name of religion, and to condemn these attempts as idolatrous caricatures of God,” he said.

“No act of violence can be perpetrated in the name of God,” he said, “for it would profane his name” and is “the negation of every authentic religious expression.”

Several observers compared the atmosphere at Al-Azhar to the interreligious gatherings launched by St. John Paul II in Assisi, Italy, in 1986, with imams and shamans, rabbis and Christian bishops, all gathered together in a show of common cause.

Francis knows that while the Egyptian Constitution theoretically protects religious freedom, and while President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi came to power in 2014 vowing to protect Christians and other religious minorities, in reality life is increasingly precarious for Christians in this overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim society.

In that context, Francis didn’t appear to pull any punches in his advocacy for religious freedom and human rights.

“Recognizing rights and basic freedoms, particularly religious freedom, represents the best way to build the future together, to be builders of civility,” he said.

He also called for making a clear distinction between religion

and politics — what Americans might call the separation of church and state.

“The religious and political spheres are confused and not properly distinguished,” he said. “Religion risks being absorbed into the administration of temporal affairs and tempted by the allure of worldly powers which, in fact, exploit it.”

TRUE FAITH AND CHARITY

On Saturday, April 29, Pope Francis continued his campaign to promote tolerance and pluralism in a land, and a region, which is frequently scarred by religious violence and extremism, telling Egyptians that “the only fanaticism believers can have is that of charity!

“Any other fanaticism does not come from God and is not pleasing to him!” Francis insisted in his homily during Mass in a downtown Cairo stadium.

“True faith is one that makes us more charitable, more merciful, more honest and more humane,” the pope said. “It moves our hearts to love everyone without counting the cost,

POPE, COPTIC PATRIARCH HONOR EGYPTIAN MARTYRS



Pope Francis lights a candle during his April 28 visit with Coptic Pope Tawadros II at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Cairo, which was targeted by a suicide bomb attack that killed 29 people last December.

POPE FRANCIS met with Pope Tawadros II, the head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, at the close of the first day of the Roman pontiff’s visit to Egypt April 28. After exchanging greetings at the Coptic-Orthodox Patriarchate of Cairo, the two religious leaders walked together to the nearby Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, where 29 Coptic Christians died and 31 were wounded in a bombing by an

Islamic State militant Dec. 11, 2016.

Inside the small church, the leaders of several other Christian communities in Egypt, as well as Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, sat before the congregation, which included family members of the victims.

Led by Pope Francis, they went to the back of the church, where each lit a small candle and placed white flowers beneath

the photos of the martyrs. Pope Francis leaned low to touch the blood-stained wall and made the sign of the cross.

In his speech to Pope Tawadros and other Coptic Orthodox leaders, Pope Francis asked, “How many martyrs in this land, from the first centuries of Christianity, have lived their faith heroically to the end?”

“The innocent blood of defenseless Christians was cruelly shed,” the pope added. “Your sufferings are also our sufferings.”

He concluded by encouraging Catholics and Orthodox to work hard to “oppose violence by preaching and sowing goodness, fostering concord and preserving unity, praying that all these sacrifices may open the way to a future of full communion between us and peace for all.” — *Reported by Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service*

without distinction and without preference. It makes us see the other not as an enemy to be overcome but a brother or sister to be loved, served and helped.”

The very setting of the day’s liturgy, however, offered a reminder of how far the reality in contemporary Egypt often lies from the pontiff’s pacific vision. Technically called the “Air Defense Stadium,” the 30,000-capacity venue is owned and operated by the Egyptian military, and both uniformed and plain-clothed police were stationed every yard along Francis’ motorcade route. Others stood guard, some on rooftops, wearing covers over their faces.

In this context, Pope Francis’ homily appealed to Egyptians to harness the power of God to convert seemingly hopeless situations into moments of grace.

“Do not be afraid to open your hearts to the light of the Risen Lord, and let him transform your uncertainty into a positive force for yourselves and for others,” he said. “Do not

be afraid to love everyone, friends and enemies alike, because the strength and treasure of the believer lies in a life of love!”

Francis insisted that authentic religious faith should never be a motive for conflict.

“True faith leads us to protect the rights of others with the same zeal and enthusiasm with which we defend our own,” he said. “Indeed, the more we grow in faith and knowledge, the more we grow in humility and in the awareness of our littleness.”

Although the pope was speaking in the context of a Catholic Mass, his words likely will be widely heard across Egypt as addressed to everyone. In this overwhelming Muslim society, such public expressions of Christian identity are fairly rare, and many Christians described the Mass as a moment of pride. ♦

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ORDER PROVIDES AID AFTER PALM SUNDAY BOMBINGS

FOLLOWING THE bombing of two Coptic Christian churches that killed at least 47 people and wounded more than 100 in Egypt on Palm Sunday, April 9, the Supreme Council donated \$100,000 to support relief efforts.

Carried out by Islamic State militants, the first attack occurred at St. George Coptic Church in the Nile Delta city of Tanta, some 60 miles north of Cairo. The second explosion was outside St. Mark’s Cathedral in Alexandria, where Coptic Pope Tawadros II, patriarch of the Coptic Orthodox Church, had just celebrated a Palm Sunday liturgy.

On the day of attacks, Coptic Orthodox Bishop Anba Angaelos of the United Kingdom issued a statement lamenting the “senseless and heartless brutality that can lead a person or people to indiscriminately take innocent lives, especially at the most vulnerable hour of prayer.”

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, who was in Korea at the time of the bombings, later wrote to Bishop Angaelos to offer condolences and express solidarity.

“As your people’s sacrifice profoundly united them to Christ’s passion this Holy Week, it is my sincere prayer that they also share in equal



Mourners carry coffins during a funeral procession at the Monastery of Marmina in the city of Borg El Arab April 10, the day after an attack at St. Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in nearby Alexandria.

measure his triumph over death,” the supreme knight said.

The Palm Sunday bombings followed a similar attack Dec. 11, 2016, when an ISIS suicide bomber killed 29 people at St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church in Cairo. Following a \$75,000 donation by the Supreme Council to help aid families of victims, Bishop Angaelos wrote a letter of gratitude “for the generosity of the

Knights of Columbus and ... for our ongoing relationship.”

Noting that he worked closely with the Knights of Columbus during the 2016 campaign to highlight the genocide of Christians in the Middle East, the bishop added, “We know that there is much that can be achieved when we stand together to witness for those persecuted around the world.” ♦



Faith and Science: Seeking One Truth

*Our children need to learn that the wonders of the Catholic faith
and of the created world go hand in hand*

by Todd H. Ahern

For much of my life, I thought an educated person had to make a choice between religion and science, faith and reason. Surveys show I was not alone. Many scientists describe themselves as atheists or agnostics, and many young people turn away from religion because they are taught that science is incompatible with belief in God.

Today, as a committed Catholic and a tenured professor with a Ph.D. in neuroscience, I want to assure my fellow fathers that faith and science are not opposed. We can teach our children to seek the truth in both.

The popular perception that the Catholic Church is anti-science is simply untrue. Yes, there are examples of conflict; Galileo likely comes to mind. But such incidents are rare, oversimplified and do not accurately represent how important the Church has been in the development of science.

The physicist who first proposed the “Big Bang” theory in 1927 was Georges Lemaître, a Catholic priest. Nicolas Steno, a 17th-century bishop, helped establish modern geology and paleontology. Gregor Mendel, a 19th-century Augustinian friar, is the father of modern genetics.

The list of priest-scientists is very long.

Spend some time with your kids looking up how many craters on the moon are named for Jesuit astronomers. For centuries, the Vatican has run a respected observatory, and devoted Catholics continue to contribute to the sciences.

If we do not teach our kids about faith and science, a false dichotomy will damage our culture and the next generation. My own experience may offer some insight. Like many children, I loved books about animals, dinosaurs, the sea and astronomy. I saw the world as a treasure trove to be discovered, unpacked and catalogued.

But during high school, I devoured popular science books by Carl Sagan, Stephen Hawking and others. These remarkable scientists offered great insights into the physical world, but they also promoted scientism, a reductive understanding of the world that excludes God or religion.

At best, they saw religion as a byproduct of random evolution; at worst, as a cultural virus. Unaware of how much the development of science owed to Catholic thought, I made the false choice of science over faith.

Eventually, I earned a doctorate in social neuroscience, exploring the biological basis of attachment, social bonding and the interplay between family dynamics and biology, including the upbringing of the next generation. I learned much about the influence of genetics and neurochemical reactions, but the hard science could offer no model for heroic virtue or help me understand the mystery of God’s grace. It provided no guidance for how I should love my wife or for the self-sacrifice needed to raise my children well.

Inspired by my wife’s philosophical training and Catholic faith, I came to see that Jesus Christ and his Church offer insights into reality and the human person beyond what physical science can provide.

While the Catholic Church has made invaluable contributions to nearly every scientific discipline, it also widens our view by proclaiming God’s revelation — truths that go beyond reason but are not contrary to it. We are not simply a sum of our genes or walking, talking machines. In his sacred humanity, Christ “reveals man to himself” and calls us to our true identity as sons and daughters of a loving Father (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 22).

So, dads, here’s a piece of Father’s Day advice: Encourage your kids to explore the created world, and encourage them to explore the deep truths of our faith. They will be better for it, and so will we. ♦

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KOREA'S MARTYRED MOTHERS

Seoul's 'Mothers' Shrine' celebrates the faith of women killed in one of Korea's great persecutions

by Alex Jensen

“You wicked people! Die if you want to, but why make these children die with you?” Crowds berated Mary Yi Seong-rye and her family as they were brought to the Great South Gate of Seoul on a sweltering day in 1839. The city, then known as Hanyang, was the focal point of the Joseon Kingdom, which encompassed modern North and South Korea.

Due to their perceived threat to local Confucian values, as many as 10,000 of the kingdom's Catholics were killed for their faith during five main waves of persecution over the course of a century.

Mary was among a group of 10 prisoners executed over two days at Dangogogae — now in Seoul's busy Yongsan district — during the infamous 1839-1840 Gihae Persecution. Nine of the Dangogogae martyrs were among the 103 saints canonized by Pope John Paul II when he visited South Korea in 1984. Mary's case was different, but a journey to apostasy and back led to her eventual beatification by Pope Francis in 2014.

Today, Dangogogae Martyrs' Shrine is like a hidden fortress within Seoul's dense center, between rows of electronics stores and high-rise apartments. The shrine's walls encircle a grassy plateau, below which stand a church and museum dedicated to the 10 holy Koreans martyred there.

Dangogogae is often referred to as the “Mothers' Shrine” because three of the six women who died for their faith there had young children. Their luminous example remains a powerful source of inspiration for more than 5.6 million contemporary Catholics in South Korea — including members of the Knights of Columbus, as the Order begins to take root there.

DEATH RATHER THAN BETRAYAL

The Gihae Persecution came just 55 years after the first Joseon citizen was baptized in 1784. Despite the kingdom's political isolationism, Catholicism was kindled in Joseon after edu-

cated Koreans returned from China with knowledge of Christ and his Church.

To the surprise of Joseon's ruling class, Catholicism began to spread, and many believers were prepared to sacrifice their lives with unimaginable courage. The faithful were not just executed but also tortured by methods that would take them to the brink of death. Instant relief was offered to anyone who simply renounced their faith.

Two of the sainted Dangogogae martyrs are Magdalena Son So-byok and her elder daughter, Barbara Choe Yong-i. Like thousands of other Joseon Catholics, they had been forced to go into hiding and were eventually captured.

When Magdalena was brought before a magistrate, the official urged her to “say one word that shows you have given up this teaching.” She was promised freedom, and her family would be allowed to live. This 39-year-old woman had already lost nine children in infancy. One can imagine how she must have been desperate for the well-being of her two living daughters, a 2-year-old and 22-year-old Barbara, who herself had a newborn son.

Jailed together, Magdalena and Barbara made the heart-wrenching decision to send their infants away to relatives rather than have them endure a filthy imprisonment without sunlight or adequate food. The women were caned more than 260 times and subjected to the dreaded *churae* torture: having their feet and knees tied tightly while their shinbones were pulled apart with sticks or ropes.

After all this, the mother and daughter still refused to apostatize or give up fellow Catholics.

“I would rather die than betray the Lord,” Barbara told officials.

“THE WITNESS OF THE KOREAN MARTYRS IS A SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL STRENGTH FOR THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.”

A painting at the Dangogogae Martyrs' Shrine in Seoul depicts Blessed Mary Yi Seong-rye, one of the martyrs beheaded at the site during the Gihae Persecution of 1839-40.





A statue outside of the Danggogae Martyrs' Shrine depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the child Jesus, with a second child representing those seeking her intercession.

Magdalena, bloody from scourging, would not be moved either. “If God did not give me help, with my own strength I would not be able to endure even the bedbugs or fleas which burrow into my flesh and eat it. Only God can give the strength to endure pain,” she insisted.

Magdalena’s husband was beheaded Dec. 29, 1839, at the Small West Gate, a notorious passageway where the heads of condemned prisoners were displayed.

The killing grounds were then moved to the traditional Buddhist temple site of Danggogae in order to appease merchants who were concerned about sales for an end-of-year fair.

Official records show that Magdalena was executed at Danggogae by the same method as her husband, just over a month later on Jan. 31, 1840.

Due to a law preventing two family members from being executed on the same day, Barbara’s turn came one day after her mother’s. She wrote in a letter: “My parents and husband have all died as martyrs, so how can my mind be peaceful? However, when I think of heaven I am greatly consoled and I thank God for this grace.”

ONE MOTHER’S REDEMPTION

The story of Mary Yi Seong-rye is equally awe-inspiring, but includes enough human frailty to make it easier to grasp.

Mary knew well the dangers faced by Catholics in Joseon, having supported her husband as he buried the bodies of martyrs earlier during the Gihae Persecution. Still in their 30s,

the couple had also established a village south of Hanyang, where more than 20 families lived out their faith in isolation. It was there one night in late summer that police arrived from the capital to arrest them. Remarkably, the imperiled husband and wife welcomed the officers with food and hospitality.

They were soon brought to the Great South Gate, where they were taunted by the crowds, hauled before investigators and taken to prison. Mary’s husband, later recognized as St. Francis Choe Kyeong-hwan, succumbed to injuries inflicted by torture within a few weeks of their capture. Mary had been separated from her spouse and children except for her 2-year-old son, Stephen. She withstood beatings that left her arms broken and body covered with gashes.

Then her seemingly unassailable faith broke. Though she had many times strengthened others with biblical accounts of perseverance, Mary was apparently shaken by the sight of her infant’s life fading away in a foul prison cell. She renounced her faith and was set free — only to regret it immediately.

Mary, who was 39 years old, was soon arrested again when the authorities discovered that her eldest son, Thomas Choe Yang-eop, had gone to the Portuguese colony of Macao, on mainland China, to study theology. This time, she arranged for her children to be kept away for fear of being tempted to apostatize again. She retracted her earlier renunciation of faith before being tortured and beheaded Jan. 31, 1840, with six other Danggogae martyrs.

To her surviving relatives, Mary left these ardent instructions:



Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson presents the charter to Thomas Choe Yang-eop Council 16685 in Wonju following a Fourth Degree exemplification held April 9 in the base chapel of U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan. Thomas Choe, the second native-born priest of Korea, was declared Venerable last year by Pope Francis, and his mother, one of the martyrs of Danggogae, was beatified in 2014.

“Never forget the Lord and Holy Mary, Mother of God. Love each other, and never separate from each other under any circumstances. Wait until your eldest brother Thomas returns.”

Thomas Choe Yang-eop returned and became Joseon’s second native-born priest when he was ordained in 1849 at age 28. Known as a “white martyr” because of his sacrifice through tireless ministry, he died of typhoid fever in 1861. Pope Francis declared him Venerable last year.

Father Thomas was instrumental in carrying the Gospel to parts of the kingdom inaccessible to foreign missionaries. His legacy, and that of his parents, remains keenly felt. Pilgrims continue to flock to his gravesite on a rural hillside that still seems remote today. His poetry urging friends to “search for our true home” was penned as Catholicism developed a stable base in his native land.

SPIRITUAL STRENGTH

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson visited Danggogae Martyrs’ Shrine during his visit to South Korea April 9-15. He also presented the charter to the Order’s latest council in South Korea, which is named after Venerable Thomas.

In remarks before presenting the charter to Thomas Choe Yang-eop Council 16685, based in Wonju, on Palm Sunday, April 9, the supreme knight spoke of the nation’s “tradition of witness, dedication, heroism.”

He said that the witness of the martyrs is “a great source of spiritual strength that was made not only for Korea, but for the universal Church.”

Council chaplain Father Simon Pak said that members are very proud to be associated with Venerable Thomas.

“His faith is inspirational for all Catholics and of course for the Knights of Columbus because he was very hardworking

and worked selflessly,” Father Pak said. “He would walk for many miles to visit the homes of Korean Catholics, and sometimes he wouldn’t even sleep so that he could celebrate Mass and pray with them.”

Father Pak added that the faith of Father Thomas’ mother is exemplary because although she denied her faith, she returned to Jesus and faced martyrdom. “What Mary went through helped Thomas become an even stronger priest,” he said.

All 10 of the Danggogae martyrs have left a rich example to follow in confronting challenges that appear in ways both new and old — not only the three mothers who gave their lives, but also the other souls honored at the shrine: Agatha Yi Kyong-i and Agatha Kwon Chin-i, who were both in their 20s when they were arrested, tortured and executed together; 22-year-old Mary Yi In-dok, who had already fled the opposition of her father before being captured; the brothers Peter Hong Pyeong-ju and Paul Hong Yeong-ju, renowned for the assistance they gave endangered foreign missionaries; the ever gentle Augustine Pak Chong-won; and John Yi Mun-u, whose path to unbreakable faith began with the early loss of his parents and was tested again by the death of his wife and two children.

North Korea’s ongoing persecution of Christians is all too reminiscent of Joseon’s attitude, while South Korea is beset by modern obstacles of the kind found throughout the developed world. But Catholics in the South can face them in freedom thanks to their faith-filled forebears, not least the martyrs of Danggogae. ♦

ALEX JENSEN is a broadcast journalist and writer based in Seoul. A married father of four, he converted to Catholicism after moving to South Korea from Great Britain in 2010.



GENERATIONS OF BROTHERHOOD

For many Knights, service to the Church and the Order is a family tradition uniting fathers, sons and grandsons

by Matt Hadro



William E. Hassan (center) and his son, Matt (second from right), both past grand knights and district deputies in Virginia, sit outside the Hassan home in Warrenton, Va., together with three of Matt's sons — Matthew Edward (in uniform), Patrick (left) and William — who joined the Order in 2015. Five consecutive generations of Hassans have been members of the Knights of Columbus, dating back to at least 1911.

Engineer Battalion near Mosul, Iraq, Jamie was killed by an improvised explosive device. He was 21.

Inspired by Jamie's service and sacrifice, and by the outpouring of charitable support for their family by local Knights, four generations of men in the Wolf family are now members of Council 2681.

For the Wolfs, membership in the Knights has become a family tradition, just as it has with countless other families throughout the Order. In most cases, this tradition spans many decades, as each successive generation comes of age. The result, however, is the same: fathers, sons and grandsons united in faith and fraternity, honoring the service of those who preceded them.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Although his father and grandfather were both Knights, Leroy Joseph Anderle didn't join the Order until age 31, some time after he became a father himself. He accepted a friend's invitation to join West Brazos (Texas) Council 8548, and it had a major impact on his life. Now 64 and a member of St. Martin Council 16222 in Nashville, Ark., Anderle currently serves as the state secretary of the Knights in Arkansas.

"The biggest thing that the Knights of Columbus has done for me is that I am certainly a much better Catholic than I was before I joined," Anderle said.

"Today, I wouldn't miss a Sunday Mass for anything. I pray the rosary every day and read the Scripture readings for Mass usually every day," he said. "The Lord is my life, and I know he is the reason I am still here doing what I do."

Anderle's membership in the Knights transformed his family life as well. After he joined the Order in 1984, his elder son, Ron, began spending time after school helping him with K of C fund drives, dances and cook-offs. Ron joined the Order as soon as he could, at age 18.

"It wasn't just the men themselves who were volunteering, but their whole families would get involved," recalled Ron, now 44 and past grand knight of Msgr. A.P. Gallagher Council 7258 in Mena, Ark.

"When I was growing up, we didn't get along too well," Ron said of his relationship with his father. "But when he became a part of the Knights, I guess you could say he did a lot of soul-searching, and it changed our relationship quite a bit.

"And when I became a Knight, it changed our relationship even more, because now we're not only father and son, we're brothers for a cause."

The tradition has continued with Ron's own family. His 22-year-old son, Zachary, who has long participated in K of C fund drives and free-throw competitions, joined the Knights shortly

It began as an impromptu wager about his teenage son at a pancake breakfast in 2000, recalled Robert (Bob) Wolf Jr., 61.

At his wife's request, Bob and his youngest son, James, known as Jamie, had gone over to lend a hand with cleanup. Approached by the grand knight and membership director of Father Timothy P. Malony Council 2681 in Scottsbluff, Neb., about joining the Knights, Bob rattled off his usual excuses.

But then he paused and said, "I'll tell you what. If you get Jamie to sign, I'll sign up too."

Almost 18 at the time, Jamie was ready to graduate from high school and join the U.S. Army. He would surely shy away from extra commitments, Bob thought.

"Minutes later, they came back and showed me Jamie's signed Form 100, along with a check signed by my wife, made out for both of us," Bob recounted with a laugh. "So I filled out my Form 100, and Jamie and I did our First Degrees together."

Three years later, on Nov. 6, 2003, while serving with the 52nd

after turning 18. He became a Fourth Degree member in January 2015, making four consecutive generations of Fourth Degree members in the Anderle family.

As for Zachary's great-grandfather, Leroy Victor Anderle, 86, he has been a member of Ketteler Council 1824 in Windthorst, Texas, since 1949 and a Fourth Degree Knight since 1979.

'UNWAVERING LOYALTY'

Matthew David (Matt) Hassan, 47, became a fourth-generation grand knight in 1992 when he took the helm of the newly chartered George Mason University Council 10806 in Fairfax, Va., as an undergraduate.

He had taken his First, Second and Third degrees with the Knights four years prior "largely because my dad said, 'Come join the Knights,'" he quipped. His father, William Edward, had been a grand knight at the Father Robert E. Nudd Council 7369 in nearby Chantilly, Va.

The two joined a line of K of C members in the Hassan family dating back to at least 1911. Now, three of Matt's sons — Matthew Edward, William and Patrick, ages 22, 20 and 19 respectively — have made it five generations, joining their father as members of Herman J. Veger Council 5561 in Warrenton, Va.

Why has it been so important to continue this family tradition? All the men have drawn rich experiences from the Knights' pillars of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Matthew Edward, who is now a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry currently stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., said that he grew up with male role models all around him in the local council. "They were taking care of each other and each other's families," he said. "It was this mutual care and respect that attracted me."

William, a student at Lord Fairfax Community College, found the Order's history and humble beginning to be compelling. "It started so small, but each little action makes a difference," he said, adding that no one Knight accomplishes everything alone.

When Matt became district deputy in 2002, he oversaw councils in several northwest Virginia counties. He soon saw that there were lots of social activities at the councils but not as many faith events.

"I would go to the meetings and encourage the sacramental life," Matt said. This involved promoting nights of confession and eucharistic adoration and processions, and encouraging support of local seminarians and young Catholics pursuing religious life. "When challenged," he said, "the Knights stepped up."

For Matt, though, the most profound manifestation of the Knights' principles came after his wife, MaryAnn, received a diagnosis of cancer. During her long battle, Council 5561 raised money for Matt and MaryAnn to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes. After MaryAnn died in January 2016, the Knights helped with her funeral and catered the reception.

From Matt's perspective, it is this "unwavering loyalty" of the Knights, "first to the faith and also to each other," that speaks of the Order's effect in the world.

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Like the Hassans, the Wolf family received invaluable fraternal support from the Knights when they needed it most.

By the time of his son Jamie's death in 2003, Bob was serving as grand knight of Council 2681. "The Knights were some of the first people to the house to help us," Bob recalled, noting that many of his family members live hundreds of miles away.

Before joining the Army, Jamie became a Third Degree Knight with his father and helped with council fund drives and pancake breakfasts. Even after his deployment, he tried to participate in council events whenever he came home on leave.

Jamie's brother Knights of Council 2681 did all they could to help the Wolfs as they prepared to bury their son. They made meals for the family, welcomed the Wolfs' family members arriv-

ing from out of state and, most importantly, stood close by Bob during one of the toughest times of his life.

"They got us through it," Bob said. "Their support got us through those first couple of months that were so bad."

A Fourth Degree honor guard representing assemblies all over western Nebraska, as well as from neighboring Wyoming and Colorado, was present at Jamie's funeral.

Just as Jamie had motivated his father to join the Order, the rest of the men in the Wolf family became members in his memory.

Bob's eldest son, David, 39, was the first to join in 2003 in honor of his late brother. Jamie's grandfather, Robert Sr., 84, who had joined the Knights in Montana long before, was reinstated into the Scottsbluff council. Bob's grandson, Tyler, 21, joined as soon as he was old enough. All serve with Fourth Degree honor guards.

"It's just a way of paying back," explained Bob, who was elected Nebraska state warden in April, having previously served as a grand knight, district deputy, state council director, convention chairman and program director.

"I tell people that, after losing Jamie, I don't know where I would have gone without the fraternity and the spiritual strength that I got from my council, my brother Knights and their families," Bob said.

Soldiers in Jamie's Army unit, he added, "would talk about the brotherhood, about being there for each other."

"To me, that is what we Knights are," he said. "We are a band of brothers who are there for each other, who are there for our families and our parishes." ♦

"WE ARE A BAND
OF BROTHERS WHO
ARE THERE FOR EACH
OTHER, OUR FAMILIES
AND OUR PARISHES."

MATT HADRO is a reporter for *Catholic News Agency/EWTN News* based in Washington, D.C. He is a member of George Brent Council 5332 in Manassas, Va.



Above (left to right): Leroy V. Anderle, Leroy J. Anderle, Ron Anderle and Zachary Anderle — four generations of Fourth Degree Knights — stand together at the K of C Arkansas State Convention in Fort Smith, April 29. • Below: Robert Wolf Jr. (second from left) is joined by his father, Robert Sr., son David (far right) and grandson Tyler (left), all members of Father Timothy P. Malony Council 2681 in Scottsbluff, Neb., at the Nebraska State Convention in Kearney, April 29.



TOP: Photo by Brittny Owens Photography — BOTTOM: Photo by Ink Photography

A 'Miraculous Way' for Student Moms

*North Carolina Knights support a unique residence
for single mothers pursuing a college education*

by SueAnn Howell

Babies are usually a rare sight on college campuses, but at Belmont Abbey College scholars pushing strollers are now commonplace. Nestled in a wooded area of the campus in Belmont, N.C., just outside of Charlotte, lies the first residential facility ever built exclusively for pregnant college students and their children.

The home is a place of hope built in 2012 by MiraVia, a Charlotte-based ministry to pregnant women, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus in North Carolina, Belmont Abbey and the college.

"The pro-life community has come together here in a way that's never been seen before to provide a visible solution to an often invisible problem," explained Debbie Capen, MiraVia's newly appointed executive director and the home's former residential director. "At colleges across America, pregnant students are choosing abortion because they can't find any other choice. We are here to change that."

The name MiraVia is derived from Latin and means "miraculous way." Originally called Room at the Inn and officially renamed in 2013, the organization opened its doors in 1994, offering free services to pregnant women in Charlotte. The Belmont facility now serves women wanting to build independent, healthy lives for themselves and their children, without having to drop out of college.

FAITH IN ACTION

The home at Belmont Abbey College began as an inspiration of Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari, the chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, when he learned that Room at the Inn served mostly college-aged women. The organization's board

of directors began a strategic plan in 2004, which eventually led to the first maternity home for college student mothers, a particularly vulnerable population that often feels they have to choose between college education and their unborn children.

The Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey readily agreed to lease the four acres needed for the ambitious project.

"Belmont Abbey has sponsored the college since its founding and thus the welfare of students is particularly important to our monastic community," said Abbot Solari. "The belief in the sanctity of human life taught by our Catholic faith needs to be expressed in actions, and we were happy to set aside a parcel of our property for this good work."

When MiraVia's capital campaign for the project was launched in the summer of 2008, letters of support were issued from Belmont Abbey College and the bishops of North Carolina. The Knights of Columbus of North Carolina was fast to reply.

"The first pledge came from the North Carolina State Council for \$35,000," recalled Jeannie Wray, former executive director of MiraVia.

"And local councils joined in from all over the state pledging their support."

Deacon Tom McGahey, a past grand knight of Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Kerin Council 12654 in Huntersville, N.C., helped rally councils statewide to raise funds for the residential facility.

"Colleges don't offer day care, allow mother-baby housing or provide counseling that supports life choices. As a result, babies are at risk and mothers are left without support," McGahey explained. "Without the ability to continue in their education, they are almost destined for poverty."





Above: Two mothers who live at MiraVia's residence for college student moms, located on the campus of Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C., walk with their babies in front of the Abbey Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. Sister Mary Raphael, DVM, who assists at the residence, pushes a stroller at left. • Opposite page: Bianca, the first mother to reside at the MiraVia home, is pictured with her son, Kasen, in 2014.

Tom Mathis, a past grand knight of Bishop Michael Begley Council 770 in Charlotte, also assisted with fundraising efforts. Now a member of the MiraVia board of directors, Mathis initially contacted the organization in 2008 to offer his help on a more immediate level.

"I made an appointment with Jeannie Wray to volunteer in whatever way MiraVia needed my help. I was thinking she would ask me to mow the lawn; instead she asked me to work with Tom to continue building K of C support for the project," Mathis recalled.

"The Knights have been leaders in the pro-life arena, so Jeannie, Deacon Tom and I thought they would welcome the opportunity to support the building," he continued. "It is a model of holistic support for the mother and her family that resonates beyond just the pro-life community."

BREAKING NEW GROUND

North Carolina Knights collectively raised \$500,000 toward the construction of MiraVia's maternity home on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. The official groundbreaking took

place June 20, 2011, with Bishop Peter Jugis and clergy of the Diocese of Charlotte, together with Abbot Solari, the monks of Belmont Abbey, national pro-life leaders and state and local K of C representatives in attendance.

"The students who live on this campus get to see the reality that there are options," Belmont Abbey College president William Thierfelder said at the groundbreaking. "They'll see we are not a materialistic society and we don't have to be relativists — that we are here and that we can do good. My hope is that our students will get to participate. They will come to see that pro-life is the norm, not the exception."

The Belmont facility was completed just over a year later.

Abbot Solari, who serves on MiraVia's board of directors, spoke on behalf of the monks during his remarks before the ribbon-cutting July 16, 2012. Like Thierfelder, he said that the monks hoped the new home would "be a witness to our own students."

He also thanked Jeannie Wray and Cindy Brown, former executive directors of Room at the Inn, for their "visionary leadership" that led to the initiative.



MiraVia resident Aña and her daughter, Lana, are pictured at the Belmont home with Debbie Capen, MiraVia executive director, and Tom Mathis, a board member of MiraVia and past grand knight of Bishop Michael Begley Council 770 in Charlotte.

This past March, when Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson received the inaugural Benedict Leadership Award at Belmont Abbey College, Thierfelder accompanied the supreme knight on a visit to the MiraVia residence.

They toured the 10,000-square-foot facility, which can house up to 15 mothers, 15 infants and four toddlers for free for up to two years. Each mother has a private bedroom and bathroom and shares the kitchen, dining room and laundry room with other residents. Administrative and counseling offices and quarters for residential managers are on site.

Residents do not have to be Catholic or even students at Belmont Abbey College, though the college offers full tuition scholarships to student mothers at MiraVia. Others commute to colleges or universities in the Charlotte area.

Sister Mary Raphael of the Daughters of the Virgin Mother,

a religious community that has evolved along with MiraVia, helps to provide emotional and spiritual support for the mothers, care for the babies and prepare meals.

"I have learned so much about spiritual motherhood from their courage and selfless decisions made for their own dignity as women and for their babies," Sister Mary Raphael said. "And nothing melts your heart like the little ones trying to make the sign of the cross or the occasional carrot flung onto our plates by little hands."

MOTHERS AND KNIGHTS

MiraVia's first resident was Bianca, who gave birth to her son, Kasen, in 2013 while living at the Belmont home.

"I didn't believe it at first," she said. "I thought, 'It can't be real. There's no way there's a place that will help me go to



Left: Sister Mary Raphael visits with MiraVia resident Skyy and her baby, Samia, in 2015. • Above, left to right: Tom Mathis; Benedictine Abbot Placid Solari, chancellor of Belmont Abbey College; Cindy Brown, former executive director of Room at the Inn; Jeannie Wray, then-executive director; and Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly completed residence July 16, 2012.

school, help me pay for my baby's diapers, his food, give me a place to stay, give me a crib and my own bathroom — all for free.”

After spending 22 months there, Bianca and her little boy moved on to the next chapter of their lives in the summer of 2015. Bianca graduated from UNC-Charlotte, is now married and hopes to pursue a law degree.

Aña was 19 and a student at a local community college when she found out she was pregnant. She considered adoption for her unborn child, yet after giving birth to little Lana 20 months ago she decided to keep her daughter.

“MiraVia was the perfect place to go for emotional support as well as financial assistance and childcare,” said Aña, who herself was adopted from Kazakhstan. “It gave me the opportunity to grow and it took away a lot of stress. I was able to focus on the main goal of raising my child and making a plan.”

Now 21, Aña just “graduated” from the home in May. She completed her studies at nearby Gaston College and will begin a nursing program this fall to pursue her dreams of becoming a medical researcher.

“I’m really proud of every one of our young women who completed their degrees,” Wray said. “They work hard to be good mothers. In the face of all of their difficulties, they understood the gift (of MiraVia) and worked hard to achieve their goals.”

Currently, MiraVia has openings at the Belmont residence, and the staff is eager to serve women from any region.

The organization also continues to provide material support, professional counseling and other services for women in the Charlotte area who are not in need of residential help. To date, more than 7,000 women have received some kind of assistance through Room at the Inn/MiraVia.

And together with local Catholic schools, parishes and others, North Carolina Knights have been very supportive from the beginning. According to Mathis, the Knights regularly assist MiraVia with “toy drives at Christmas, food and diaper drives, and ‘baby shower collections,’ in addition to financial support of operations.”

From personal experience, Debbie Capen knows she can count on the Knights. She remembers the friends from her father’s council being there for her family when he died. She was in the eighth grade at the time, and her father’s K of C life insurance policy provided financial stability for her family, allowing her to go to college.

“What a beautiful thing to see the Knights coming to the assistance of these young mothers,” she said. “It’s a real life example of men stepping up and being there when we need them most.” ♦

SUEANN HOWELL is senior reporter with the *Catholic News Herald*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C.



Larry Doyle, a veteran and member of St. Thomas the Apostle Council 11588 in West Hempstead, N.Y., places flags at the Long Island Veterans Cemetery during an annual council trip to honor deceased veterans.

HOME GOODS FOR A GOOD HOME

St. Rose of Lima Council 6386 in Short Hills, N.J., delivered furniture that had been donated for Mary's Place, the second facility of Magnificat House. The two facilities are renovated, repurposed convents that provide homes for women in need. The council has raised \$25,000 for the organization, \$9,000 of which came from a St. Valentine's Eve gala dinner featuring entertainment by Broadway artists of the parish.

MOTHER'S RECIPE

St. Louise de Marillac Council 8186 in Warren, Mich., hosted a lasagna fundraiser dinner. Following the recipe of their chaplain's mother, the council prepared 14 trays of lasagna

that yielded \$2,239 from 150 generous guests. The proceeds will help send two local seminarians on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land for spiritual formation.

ALTAR ON HIGH

Van Wert (Ohio) Council 6034 constructed a level framework for a new sanctuary platform at St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Thirty-seven members of the council donated over 1,000 volunteer hours to refurbish the worship space by removing carpet, installing hardwood floors, demolishing the old sanctuary platform and building a new one, and moving the tabernacle to the center of the church. In addition to labor, the council donated the \$39,845 raised for the project.

SAYING THANKS

Father McRedmond Council 3175 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., held an appreciation lunch for the men and women of the Oak Ridge Police Department to thank them for their service to the town. The council presented the police with a special banner made for them by the students of St. Mary's Catholic School.

CANONIZATION CELEBRATION

Requested by its diocese to minister to pilgrims, Excmo. Sr. Obispo Cázares y Martínez Council 4637 in Sahuayo, Michoacán, Mexico West, prepared and served dinner to 10,000 people who traveled to their town to celebrate the canonization of St. José Luis Sánchez del Río, who was martyred at age 14 in 1928.

Sahuayo was the location of the celebration because it is the birthplace of the young saint. The council gave over 2,000 hours and \$14,000 to provide for the pilgrims.

PREPARATION MANUALS

District P29 of Luzon South donated 72 disaster preparedness manuals to Caritas Paranaque, which includes the cities of Paranaque, Las Pinas and Muntinlupa. The manuals equipped local parishes, communities and volunteers with the knowledge to prepare for and address natural disasters and other emergencies.

MOBILE UNIT DONATION

Sacred Heart Council 12438 in Manning-Manilla, Iowa, made a \$10,000 donation to Informed Choice of Iowa to help fund the operation of "Charlie," their mobile medical unit. The council also hosts an annual soup-supper fundraiser for pro-life causes.



Father Sean Weeks, pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Parish, draws a raffle winner from a bucket held by Neil Stoneberg of St. Pius X Council 12656 in Portland, Ore. The council held drawings for its second annual "Win One for the Pastor" raffle over the course of 10 weeks. The \$2,000 in profits will support the parish's youth ministry.



Members of Father Francis S. Franklin Council 6037 in Conneaut Lake, Pa., prepare to take to the highway just west of Conneaut Lake for the first highway cleanup of the season. The council celebrated its 25th year of performing this community service.

DINNER SERVICE

Christ the Light Council 15191 in Oakland, Calif., served in the local St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room. The Knights and their families prepared meals, sorted food donations and worked the meal line and dining room during the lunch hour, serving over 200 trays to those in need. The day of volunteering began a commitment by the council to serve at the dining room every month.

BABY SHOWER

St. Bonaventure Council 10049 in Manomet, Mass., held its annual baby shower drive at St. Bonaventure Parish. The drive netted \$1,500 in items and donations of \$3,700 for the Boston Archdiocese Pregnancy Help Center, which provides many physical and counseling resources for women and families in need.

ASSISTING LITTLE SISTERS

St. Pius X Council 13085 in Mobile, Ala., sponsored a fish fry booth at the "Lawn Party," an event which raised funds for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Knights and family members contributed 137 hours during the event, frying up 295 pounds of catfish, 960 beignets and 672 Oreos. The booth raised \$5,071 for the Little Sisters.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Holy Infant Jesus Council 12171 in Sorsogon, Luzon, prepared grocery packs for 30 families affected by a fire, 24 of whom were left homeless. The council also quickly gathered several loads of new and used clothing for the fire victims.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Christ the King Council 8124 in Winnipeg, Manitoba,

purchased supplies to serve breakfast at Siloam Mission, a center that offers meals, clothing and services to those in need. The Knights cooked and served 635 meals consisting of 1,600 pancakes and 100 dozen eggs. Knights served guests with disabilities individually, going table to table to greet them and serve juice.

BE OUR GUEST

Marquette Council 1437 in New Orleans, La., hosted a dinner for sisters taking part in the annual St. Bernard Parish "Nuns Build," which works to restore homes in the New Orleans area that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

John J. Cempere Council 6328 in Culpeper, Va., held a charity golf tournament honoring deceased Knight J.J. Quinn. The event raised \$14,000 for a charity in which Quinn was heavily involved: Angel Flight Mid-Atlantic, an organization of private pilots that provides transportation for those in

need of specialized medical treatment. The tournament opened with a flyover of pilots in "missing man formation" in memory of Quinn, who was himself a pilot.

PARISH PRAYER

Bishop Hoban Assembly in Honesdale, Pa., worked with the Lay Dominicans and the pastors of four local parishes to coordinate liturgies at each of the churches. The liturgies offered parishioners a chance to reflect on the works of mercy and to fulfill the requirements for a plenary indulgence. Knights not only helped organize the events but also served as sentinels during eucharistic adoration.

PLEDGE COMPLETED

St. Sebastian Council 14642 in Byron Center, Mich., made the final payment on its \$25,000 pledge to the parish's St. Sebastian Building Fund. Thanks to hard work and an array of events — including Sunday breakfasts, raffles, and beer and wine tasting — the council made good on its pledge 18 months ahead of schedule.



Members of Ambrose Council 8403 in Annandale, Va., stand with an image of the future St. Ambrose Church. The council raised some \$40,000 for the parish project through dinners and other fundraisers, and contributed in particular to the "Knights' Window," a large rose window portraying Mary with the Christ Child.



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

HELP AROUND THE HOUSE

Victor (N.Y.) Council 6652 lent a helping hand refurbishing the preschool classrooms of St. Patrick's Church. Outside the parish, the council cooked a chicken dinner at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, a Catholic Worker facility serving those in need in the Rochester area. When St. Joe's oven broke past repair, the council made a donation to help the center purchase a new one and continue its ministry.

HELPING HAND

Pope John XXIII Council 5677 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held a pancake breakfast fundraiser to help a council member and his family after he suffered a severe stroke. The event raised more than \$3,000 to help with medical expenses.



Members of Bossier (La.) Council 4873 work on the council's cooking trailer, which served over 800 meals in two days during the disastrous flooding of March 2016, when more than 3,500 households were placed under mandatory evacuation. A project that began with one pot of jambalaya expanded to more than 20 volunteers cooking nonstop at the Emergency Operation Center in Bossier City, providing hot meals for first responders, a wide array of rescue workers and displaced residents.



Al Milavickas (left), Nate Redwitz, Mike Gonda, and Joe Welps of Father George Kuzma Council 11149 in Wilmington, Ill., and fellow Knight Bob Kulas work the grill at one of the council's six cookouts to raise funds for the Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage. After cooking through all kinds of weather and raffling off a donated television, the council met its goal of raising \$2,600 to sponsor the travel of a veteran and his or her caretaker to the Marian apparition site of Lourdes, France.

YOUTH RETREAT

Santo Domingo de Guzmán Council 14383 in Yauco, Puerto Rico, organized a retreat at a convent of the Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Fatima. The retreat, which welcomed youth aged 15-20, included varied talks and guidance for spiritual growth.

HOME REPAIR

Sto. Nino Amigopoy Council 11048 in Davao City, Mindanao, raised funds to buy construction materials after the home of a brother Knight was severely damaged by a tree that was toppled by strong winds. Practicing the Filipino tradition of *bayanihan*, which refers to a spirit of communal unity, council members also volunteered their time and labor to repair the home.

SAVE THE CEILING

Sacred Heart Council 723, St. Patrick's Council 818, St. Benedict's College Council 4708 and William T.

Jochems Assembly, all in Atchison, Kan., joined forces to repair ceiling tiles and a crack in the wall at Sacred Heart Church. The damage seemed to have resulted from an earthquake centered in Oklahoma. The repairs, which had Knights scaling high scaffolding, saved the parish thousands of dollars.

A FRIEND IN NEED

St. Peter Council 6534 in Eaton Rapids, Mich., constructed a wheelchair ramp at the home of a Knight who had undergone an emergency leg amputation. The council had held a Mexican dinner fundraiser to cover the \$1,500 cost of the ramp installation, but due to its success, an additional \$3,100 was raised to help pay medical bills following the Knight's long hospital stay.

CULINARY ADVENTURE

Our Lady of Fatima Council 8613 in Conyngham-Drums, Pa., manned a food

booth at the town of St. John's annual two-day Garlic Festival. The menu, which included garlic brownies, netted \$1,700 for the council's charity fund.

CLEAR THE PATH

West Huron Centennial Council 8042 in Caseville-Pigeon, Mich., completed a two-year project to install two new energy-efficient and handicapped-accessible doors at St. Roch Church. The new entry replaced outdated and overworked doors.

TRADITION OF SERVICE

West Allis (Wis.) Council 3095 has continued a tradition of support for the VA Hospital of Milwaukee since 1974. Every month, Knights visit the hospital to supply sandwiches, fruit and desserts as well as a game of bingo for permanent residents of the hospital. Winners receive a coupon book that can be used in the hospital canteen. The council also made a donation of \$600 toward the VA's new Fisher House.

INTERNATIONAL GIFT

Lcdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan USNR (CHC) Assembly in Spring, Texas, gave chalices to each of three Czech transitional deacons who were visiting the parish. The chalices were given in memory of three deceased Knights.

HEAD TO TOE

Osseo-Maple Grove (Minn.) Council 9139 stepped up in its second year of participation in the Order's Coats for Kids program, providing 432 coats. Having learned that local children were also in need of snow pants, the council purchased 200 pairs to keep the kids warm through the winter months.

**DIAPER DRIVE**

Father James P. Conroy Council 4403 in Bettendorf, Iowa, together with St. John Vianney Parish, conducted its second annual Diaper Drive in support of the Women's Choice Center of the Quad Cities. Since economic pressures can cause pregnant women to consider abortion and baby supplies are expensive, the 16,119 diapers and 13,896 wipes collected will be a significant resource for the WCC and its clients.

IN MEMORIAM

Muenster (Texas) Council 1459 held a fish fry fundraiser in memory of Sacred Heart Catholic School (SHCS) principal Dr. Rafael Rondon,



Members of St. Raphael's Council 11305 in Oshkosh, Wis., prepare strawberries. The council thanked the women and families of St. Raphael the Archangel Parish with the chocolate-covered strawberries after Masses on Mother's Day, and they also raised \$1,000 for Oshkosh Right to Life through a concurrent rose sale. To complete the day, the council delivered strawberries to a retirement community of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother to particularly thank them for their devotion to Christ and the Church and for their motherly love.



Members of Father Robert F. Wicks Memorial Council 9936 in Margaree, Nova Scotia, pause during a service day at the cemetery of St. Michael's Parish. With the help of parish volunteers, the council repositioned headstones, filled depressions and trimmed grass.

a member of the council who passed away in 2015. Profits from the fish fry enabled the council to make a \$5,000 donation to SHCS in memory of Dr. Rondon.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

St. Claude (Manitoba) Council 7766 sponsored a brunch that raised \$1,000 for the School of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-style school.

LEVEL FIELD

Marian Council 4563 in Murfreesboro, Tenn., learned that Project One Four, an initiative of the David Price Foundation, aimed to build a baseball field and playground where children with or without disabilities could play alongside one another. Council 4563 contributed \$23,000 — raised through its annual fund drive for

people with disabilities, Lenten fish fries and volunteer work at concession stands during Titans football games. Project One Four's facilities not only offer a shared play-space but also allow children confined to wheelchairs, and those with other disabilities, to play organized baseball.

VITAL RESOURCE

Crescenta Valley Council 3254 in Montrose, Calif., organized, promoted and conducted a drive to connect blood donors with the Huntington Hospital. According to Blood Drive Chairman Brian Brady, 46 pints of blood were drawn at St. Bede Parish to meet critical blood bank needs.

COATS FOR ALL

St. Paul the Apostle Council 16214 in Del City, Okla.,

expanded on the Coats for Kids program in its community by accepting donations of gently used coats from members of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church. The council collected more than 150 coats for Catholic Charities Family Home in Midwest City and the VA Hospital in Oklahoma City.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

St. Michael's Council 5292 in Bedford, Mass., reached a new milestone in its fundraising efforts for the Buy Your Neighbor a Meal program. For four consecutive years, the council has donated \$2,500 annually to the program, the goal of which is to offer monthly support to parish families in need. Through the program, grocery gift cards are distributed by the parish's Christian Social Service Committee.



KNIGHTS IN ACTION



Charles Bugelli (foreground) of Father Arnold Kosco Council 12808 in West Bloomfield, Mich., with Alex Franz and Geoff Downer (on ladders) of St. Francis Council 4401 in Farmington apply paint at the Monastery of the Blessed Sacrament in Farmington Hills. Thirty-one Knights from seven Detroit-area councils united to prepare, prime and paint an outdoor breezeway for the cloistered Dominican sisters of the monastery, whose mission includes perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, daily liturgy and contemplative prayer. Several councils contributed to a total of \$1,200 for paint and supplies, and the service project involved an estimated 400 volunteer hours.

WELCOMING NEW KNIGHTS

Davis Lambright Council 4101 in Fort Worth, Texas, coordinated a membership drive. The program included a poster publicizing the good works of the Knights on local, state and international levels; announcements at Masses, which led to an informational meeting; and a presentation by St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church's pastor, Father Richard Flores, about support from the Knights during seminary.

PRO-LIFE TEAMWORK

Our Lady of the Pines Council 11730 in Black Forest, Colo., auctioned a quilt sewn and decorated by a pro-life activist determined to support the Colorado Springs Pregnancy Center. Refusing to be sidelined by age, the 98-year-old Ms. French repurposed blue jeans to make

a unique quilt for the council to use in a fundraiser, resulting in over \$1,000 for the pregnancy resource center.

LONG-TERM GOAL

To support the newly built and dedicated Our Lady of Grace Church, Our Lady of Grace Council 14765 in Indian Land, S.C., spent two years fundraising for a pavilion that could host parish functions and the council's events. Two golf tournaments raised \$14,000 for the facility, while a "Donor's Club" raffle brought in \$12,000.

TAKING INITIATIVE

Msgr. Francis J. Desmond Council 13348 in Lewes, Del., held a series of "Respect Life" fundraisers at St. Jude the Apostle Church. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, and with matching funds from the Ultrasound Initiative, the

council succeeded in raising more than \$16,000 — enough to purchase a new ultrasound machine for Sussex Pregnancy Care Center in Georgetown, Del.

BROTHERS FOR LIFE

Father Joseph M. Geary Council 3523 in Santa Clara, Calif., rallied to assist a widowed council member who has Alzheimer's. After the death of his daughter, the council arranged the funeral and began caring for their brother Knight on a daily basis, keeping his finances in order, shopping and cooking for him.

HOCKEY PARTNERSHIP

Sheptytsky Council 4938, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, collected coats and cash donations during a game of the Saskatoon Blades junior hockey team. The collected coats, in addition to 12 cases

purchased by the council through the Coats for Kids program, were delivered by Knights and Saskatoon Blade players to young people at the White Buffalo Youth Lodge, a support center for families and children.

SIGNS OF APPRECIATION

Iron River (Mich.) Council 2300 hosted a Red, White, and Blue Mass in conjunction with their Corporate Communion at St. Agnes Parish in Iron River to honor the firefighters, EMS personnel, police officers and all their family members for the unselfish service that they provide to the local communities. The Knights provided an honor guard for the emergency personnel and a light brunch after Mass. The council also held its first "Black Cow" project at the Iron Mountain Veteran Hospital, serving approximately 75 patients, visitors and aides with cookies, root beer floats and ice cream sundaes.



John Quintavalle (left), Hank Montoya and Raymond Vanderwarren of St. Louis De-Montfort Council 14553 in Oak Lawn, Ill., install new trim in the rectory of St. Louis de Montfort Church. The council's refurbishment included removing old carpet and installing new hardwood flooring.

**HARDLY TRIVIAL**

Father Funken Council 1504 in Kitchener, Ontario, coordinated its first Trivia Challenge. After several months of planning, the successful event raised \$12,500 for the ministry of Marillac Place, a community shelter that provides safe, affordable accommodation, with basic life skill training, childcare guidance and educational opportunities. Marillac Place is open to independent women between the ages of 16 and 25 who are pregnant, parenting or attempting to gain custody and provide care for their child.

PORCH FOR A PARISHIONER

St. Helen's Council 11738 in Glendale, Ariz., provided a fellow parishioner with a new porch for her home. Over five days, seven Knights spent 80 hours constructing the porch.

SUSTENANCE FOR STUDENTS

At the request of the religious education coordinator of St. Alphonus Church, Stanley S. Herbert Sr. Council 8770 in Maurice, La., cooked supper for 80 people during the parish's Confirmation retreat. The students asked for gumbo, which the council gladly provided to support the students during their preparation for the sacrament. The council members particularly relished the chance to visit with the Confirmation candidates as the large pot of chicken and sausage gumbo simmered.

PRO-LIFE MILESTONE

The St. Peter Claver Council 10817 in West Hartford, Conn., reached a milestone in its support of St. Agnes Home, which has provided

residential care and supportive services for pregnant and parenting adolescent mothers and their infants since 1914. Since 2009, the council has raised more than \$200,000 for the home through the generous response of St. Peter Claver parishioners to the council's fundraising campaigns, which have included a "Bottles for Babies" change drive and the annual "Birdies for Babies" golf tournament. The council's support has enabled St. Agnes Home to undertake many key improvements, and will fund a new dining area as well as a creative play and learning space for the children.

RECTORY RENOVATED

Twelve members of Bishop LeBlond Council 5067 in St. Joseph, Mo., worked more than 1,000 hours to help renovate the rectory of St. Patrick's Church. They spent time tuckpointing bricks on the exterior walls of the rectory, completing tile work, stripping woodwork,



Members of Our Lady Immaculate Council 8026 in Georgina, Ontario, work along the fence of Immaculate Conception Church in Sutton. The council planted 160 cedar trees to create a screen between the rectory and the neighboring youth center.



Participants of all ages demonstrate in the ninth annual Walk for Life in Grangeville, Idaho. Grangeville Council 4058 made breakfast for the participants at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish before the two-mile walk, which was followed by a talk at the church. Members of St. Michaels Council 4585 in Orofino took part in the walk as well.

staining and installing new trim and baseboards, sheet rocking and painting interior walls, along with many other jobs. The efforts of these Knights saved the parish thousands of dollars.

GOODS DELIVERED

Our Lady of Divine Providence Council 13066 in Maria Siquijor, Visayas, made deliveries to 20 families in need. The "bundles of joy" included 5 kilos of rice, clothing and canned goods, worth a total value of 400 pesos. The council raised funds for the project through bingo socials.

SERVING IN UNITY

Good Shepherd Council 10811 in Merrillville, Ind., prepared food for Our Lady of Consolation Parish's Friends in Christ Ministry. The Friends in Christ Ministry is part of Feeding the Flock, an ecumenical group of six churches in the area. Each Saturday a member church prepares a meal for 120-150 people in need. The council was honored to have

Bishop Donald J. Hying of Gary and Father Peter Muha, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Parish, assist with serving the meal.

A NEW SERVICE

The Visayas Jurisdiction made its first donation of an ultrasound machine to the West Visayas State University Medical Center in Lapaz, Iloilo City. Together, the Knights and the medical center took a step toward providing accessible medical services for expectant mothers by equipping a pro-life pregnancy care center with modern technology that will enable pregnant women to see and hear their babies in utero.

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‘Actions speak louder than words’

Ronald J. Alonzo joined the Knights of Columbus in 1980. A past grand knight of Corpus Christi (Texas) Council 1202 and a former district deputy, he currently serves as faithful navigator of Father James Flanagan Assembly in Corpus Christi and Texas State Council Charities Director.



THE ATTRACTION OF ACTION

The best way to recruit is to implement programs that are going to help the community and the Church. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. When the church community sees that your council is active — hosting a blood drive, serving coffee and donuts after Mass, or involved in all the beautiful Masses of Holy Week — then they want to be part of it.

You can give them all the literature you want, but they want to be a part of something that's active and successful. It's as my mother always told me: Actions speak louder than words.

ALL TALENTS WELCOME

When men join the Knights of Columbus, I make them aware that every single one of them has a talent. It's like St. Paul says: we all have different gifts, yet we are all one in the Body of Christ.

So if you are thinking, “What can I bring to the Knights of Columbus?” then you should know that there is a place for you. If you're willing to step forward and accept the challenge, there is a program where you can fit in.

LIVING AS CATHOLIC GENTLEMEN

As a college student, I noticed an employee with a Third Degree pin who always sat in his car for a while in the parking lot before entering the building. I asked him one day, “What are you doing before you walk in?” He said, “I'm finishing praying the rosary. I pray it when I go to work and on my way home.”

His prayerful example made a powerful impression on me.

Once I got to know him, and he learned I was Catholic, he asked me, “Are you ready to join the Knights of Columbus?” I said, “Yes, I'm ready.” As Knights, our way of life as Catholic gentlemen can recruit more individuals than any recruitment tool that's out there.

FAMILY FOCUS

Our bishop wanted an assembly in every deanery, so we established a new assembly at our church. Now we have the Fourth Degree full out for every special occasion. It's amazing — kids were asking who we were, and then they would turn and ask, “Daddy, are you a part of the Knights of Columbus?”

I just love the Order's emphasis on building the domestic church. When you join the Knights, if you give it any time at all, it becomes a part of your day-to-day life. The Knights are a big part of my family, and I think we're very blessed. ♦



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Building a better world one council at a time

Every day, Knights all over the world are given opportunities to make a difference — whether through community service, raising money or prayer. We celebrate each and every Knight for his strength, his compassion and his dedication to building a better world.

Members of St. Louis Council 7439 in Lucban, St. Vincent Ferrer Council 10383 in Sampaloc, Father Horacio de la Costa Council 7721 in Mauban and San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila-Mauban Council 15938 in Polo Mauban gather March 25 as pro-life witnesses during Luzon South District 60's annual Walk for Life.

TO BE FEATURED HERE, SEND YOUR COUNCIL'S "KNIGHTS IN ACTION" PHOTO AS WELL AS ITS DESCRIPTION TO:
COLUMBIA, 1 COLUMBUS PLAZA, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326 OR E-MAIL: COLUMBIA@KOF.C.ORG.

PLEASE, DO ALL YOU CAN TO ENCOURAGE PRIESTLY AND RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS. YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



KEEP THE FAITH ALIVE

‘PLACE YOUR VOCATION IN MARY’S HANDS.’

I don’t know where I would be without the Blessed Mother. When I was in high school, I struggled to discern God’s will for my life. A priest assured me that if I prayed the rosary every day, Mary would tell me what her Son wanted me to do. After some time, the answer became clear: God wanted me to be a priest.

However, I was too afraid to say “yes.” Then, on the feast of the Annunciation, while I was in college, I saw how Mary said “yes” to her own vocation, and I was graced with the courage to do the same.

But what did my “yes” mean? God was calling me to be a priest, but what kind: diocesan or religious? Trusting in Mary, I followed St. Louis de Montfort’s teaching and consecrated myself to Jesus through Mary, placing my vocation in her hands.

As I now prepare for priestly ordination, my advice to anyone struggling to discern his or her vocation is to go to Mary. Place your vocation in her hands, and she will always lead you to her Son.

DEACON CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN

Diocese of Rockville Centre

*Msgr. Stanley Matthews Council 3536 in
Larchmont, N.Y.*

