



The Pilot

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
CHARITY

COUNCIL 4438
UNITY

10275 Tujunga Canyon Blvd.
FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM

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From the Desk of Grand Knight Sean McGlynn

Greetings Brother Knights!

It is my honor to lead Council 4438 as your Grand Knight for this Columbian Year. In fact, most of the officers this year are 3rd degree members, and enjoy full Knighthood within our Order. For those who, like me, have only just recently progressed to the 3rd degree, along with those who steadfastly serve the Council as 3rd degree officers, I thank you for your continued efforts to make our Council a unified and charitable place for Catholic men to share a common purpose.

With Thanksgiving behind us, and Christmas just around the corner, my thoughts can't help but be drawn to how these holidays find their full expression among Catholics. As an Order, the *Knights of Columbus* was made possible by those early Americans who believed that the struggle for basic survival was worthwhile, if it meant that the reward was the freedom to worship God in their chosen way.

At its most fundamental level, what we sometimes irreverently refer to as "Turkey Day" finds its full meaning when we look at its component parts of 'thanks' and 'giving.' To celebrate fully, as Catholic men, this holiday must include expressions of BOTH *Thanks* AND *Giving*. As Knights of Columbus, our first principal requires us to be Charitable. In that spirit, Thanksgiving doesn't end with an empty plate and leftovers - our thanks should be expressed loud and often. Our giving must be heartfelt, and year-round.

As a Charitable organization, we need the steady contribution of YOU, the members, to reach our full potential. When a group of Catholic men gather to work for a common purpose, great things can be achieved. We have seen it before: for more than fifty years, this council has served this community well. Even now, the Knights of this Council are helping to make the dream of a Parish Preschool a reality. Your continued hard work has allowed us to donate much of the money needed to renovate the Preschool, which plans to open this coming year!

The celebration of the Birth of Jesus is fast approaching. Please take some time to reflect upon what we each have, and then imagine if it was all taken away. There are people in our own community -- people everywhere, who struggle daily for the things they need. As Charitable Catholic men, I ask you to keep them in your prayers. Even more, I ask you to join your Brothers in Council 4438 this holiday season to make a difference in the lives of those in need. We continue to raise money and perform charitable works to ease the struggles of all people - those around the corner, and around the globe.

Our first principal is Charity - what better time is there to recall our oaths, and serve the People of God!
I wish for you and your families a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season and New Year!

News from the Lourdes Columbian Society

Gentleman, I bring you "Good Tidings From The Officers and Members of the Lourdes Columbian Society." We have had two meetings since we last talked, one in September and one in October. Here is what we have done since our last visit: • Arrangements are in place for next year's OLL School Field Trip. Because this year's trip to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles was a great success, the current Fifth Grade Class will go next May. It is felt by the members of LCS that this Field Trip is good for the students and very good PR for the

Knights. Hopefully, we can sponsor other grades and other trips. • LCS has requested that OLL School drop the LCS name from the High School Scholarship awards presented in June and that "Knights of Columbus Council 4438" be used instead. It is felt that people know the Knights name but they don't understand LCS. • There were two small donations made in October. One, to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court San Ysidro #1507, helps keep the cost of their Advent Luncheon low so many of their
(See LCS on page 3)

Council Information

MEETING

Council Officers
1st Tuesday / monthly
Tuesday, **December 1**
7:30 p.m.

MEETING

General
Membership
2nd Tuesday / monthly
Tuesday, **December 8**
Doors open @ 6:00 p.m.
Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.

MEETING

Lourdes Columbian
Society
4th Tuesday
DARK IN DECEMBER
Regular Meeting
7:30 p.m.

Chaplain's Corner

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be...And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (Jn 1:1-18)

The first 18 verses of John's Gospel are referred to as the "Prologue." They deal with truths that soar far above the limits of human reason, and they are one of the reasons why John is symbolized as an eagle.

In the 13th century, it became the custom in some places for priests to recite these verses privately after Mass as they were taking off their vestments.

In the form of the Mass that emerged from the Council of Trent (late 16th century), the priest was to read this Gospel passage (to himself) at the altar before Mass ended. Catholics referred to this as "the Last Gospel."

In the liturgical reform of Vatican II, this private thanksgiving of the priest was no longer included as part of the Mass.

It is John's prologue that explicitly states what we mean by the term *Incarnation*: "And the Word became flesh." This is one of the most basic truths of our faith.

We do not teach that Jesus was a good and holy man who, at some point in his life (e.g. his baptism, his death) was adopted by God and raised to divine status. Nor do we teach that Jesus was God wearing a human costume.

What we do teach is (take your time with this)...that the eternally pre-existing Son of God (the Second Person of the Trinity), at a certain point in time, became a human being, born of a woman. Jesus is truly divine and truly human, and neither detracts from the fullness of the other. He did not simply become "like us." He became *one of us*, a permanent member of the human family. And (this is the most important part of all) he did this so that, as part of the human family and also Son of God, he could bring us into his own relationship with the Father.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. And it's something worth celebrating. Spend some time this Advent considering your relationship with Christ.

Fr. Freddie

The Trinity — IV

(Past Grand Knight Joe Battaglia gave a series of talks about various subjects of our faith. The following is Part Four of his presentation on What the Church Believes About the Trinity — and What It Doesn't.

Now I am forced to consider the question: HOW IS JESUS THE CHRIST GOD AND MAN? One attempt would be simply to deny His divinity and say that really the Son was brought into existence (created like other beings) by the Father when there was a special need at hand. At the moment of His creation He was given the gift of divinity by the Father, but it was not really His by His own right. He was just a magnificent adopted divine Son. This was basically what ARIANISM was saying about Jesus the Christ back in A.D. 319, when it was condemned. It was not even a good try, but it was an honest attempt to preserve God as One again. What is wrong with it is that, if the Son was created by the Father, then for all the nice things I might say about His adopted divinity, He could never be God. You don't "work your way up through the ranks" to divinity. Without true divinity in Jesus Christ, you have no redemption, just a poor man who was deluded and railroaded to a terrible death.

The next direction to take would be

to say that definitely Christ was God and Man. In fact He was so completely God and Man that He was two complete personalities, divine and human. These complete individuals were covered over, and only speaking generally "united," by a cosmetic super-personality. The effect of this would be to weaken the professed love God has displayed for His creation. It would be equivalent to God's saying: "I will send My Only-Begotten Son among my creatures to become one of them, but not really one of them. After all, this love business can only go so far." Such was the position of NESTORIANISM in A.D. 428. Trying to answer the mistakes of this explanation of the God/Man, St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote:

"We assert that the Word, in an inexplicable and incomprehensible manner, was made man through personal union to Himself of flesh animated by a rational soul...Though the natures brought into true unity are diverse, they affect for us one Christ, and Son..."

Final (V) Installment next Pilot

A Visit with Damien's Lepers

by Joe Battaglia

In the early 1980's, I had a chance to tour the leper colony once served by our newest saint -- St. Damian de Veuster --on Molokai, Hawaii. The puddle-jumper that took me and several other visitors to the colony circled the landing area to give us a view of the paradise this infamous spot has become. It was not always beautiful.

From photos available at the lepers' church, the colony at the far end of Molokai in St. Damien's time was a barren, rock-strewn disaster. No captain was foolish enough to venture anywhere near the makeshift wharf and have his ship shredded by waves and treacherous rocks. There were no trees or lush vegetation to shelter the lepers from the tropical elements. These poor people were simply forced to jump into the ocean, hopefully near enough to swim to the shore. Most made it; many did not. Some said at that time that the fortunate ones perished.

My guide on this trip was the colony's chaplain, a young priest from the same religious community who sent St. Damien there in 1873, the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (the Picpus Fathers who today staff Damien High School in nearby La Verne). This young priest was responsible for the spiritual welfare of the lepers who still lived in the colony. He told us that several years prior it had been discovered that leprosy (Hansen's Disease) was not contagious, and that its progression could be controlled though not cured. Lepers in colonies all over the world were given the option to return to their homes. Many chose to do so, but many others had no home but Molokai and stayed. When I visited the colony, there were perhaps 35 remaining lepers.

My guide took me first to the church that St. Damien himself built for the lepers. He was slowly restoring the church as government and private funds became available. I stood at the same wooden altar at which Damien offered daily Mass and at the lectern where he one day began his sermon with the words, "We lepers," indicating he himself had contracted the dread disease and was now one with them.

A side chapel directly to the left of the sanctuary gave me an horrific insight into the awful life these poor people lived. Leprosy attacks the body's extremities first: fingers, toes, ears, noses, lips. The church's side chapel was reserved for those for whom the disease had progressed so far that even the other lepers did not want to

(Continued, p. 3, Damien)

Damien

Continued from p. 2)

see them.

I noticed holes bored into the floor of the side chapel, enough holes for the people in those pews. When I asked the priest what they were for, he described how these disfigured lepers knelt in the pews of the side chapel, their lips and jaws now eaten away by the disease. Since they could not close their mouths to swallow their own saliva, they simply leaned over and allowed the saliva to spill out of their gaping mouths and through the holes to the ground below the church.

For the most part, the lepers who remained in the colony when I visited were very mobile and had little disfigurement that was readily noticeable. My guide, however, invited me into the colony's infirmary to meet one of the lepers whose disease was highly advanced. I remember his name: Johnny. He lay on a bed of clean, white linens, his hands fully bandaged, but it was obvious he had no fingers. Johnny's legs ended in stumps, his extremities ravaged by the leprosy. His nose and lips were nearly gone, rendering his face almost a grotesque mask – but only almost! It was his eyes that made his face something beautiful to see. His eyes spoke of a joy that words could never adequately describe.

Johnny greeted me like a long-lost friend. At first his facial losses made it hard to understand what he was saying, but we eventually adjusted and began a remarkable conversation. We talked for the longest time. I have never been so at peace in the presence of a total stranger than I was with this man. He never mentioned his sufferings. He spoke constantly of his gratitude to God for bringing him to Molokai where he found grace and new life. (*Thinking of Johnny helps me keep my perspective when I want to complain about a little arthritis in my feet or hands!*)

In a very real sense I felt the presence of Damien of Molokai in that infirmary and throughout the colony. A saint had lived and worked in the very spot where I stood.

In the November, 2009, issue of *Columbia* magazine, I read the words of Bishop Miagret who accompanied Damien to the colony to introduce him to his new charges.

"You shall no longer be alone," the bishop told the lepers. "I have brought you one who will be a father to you and who loves you so much that for your welfare and for the sake of your immortal souls, he does not hesitate to become one of you to live and die with you."

We now know these words describe a saint. At the time they were spoken, St. Damien had no idea what lay before him. He knew only that he was called to love his people and serve them with the gifts God had given him. Those same words describe each of us, as well. As husbands, fathers and men of faith in the Knights of Columbus, we are called to do no less.

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older members can attend this major event. It is also a way of saying "thank you" to the CDA for their help at our Lenten Fish Fry. The other donation went to the Wheelchair Foundation. This Foundation is sponsored in part by the California Knights of Columbus, and has provided over a million chairs to children, teens and adults throughout the world. Let me close by wishing you and yours on behalf of the Members of LCS a Blessed Christmas and Good Fortune for the New Year.

Bob Birney, LCS President

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Francis Comerford*	58-59
Charles Landreau	59-60
Jack Nelson	60-61
Carlos Vaca*	61-62
Emil Walcek	62-63
Alphonse Dekat*	63-64
Phil Rousseau*	64-65
Chester Guzowski	65-66
Claude Leonard*	66-67
George Love	67-68
Rudolph Kne	68-69
Floyd Miller	69-70
James Chapman	70-71
Ervin Stratman	71-72
Mondell Metz	72-73
Phil Rousseau*	73-74
Joel Dapp	74-75
John Mullins	75-76
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Raymond Hroskicoski	81-82
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Arnold Gaska	84-85
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Thomas Owenson	86-87
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Mike Livingston	88-89
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Russ Kadera	91-92
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Russ Kadera	00-01
Mike Sabo	01-02
Carl deSilveira	02-03
Bob Birney	03-04
Carl Haase	04-05
Bob Birney	05-06
Bob Birney	06-07
Joe Battaglia	07-08
Jack Hodges	08-09

A Prayer for Priests

In this Year of the Priest, O God,
we ask Your blessing on those
you have called to priestly ministry.

May they, above all, be
faithful and passionate
followers of Your be-
loved son, Jesus.

May they be compassionate,
as Jesus was, toward all
who seek spiritual
comfort and forgiveness

May they open wide their
hearts to all in need of Your merciful
embrace.

May they be teachers, as Jesus was,
steeped in Your Word and teaching,
on fire with it, and breaking it open
for all who are hungry for Your holy
and transforming Word.

May they be prophets, as Jesus was,
speaking courageously for what is
right and true, proclaiming Your king-
dom to all in need of Your grace and
giving voice to all Your children, es-
pecially the poor and marginalized.

May they be prayerful, as Jesus was,
hearts burning within them and set
upon You above all.

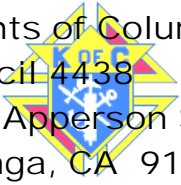
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
may they be the voice of praise and
thanksgiving, and of faith, hope, and
love to all in their care.

St. John Vianney, beloved priest of God,
pray for us and for all your brother
priests. Amen.



St. John Vianney

Knights of Columbus
 Council 4438
 7344 Apperson Street
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From the Desk of Pat Bellue

Our Deputy Grand Knight

Brothers,

I write this to you as a new Third Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and I must say that I truly enjoyed the ceremony that Brothers Chuck, Sean, John and I participated in very recently. It is amazing to see just how many Catholic men are so interested in continuing the steps to full Knighthood. Fr. McGivney had a plan when he created the Knights; he was not making it up as he went along. He had a reason and a purpose for each of the degrees. My decision was not solely for the purpose of satisfying the need for officers being Third Degree, but for myself as a member of the Knights of Columbus to move on to the next level, toward full Knighthood. I encourage everyone who is not a Second or Third Degree to go through the process of getting these Degrees for the HONOR of being called a FULL member of the Knights of Columbus. Upcoming degrees are as follows:

Second Degree — December 9, 2009 / Fountain Valley Check-in 7:00 p.m., Start 7:30 p.m.	Second Degree — January 24, 2010 Canoga Park Council 3601 Check-in 10:00 a.m., Start 10:30 a.m.
Second Degree — December 30, 2009 Long Beach Council #3629 Check-in 7:00 p.m., Start 8:00 p.m.	(both required) [January 24, 2010 Canoga Park Council 3601 Check-in 1:00 p.m., Start 2:00 p.m.
Second Degree — January 15, 2010 (Spanish) / Santa Ana Check-in 6:30 p.m.	Second Degree — January 27, 2010 Long Beach Council 3629 Check-in 7:00 p.m., Start 8:00 p.m.
Second Degree — January 19, 2010 Playa del Rey Council 3744 Check-in 7:15 p.m., Start 8:00 p.m.	<u>Third Degree</u> — February 28, 2010 Buena Park Check-in 1:00 p.m., Start 2:00 p.m.
Second Degree — January 24, 2010 / Buena Park Check-in 1:00 p.m., Start 1:30 p.m.	

I will be working with our Chancellor, Steve Gaon, and any of you interested in getting your Second and/or Third Degrees satisfied. Please see either of us or Grand Knight Sean McGlynn, if you would like more information regarding any Degree ceremony. Also, for those of you interested in becoming a Fourth Degree Knight, there will be a ceremony for that in February, 2010. I will have more information on that very soon.

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Enjoy the time with your families; if you are traveling, have a safe trip.