



The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XIX Issue VI

June 2017

From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

Inside this issue:

Mercy and the Mother of God
Father Jacques Philippe

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop
William E. Lori

Membership

Council News

Convention Pictures



Brothers,

Greetings to you all. Another convention has come and gone. We had a super time in Tupelo!! A big shout out to the entire Convention Committee and in particular District Deputy, Mark Dye and Grand Knight, Keith Merritt. Thank you all for a job well done. Congratulations to all the award winning councils along with the Knight and Family of the Year winners. A new slate of State Officers were elected and this year's lineup will be as follows: State Deputy, Noel Aucoin; State Secretary, Philip Jabour; State Treasurer, Mike Kassouf; State Advocate, Roy Gamez; State Warden, Guy Heying and Immediate Past State Deputy, Jim McCraw. I know I speak for

all the State Officers in saying "Thank you for your support.

"There will be extensive changes in other parts of the State Family. With Guy being elected as State Warden, a void was left open at State Program Director. That position will be filled by Kenny Gonzales of Council 5654, Ocean Springs. Various chairmanship roles will be filled in the coming weeks. Many District Deputies have also reached their term limits. DD1, Mark Dye will be succeeded by Jacob Eftink of Oxford; DD4, Danny Setaro will be succeeded by David Viger of Meridian; DD5, Charles Hahn will be succeeded by Craig Harrell of Clinton; DD11, Mark Fontenot will be succeeded by David Seymour of D'Iberville; DD13, Sherwood Beckham will be succeeded by Thomas Moran of Lizana. DD3, Bernie Brown will also be stepping down and a search for his successor is now taking place. Please join me in thanking these Future, **Former District Deputies** and pledging our support to the newly appointed DD's and State Program Director.

As of Friday May 26, Mississippi needed 15 more new members to reach our goal and I think by the time you read this we'll be in single digits. We were rank number 12 Order wide with respect to the percentage of intake to our quota. But more importantly and more impressive is that we were ranked number "2" Order wide in net/net percentage. This means that not only are you bringing new Knights to the service of the Church but you are retaining the Brothers already in the fold. This is a monumental effort on everyone's part. Again, a big THANK YOU for the work you are doing. In closing, Brothers, let me say that I have attended several different degrees this year and recently one thing has crossed my mind. Once we hear the beautiful charges of each degree and receive the emblems representing those charges are we living them? Without going into too much detail (because some readers may not be 3rd Degree members) one of the charges cautions us about publicly speaking ill of a Brother Knight. Do we always follow this? I can be as guilty as the next Knight. Sitting in observation of the individual degrees, has reminded me of the pledges I've took and encourages me to live them. I urge every Brother Knight to sit in the audience of the next exemplification in your area ask yourself "Am I living the pledge I once took?"

Vivat Jesus,

Noel

Mercy and the Mother of God

5/1/2017

by Father Jacques Philippe



Mary teaches us how to trust in God, receive his grace and share his love with others

Virgin of Mercy with Child and Saints / Museo Civico degli Eremitani, Padua, Italy / Cameraphoto Arte Venezia / Bridgeman Images

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following text is abridged from a homily given Dec. 8, 2015, at Thomas More College in Merrimack, N.H., and later published in a book titled *Real Mercy: Mary, Forgiveness and Trust* (Scepter, 2016). It is reprinted with permission.

As a priest, I often meet people who say, “A few years ago, I committed this great fault, and I went to confession. I think God forgave me, but I don’t seem to be able to forgive myself.”

Consider asking yourself the question, “What will allow me to access the mercy of God?” My answer is that there are four conditions: trust, humility, gratitude and forgiveness. And Mary, who is the person with the deepest love and knowledge of God, can help us with these.

The mercy of God will always be greater than our sins, and this is what we contemplate in the mystery of the Virgin Mary. She plays a very important role in introducing us to God’s mercy, which is his deepest attribute. Mary did not sin, but in the Magnificat she sang of the mercy of God (cf. Lk 1:46-55). God’s mercy is a grace given to Mary in advance, by merit of

very heart of Christ, is what purified Mary. Everything is given and everything comes from the mercy of God, not from our merit but from the free love of God. Mary is the richest of all creatures, the holiest and the most beautiful, but also the humblest and poorest because she knows that she has received everything from God.

TRUST AND HUMILITY

We see in the Gospels that the mercy of God is the greatest mystery and the most beautiful treasure. However, we have a difficult time accepting it because we really have very little trust in God’s forgiveness. This attitude can come about for certain reasons. Perhaps it has to do with human psychology, but without a doubt, there is a lack of trust. We don’t really believe in this reality of the forgiveness of God, and so we don’t always fully welcome it. God forgives us, but we can’t forgive ourselves.

So there is an issue of trust that is not easy for us because of our wounded human nature. Yet we have the witness of the saints, such as St. Thérèse of Lisieux and St. Faustina, who all emphasize the importance of trust. What permits us to access God’s mercy? Trust — complete trust in God. The greater the trust, the more mercy will be given to us, and the more we will please God. St. Thérèse said that what wounds the heart of God most are not our faults but our lack of trust in his love. This is what prevents us from receiving the abundant mercy and love of God.

St. Louis de Montfort writes about everything Mary gives us. She gives us her faith, her trust in God. She dilates our hearts in a filial trust. She takes away every fear from us, along with all our suspicions. She gives us trust and simplicity and a profound faith that enables us to place all of our trust in God.

The second condition is humility. Sometimes, when we don’t forgive ourselves even when God forgives us, the reason is pride — I don’t accept being a person who has fallen, who has made mistakes. I would have liked to have been the perfect person, infallible. But I’ve made mistakes, and I can’t accept having faults. This stems from a certain form of pride.

We have difficulty accepting that we have to depend on the mercy of God. We would like to save ourselves. We would like to be our own richness — to be rich based on our good actions and qualities. To receive everything from the mercy of God — to accept that God is our source of richness and not ourselves — requires a great poverty of heart.

Sometimes it’s good that we rejoice when we have accomplished great things. But in the moments where we feel our poverty, we should also rejoice, because the good news is for the poor. Mercy is for those who need it, who feel profoundly that they cannot save themselves. Our only hope is not through our own works; it’s hope in the infinite mercy of God. That is our only security. It’s our only security in life to know that the mercy of God will never run out. That’s the second condition for welcoming the mercy of God: humility and poverty of heart.

Mary’s maternal love helps us to recognize and accept peacefully our limitations and fragility. This is Mary’s great gift to us. Close to Mary, we love our littleness. St. Thérèse says this as well: “The more that you love your smallness and your poverty, the more Jesus will give you grace.”

GRATITUDE AND FORGIVENESS

There is a third important condition: gratitude. Jesus said in the Gospel, “For to him who has, will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away” (Mt 13:12). We can understand it this way: He who knows he has received gifts from God, who gives thanks for these gifts, will receive more.

There is a little secret in the spiritual life: The more the heart gives thanks, the more God gives, even when life isn’t perfect, even when we don’t have everything we need or want. The more we thank God, the more our heart is open to receive even more of his mercy and his gifts. Mary gives us the gift of thanksgiving. Mary is the Virgin of the Magnificat. She sings the marvels and the mercy of God in a song of hope. God will strike down the mighty from their thrones and will raise the humble. When Mary sings this, it is not yet fulfilled: The kings are still sitting on their thrones. Mary’s song of hope is a song of gratitude. Mary teaches us the grace of thanksgiving and praise through her Magnificat.

The fourth condition to receive God’s mercy abundantly is very clear in the Gospel: If you do not forgive, God cannot forgive you. Sometimes what stops us from receiving the mercy of God is our lack of mercy toward others, our hardness of heart toward others, our lack of goodness toward others. And so we too need to be merciful. “Blessed are the merciful, for mercy will be shown them” (Mt 5:7). The more I’m merciful with my brothers and sisters, the more God will be merciful with me.

If we want to receive mercy, we have to be merciful toward others. Here Mary gives us a beautiful gift: her maternal heart, her merciful heart. She is our mother, and everything she receives from God, she gives to us. The more I give myself to Mary, the more she will give herself to me. What do we observe about Mary at the wedding at Cana? She’s the first one to see the needs of the people around her. There is no more wine; this would be a catastrophe — even worse if this wedding were in France! Mary is the first one to notice, and she goes to find Jesus. Mary can help us open our hearts and eyes to the needs of our brothers and sisters. She motivates us to acts of love and mercy through her maternal grace. Her tenderness and love has the force of faith. It can be compared to an army ready for battle. She’s strong against evil, but with an inner peace and tenderness that she transmits to us.

Let us ask for the grace to welcome Mary into our hearts, to give ourselves to her so she can give us what she has received from God. She will give us limitless trust, faith, humility, hope and thanksgiving, along with her loving and attentive gaze and the goodness that is so deep within her. By practicing all of this with Mary, she will ask for what we need.

FATHER JACQUES PHILIPPE is a member of the Community of the Beatitudes in France and the author of several modern classics in Catholic spirituality, including *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* (2002) and *Interior Freedom* (2007). Visit frjacquesphilippe.com.

Finding Jesus in the Mysteries of the Rosary 5/1/2017 Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



The rosary spiritually enriches us as we meditate on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary.

DURING A RECENT visit to New Haven, I was asked to bless several pallets loaded with more than 30,000 rosaries. In fact, I bless large numbers of rosaries whenever I’m at the Supreme Council headquarters. The reason is that a rosary is given to every Knight of Columbus when he becomes a member. I still have the rosary I was given when I became a Knight in 1986 and a few newer ones to spare. A rosary is “standard operating equipment” — if I might use that phrase — for every Knight. Members of the Knights and their families are encouraged by the Order to pray the rosary daily. Indeed, every Catholic should try to pray the rosary frequently. And what better month than May — dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary — for us to revisit this devotion.

SPIRITUAL MEDICINE

By word and example, Pope Francis certainly encourages us to pray the rosary. The Holy Father prays 15 decades of the rosary daily and often can be seen praying it in public. He has even written a pocket-sized book of meditations on the mysteries of the rosary. Through these easy-to-read reflections, Pope Francis invites us to

ask the help of Mary so that our hearts might be prepared to enter into the mysteries of Christ’s life.

The pope also talks about the rosary in his addresses and homilies. In one Angelus address, for instance, he called the rosary “spiritual medicine ... for the heart, the soul and the whole of life.” On another occasion, he pulled a rosary from his pocket, held it up, and asked the people if they too had rosaries. Then, he asked if they merely carry the rosary in their pockets or if they actually pray it!

We might ask why it is that popes, great saints and pastors, and masters of the spiritual life are nearly unanimous in urging us to pray the rosary. Many others have answered that question more convincingly than I ever could. Yet, emboldened by the Blessed Mother’s love for me, I am willing to try! And I’d like to take my cue from a prayer that is often recited at the end of the rosary. It goes like this:

“O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation: Grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Let's consider two phrases in that prayer: 1) “meditating on these mysteries of the most holy rosary” and 2) “imitate what they [the mysteries of the rosary] contain and obtain what they promise.” I believe that these two phrases can help deepen our understanding of the rosary and motivate us to pray it daily.

First, this concluding prayer reminds us that the rosary is a prayer for meditation on the mysteries of the life of Christ. In a daily Mass homily, Pope Francis said that prayer is not mindlessly repeating words “like a parrot!” The rosary, too, is not merely a matter of saying Our Fathers and Hail Marys. Rather, when we address the Blessed Mother using the words of the archangel Gabriel — “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” (Lk 1:28) — she calms our spirit and leads us to Jesus. She helps us enter into the “mysteries” of her Son's life.

THE PROMISE OF JOY

When we refer to the “mysteries” of the rosary, we do not mean something that is difficult or even impossible to explain. Rather, the word “mysteries” refers to events in the earthly life of Christ that reveal the saving work of our heavenly Father. Mary, who shared in these events like no one else, guides us through the incarnation, birth and childhood of Jesus (joyful mysteries); through the events of Jesus' public life that manifested the Father's glory (luminous mysteries); through Jesus' saving passion and death (sorrowful mysteries); and through the triumph of the Lord over sin and death (glorious mysteries).

By allowing Mary to help us to reflect prayerfully on these events in the life of Christ, we begin to “imitate what they contain.” For example, the first joyful mystery is the Annunciation. As we greet Mary and ask her intercession, we ponder the news that the angel Gabriel brought — the birth of the Savior. We should be moved to give thanks and praise to God for loving the world so much that he sent us his only Son (cf. Jn 3:16). We should also ponder Mary's response to this astonishing news: “Let it be done to me according to thy word!”

When we pray each successive Hail Mary attentively, we always receive some benefit for our spiritual life. The Good News that the angel brought might dispel our gloomy outlook and rekindle our Christian hope. The response of Mary might challenge our tendency to be a Christian on our own terms, not the Lord's.

As we enter into the mysteries of Christ's life, we also “obtain what they promise” — first and foremost the blessedness and joy of growing in the likeness of Christ. This overarching blessing is specified in the 15 promises of the Blessed Mother to those who pray the rosary, as promoted by the Dominican order — promises that strengthen our hope for eternal life and that give us encouragement in the misfortunes and challenges of life.

In this month of May — and in every month thereafter — let us put our K of C rosaries to good use!

Steak Dinners for Council Winners

June 23, 2017 Council 4472, Pascagoula

June 24, 2017 Council 7087, Kiln/Council 11995 Pass Christian

August 8, 2017 Council 8054, McComb-Hamburger

August 12, 2017 Council 7120 Southaven

August 13, 2017 Council 2969 Clarksdale

August 19, 2017 Council 6765, Starkville

Catholic Campus Ministry Ole Miss



Bottom row, left to right: J.C. Lawton (FOCUS Missionary training); Vidi Acosta (CCM Director); Haley Berry; Tracey Le; Fr. Joe Tonos, Pastor, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church; Shea Throckmorton.

Top Row, left to right: Michael Labbe; Ali Hartweiger; Max Martin (FOCUS Missionary training); Conrad Collins (FOCUS Missionary training); Matt Criser. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)



Approximately 60 members of the CCM, under the leadership of CCM Director Vidi Acosta, said goodbye to graduating seniors and graduate students at the afternoon get-together at Wellsgate Lake in Oxford. Dr. Jeffery Vitter, Chancellor, University of Mississippi, is shown talking to Vidi Acosta, Director of the CCM, as he joined the celebration. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)



Council 10901 Treasurer George Read scoops hot crawfish, shrimp and vegetables into a cooler to feed 60 students at the annual YearSEND party signaling the final meeting of the year for the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) at St. John the Evangelist, Oxford. The Knights provide cooking services for other activities held by the CCM as well as the youth group, Total Youth Ministry which ministers to teens at St. John. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)

Boiled crawfish and shrimp were a key part of the final gathering of the Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) at Ole Miss. The May 3rd Years End Crawfish Boil was held at Wellsgate Lake near Oxford. Approximately 60 students enjoyed 60 pounds of boiled crawfish and shrimp, mushrooms, carrots and potatoes prepared by the Knights of Columbus Council 10901 from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Catholic students at Ole Miss come from all over the United States and foreign countries, and this was the first time some had come face-to-face with a crawfish, boiled or otherwise, making for memorable lessons on "how to" peel and eat the red delicacies.

CCM has served students at Ole Miss since 1930 and is well-known for offering numerous weekly social, worship and charitable activities throughout the academic year. The group can be found online at southernfriedcatholicism.com. You can also find them on Facebook and Twitter as [ccmolemiss](#).

Students attending Ole Miss this Fall as freshmen are encouraged to look for the CCM table at the summer Ole Miss orientation sessions and meet Vidi Acosta the Catholic Campus Ministry Director. She will be accompanied by returning CCM students who will help answer questions and assist new students find their way around campus.

Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554



Members of Bishop R.O. Gerow Assembly 554 participated as Honor Guard on Thursday May 18th for St. Joe's Monogram Induction Ceremony at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in Jackson, MS.

L-R: Past State Master Bill O'Connor, District 5 Marshal Craig S. Harrell, Color Corp Commander Steve Miller, Past Faithful Navigator and Immediate Past State Deputy Jim McCraw, Sir Knights Mike Kirby and John Wren

Biloxi Council 1244 hosted a Formation and Knighthood Degree



On May 7, 2017, Biloxi Council 1244 hosted a Formation (2nd) Degree and Knighthood (3rd) Degree there were a total of 57 Brothers who joined the ranks of full Knighthood. Congratulations to all of these men.

Father Denis Harlow Council 15155 Scholarships



Father Denis Harlow Council 15155 in Vancleave, gives out two \$1200 Scholarships to Recipients that show high academic scores and continuous Parish involvement. This Years Recipients are Chaz Vickrey and Savanna Ross! Congratulations to these Two amazing young Adults.

Council 10901 Superior Council Award



Knights of Columbus Council 10901 of St. John the Evangelist was awarded the Superior Council Award at the State Convention in Tupelo in April. The award was given for completing 8 activities in each of 6 categories of service for the Fraternal Year, or, one project each week for the 12 months of the Fraternal Year.

Council 10901 St. John the Evangelist



Richard Mueller from St. John the Evangelist gets his strength tested by an Occupational Specialist from Oxford Health and Rehabilitation at the Knights of Columbus Senior Appreciation Day and Health Fair held on May 16th at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. The Health Fair featured 22 local health organizations and support agencies for the benefit of those over 55 years of age. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)



Sandy Arico provided mandolin music as he strolled among the Senior Appreciation Day and Health Fair attendees at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church on Tuesday, May 16th. The Health Fair featured 22 local health organizations and support agencies for the benefit of those over 55 years of age. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)



One of the hot items offered at the Silent Auction at the 2017 Drawdown was a Turkey Hunt in the Spring 2018 season at the Hinton Farm sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 10901. The Turkey Hunt includes a one-night stay at the Hinton Lodge, the Hunt, guided or unguided, a hand made Turkey Call crafted by Joey Buchanan who is an award-winning Traditional Bowhunter and guide. The property is a turkey hunter's dream with pasture and mature hardwoods harboring unpressured birds. (Photo, Gene Buglewicz)

Knights of Columbus Council 10901 helped support the St. John the Evangelist annual Drawdown again this year by supplying a Spring Turkey Hunt for the Silent Auction to benefit the surviving children of the three families from Oxford who died in a tragic aircraft accident last year. Many friends of the three families, both within the parish and family friends, fully supported the effort, which resulted in a large number of ticket sales, reserved table sales, and purchases in the silent auction. All proceeds will be given to the surviving families to help with expenses of the orphaned children.

Council 848, Jackson St. Peters

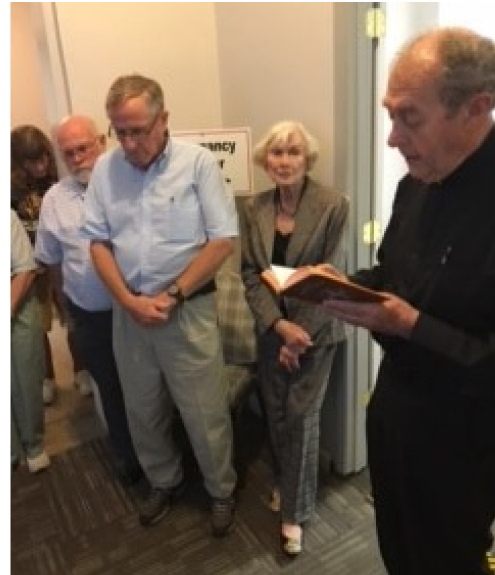


Council 848, Jackson St. Peters, delivers 1073 pounds of food collected during their "40 Cans for Lent" Food Drive to the Mississippi Food Network which distributes food for disaster relief and soup kitchens for 56 counties in Mississippi. Pictured are Grand Knight Charlie Sims, Deputy Grand Knight Mike Gill, Treasurer Noel Machost, Chancellor Matt Verrett, and Ryan Gill.

Council 6872 Ladies Auxiliary of Picayune



Council 6872 Ladies Auxiliary of Picayune, Mississippi made history this year at the 2017 Mississippi State Convention in Tupelo on April 29th. For only the second time in the history of the convention, one auxiliary received all first place honors in all categories of Benevolence, Church, Community, and Youth. They also took the first place award for membership. Receiving the awards is our president Cindy Failla. This Auxiliary has 49 wonderful and dedicated members.



Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center Blessing

On May 22, 2017 Father David O'Connor blessed the Caring Hearts Pregnancy Resource Center. The center is housed on the first floor of the Council 1034 Knights of Columbus Hall. Several Knights took part in the blessing. The Caring Hearts Center is managed by Ms. Virginia O'Beirne with the help of Ms Ruth Powers and others .



Congratulations to Council 1034s newest 3rd Degree Knights on obtaining full knighthood. The exemplification ceremony was held May 20th, 2017.

Seated left to right; Philip Zuccaro, Don Lambert, Father David O'Connor, State Deputy Noel Aucoin, Kenny Decareaux, Calvin Woodfork
 Standing left to right: State Master Jerry Schmuck, District Master Darren Cowart, State Secretary Philip Jabour, Jim Maier, Conferring Officer Bill Jarrett, District Deputy Aaron Achord

2017 Mississippi Knights of Columbus Convention



