

WASHINGTON STATE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

LEADERSHIP IS ACTION, NOT POSITION.

"THE SECOND EDITION"

***AS KNIGHTS WE ARE CALLED TO GIVE CHARITY, TO
SHARE THE GIFTS OF FAITH, HOPE & FRATERNITY.***

**SEPTEMBER
"2016"**

STEVE SNELL EDITOR - 509.386.3462 -STEVESENLL@CHARTER.NET

***THE SUBMITTED ARTICLES DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE
OPINION OF THE "SECOND EDITION", BUT, THEN AGAIN THEY MIGHT.***



FAMILY OF THE MONTH

Washington families can be winners in "the Family of the Month" contest, obtained through a random drawing held at the Supreme Council office from among many nominees submitted by councils throughout the Order.

**NOMINATE YOUR FAMILY
OF THE MONTH!**

STRONG VISIBLE PROGRAM

(Reminder: Forms Due)

The Circle Officers and Chairmen (#468) and Report of Round Table Coordinator (#2629) were due Sept. 1. If you have not submitted these forms, please do so immediately. The forms may be accessed at kofc.org/forms.



If you're Catholic,
you must not vote
for pro-aborts



TORONTO, August 3, 2016 (LifeSiteNews) — **Carl Anderson**, leader of the Knights of Columbus, told an international gathering of the Catholic men's organization on Tuesday that abortion is the most significant moral issue in the U.S. presidential race and that Catholics cannot vote for a pro-abortion candidate. That has resulted in more than 40 million deaths," and not "just another political issue," Anderson told the more than 2,000 attendees at the annual four-day Supreme Convention in Toronto, as reported by National Catholic Reporter's David Gibson.

"What political issue could possibly outweigh this human devastation? Abortion is different. Abortion is the killing of the innocent on a massive scale," Anderson said.

"We need to end the political manipulation of Catholic voters by abortion advocates," he said. "It is time to end the entanglement of Catholic people with abortion killing.

**IT IS TIME TO STOP CREATING EXCUSES FOR
VOTING FOR PRO-ABORTION POLITICIANS."**

"What we do in our families and parishes will change the history of the Catholic Church in our communities," pointed out the author of a 2008 bestseller: *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World.*

"And it will help ensure the future of those parishes. The strong right arm of the Catholic Church must also be the strong right arm of our parish church. Today, this is what it means to be a light to the nations."

HOLY BOWL VII COMING

DeSales vs. Tri-Cities Prep October 14, 2016

GAME TIME 7PM. TAILGATE PARTY 4:00 PM

In Pasco this year at the Chiawana High football field.

It's going to be loud, noisy, and enthusiastic. This will be a game with rivalries everywhere, from the cheering section to the defensive line, this will be the must win game, the season maker. This will be the game everyone must attend so plan on bringing Grandma and Grandpa or live with the consequences. This will be the football game for everyone, this one will send shivers down your spine from the opening kickoff to the last seconds of the fourth quarter.

This is all being put together by the two Schools with the cooperation of the Councils and Assemblies of District 7 of the Washington State Knights of Columbus, the Knights will sponsor a traveling trophy.

This game has the potential to easily become one the most important days in the life of any football player and student of either school. This event is part of the Knights of District 7's ongoing efforts to support the youth of our District and to promote family values.

ALL THE MONEY BROUGHT IN BY HOLY BOWL VII

WILL GO TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION!

"Strong Visible Program"



FOOD FOR FAMILIES



Love is not what you say. Love is what you do.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



DEFENDING THE FAITH

It is critical that our Order and in fact the entire Christian community in our state and our country come to realize the serious challenges to people of faith's public expressions of our moral values that are belittled and trashed by a radical secularism, which finds an increasing voice and visibility in the political and cultural arenas.

By STEVE SNELL

Here and now more than ever, there is a need for an active, articulate, well informed and united laity equipped with a strong faith-bound drive to stand up to the growing intimidating culture. We must be armed with the courage to counter a motivated well financed secularism which would minimize and question the Christian community's participation in public debate about the issues shaping the future of our country's culture.

The education of informed, committed faith-filled leaders who can present a convincing articulation of the Christian vision of man and society should become a primary task of our Order and people of faith in our country. The most essential component of this new evangelization is the **never give up persistence and faith of you my Brothers!**

DARE TO STAND UP FOR OUR FUTURE....VOTE!!!



Tuesday
November 8
2016



"HAPPY BIRTHDAY WSD ED!!"

Steve, I recently found this poem written by my mother in 1988.

She was close to 80 years old when she wrote it

Submitted By Sheila Ryan Wallace, Sheila is the wife of PSD John M. Wallace

Night Thoughts

Secret kiss of rain, and warmth of the sun
Falls without bias on everyone
Buttercup gold, and song of the bird
Laughter and sorrow, and beautiful world,
Breeze on the ocean and sparkling wave,
Sand on the beach, or a beckoning cave
Butterfly wings, or an Eagle in flight
Beautiful valleys and mountains' great height

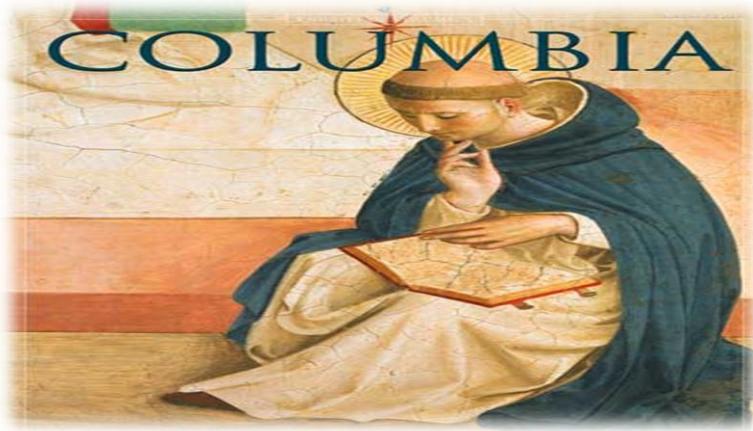
Hands reaching outward for help in despair
Hearts reaching upward their burden to share —
Gifts of the Master for men of all races
No barriers set, whate'er color of faces;
But Lord, are we spoiling your wonderful world
With hatred and selfishness brazenly hurled?
The cry of a child sounds the same in the night
Whether its covering be dark, red or white.

Oh help us find Christ in the cry of our brother
And help him to see we're the same as each other.
Then maybe someday there'll be Love for all men
And peace will return to Your world once again.

By Vivian Gray Ryan

Haverhill, Ma.

May 17, 1988



FROM THE AUGUST ISSUE

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Councils in Washington State, through Columbus Charities, donated \$20,000 to the KC HELP Program of Central Washington. KC HELP provides durable medical equipment to those in need, serving up to 2,400 clients per year.

"For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it" - 1 Timothy 6:7

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU!

WHAT? **REALLY?**



Matthew Lambrecht Epressed Vows



Brother Matthias of Immaculate Heart, O.C.D. (member of council 12983 expressed his vows before Christ and our Lady of Carmel on September 10, 2016 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Mt. Angel, Oregon.

By Mike Calderon, Former/State Hispanic Membership Chairman

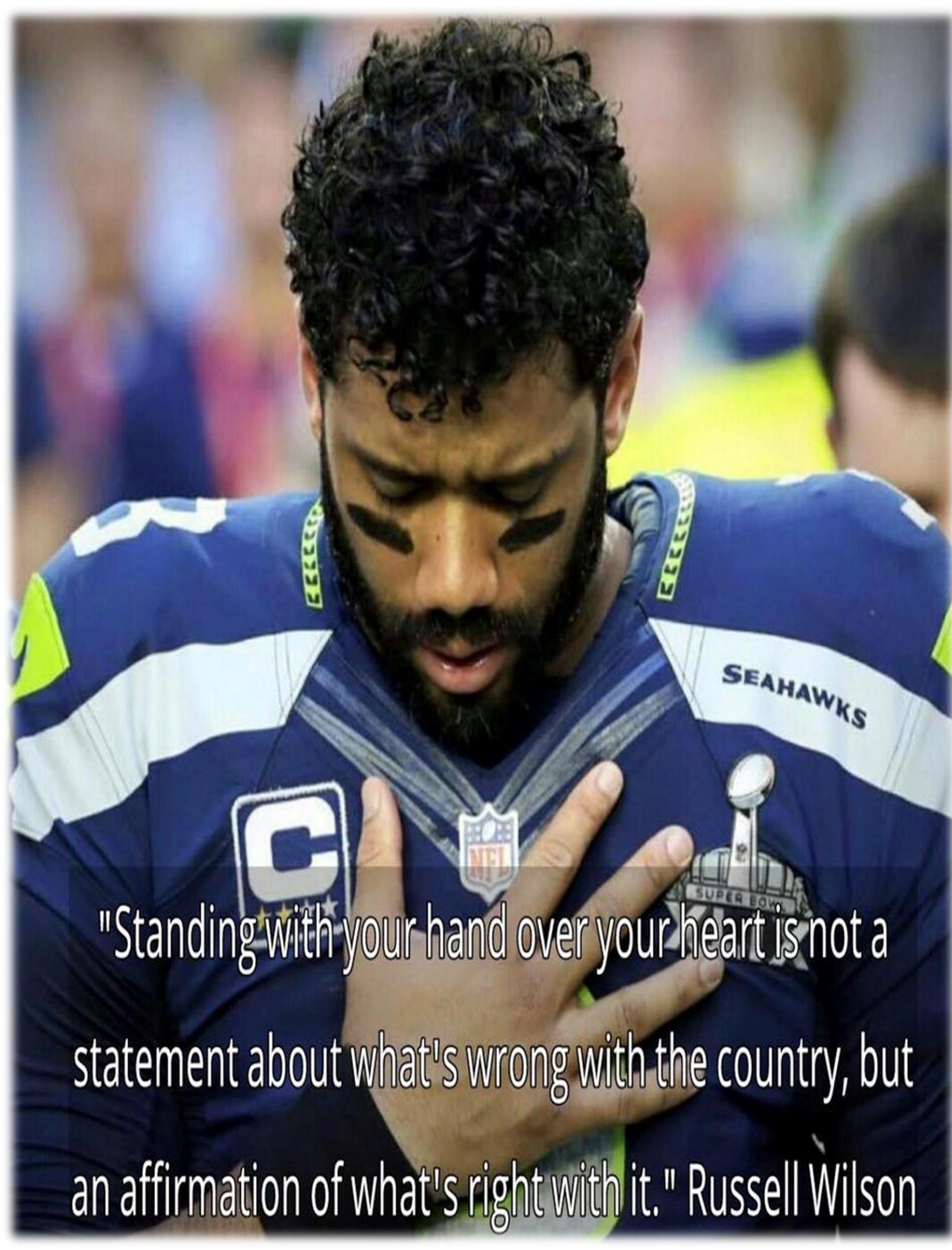
Matthew was part of St John the Evangelist, Vancouver, WA Mass celebration during his youth, with his talents on the guitar, piano and lovely voice composing some of his songs. He traveled with a religious music group throughout the country and was also our parish youth minister.

Hero's of today are no more, Heroes certainly cannot be found in politics, sports figures should be models for youth, they are not heroes. We ask ourselves, what is a hero of today, it seems like heroes have become gadgets, such as phones or play stations.

We as Catholic parents need to come closer to Christ and His Holy Mother the Church, need to be seen as heroes to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, just as Matthew's parents were to Brother Matthias. As Brother Matthias spoke his promise, than with his parents taking the gift with their son to the waiting priest, smiles told everything of what was in both Brother Matthias and his parents hearts. To Brother Matthew his parents, Michael and Sharon Lambecht, are his heroes.

To those that Traveled from Tucson, AZ or Texas where Matthew had visited during his training, they had found a hero in this young man while on his journey to the priesthood.





"Standing with your hand over your heart is not a statement about what's wrong with the country, but an affirmation of what's right with it." Russell Wilson

THE ROSARY

By Jim Carey, District Deputy # 7

As Knights of Columbus we are committed to pray the rosary as often as we can. Having been educated by Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for twelve years, the rosary was an important and ever present part of my formative years. We even regularly prayed the rosary during mass which in those days was in inaudible Latin so we needed something to busy our minds.

However, by the time I was in college, I was conflicted by the need to be focused on the words that I was saying over and over again and at the same time to meditate on the mysteries. I was not able to get an adequate explanation from the priest. After many years of infrequently praying the rosary, I finally got the answer to my dilemma from Father Baron's Catholicism series. The constant repeating of the Hail Mary provides us with a sort of background music to put us in a state of mind to more fully meditate on the mysteries.

And, although we say that the rosary is a devotional prayer to Mary, it is also a meditation on the key mysteries of our faith, the incarnation (Joyful Mysteries), life (Luminous Mysteries), death (Sorrowful Mysteries), and resurrection (Glorious Mysteries) of Jesus Christ. I find it helpful when meditating on a specific mystery to say a brief scriptural phrase before each Hail Mary. And during the fourth and fifth Sorrowful Mysteries I will use one of the Stations of the Cross or one of Jesus' last words on the cross. Since this is not possible for all mysteries, I might reflect on a picture depicting that specific event.

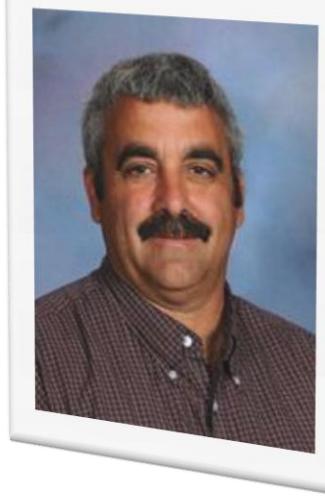
I find that a good time to pray the rosary is when I am alone such when I am taking a walk, working out, of driving in my car or boat. On long walks, I can pray two rosaries. The rosary is a powerful prayer. So, when you pray the rosary, include one or more intentions. I hope you are encouraged to pray the rosary often and will on occasion include me in your intentions. I will include my brother Knights in my intentions when I pray the rosary.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A LEAVEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

How would you define a great youth program?



When my own children were young, we dabbled in youth groups provided by the various Churches in town. They were fun, exciting and attractive - the youth pastors were vibrant and incredibly creative.

I still recall with extraordinary embarrassment the time I confronted a local Priest and asked him why the Catholic Churches do not have great youth programs like the other Churches? His answer still rings loudly in my ears as my challenge was met with a heart of wisdom and compassion. "We do have great youth programs" he said. "They are called Catholic schools".

I SAT IN STUNNED SILENCE – OF COURSE. CATHOLIC SCHOOLS?

By Greg Fazzari, Athletic Director & Educator Walla Walla Catholic Schools

A good youth program provides pizza and snacks one or two nights a week along with games and sports to encourage interaction and fellowship. Instruction on scripture and how to live out the Christian faith is included. Prayer, outreach and mission trips are also emphasized.

That is what a **good** youth program does. But what does a **great** youth program look like? How does this compare to a Catholic School?

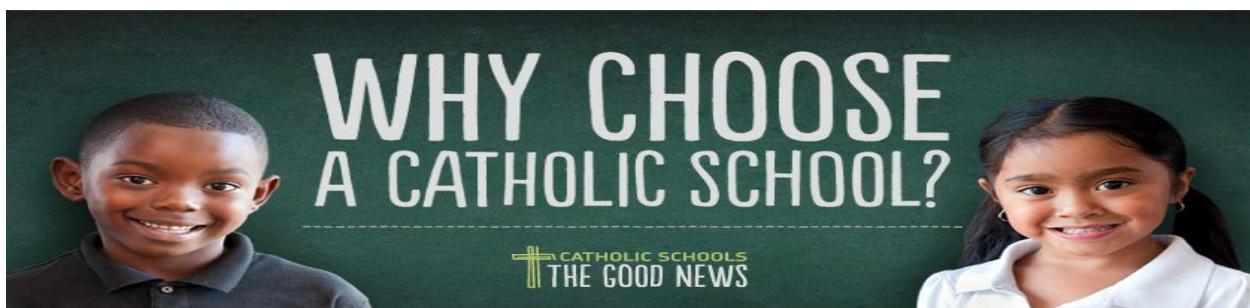
At a Catholic School, students eat lunch together every day. There are frequent team dinners, dances and a multitude of activities for all student to share together. Christ inundates every meal and every activity on every day. Each class period begins with prayer, there are weekly masses and special schedules to include prayer and reconciliation.

Catholic school students learn every topic in light of the Gospel. The goal is for students to grow academically and physically - but also morally and spiritually. Every subject is considered on its own merit, but also with the guidance of Christian principles and revealed truth. Christ is alive in every classroom.

Catholic school's athletic teams compete in leagues with other schools. Thus, the Catholic school athlete gets an opportunity to represent Christ and His church – with the goal playing with passion but showing forth good character and sportsmanship. The Catholic school thus becomes a leaven within the local sporting world. Although other schools include athletes and coaches that may be Christian, the Catholic school overtly claims Christ as their model. The bar is thus set high and meeting those expectations becomes an ambitious goal for each team.

Every community that has a Catholic school has Catholic administrators and teachers participating in public meetings and discussion. Athletic Directors participate in district meetings, principals participate in inter-school and district discussions and teachers attend training with their public counterparts. Thus, the administrators and teachers become a leaven to those groups – providing a Catholic perspective on the various issues confronting educators and giving deeper meaning to the very purpose of education.

The entire community becomes the mission ground for the Catholic school and its families. What an extraordinary opportunity to affect our communities and bring the abundant life to a culture that longs for the leaven of the Gospel



EDITOR'S NOTE:

An even broader definition of leaven (*for those not familiar with the term*) might be "something that causes change by its influence." Brother Greg certainly was "right on" in this article on Catholic Schools. We owe Greg and his fellow educators a big thank you for the life changing work they do.

Food for Families ~ Feeding the Hungry

Worthy Knights

Where are you when it comes to feeding the Hungry? Do you think about those Less fortunate than You?? Did you know 1 in 7 people struggle with hunger or homelessness in America....what have you done to make a difference??

*There is so much each one of us can do ...it doesn't take much....
a little from each of us make a LOT!!*



By Tommy LaCour, State Family Chairman-206380-0749 - family@kofc-wa.org

In my youth I spent my Saturdays with my Dad, A Grand Knight himself, trotting through the bayous of South Louisiana bringing food and clothing to those in need. They live off the land and none of them had a place to call home. Being only a child I would ask "Dad why do these folks not have any food or house like us??" Being of a young age and not really understanding Hunger or Homelessness I was inquisitive and needed to know. Not missing a beat he would answer " Son not ever one is capable of caring for themselves so God put the Knights on earth so we could help them." In my many years of following my Dad through his many endeavors as a knight I came to learn the Value of the Knights and their undying love for Family. In today's world with the economy in the sewer there are many people one paycheck away from homelessness. It our Duty as Knights to help them, to do for those that can't do for themselves. Just like in my youth, there are those that need our help, In fact there are some that depend on our services to survive. Have you taken some food to the food bank....Have you helped at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.....Helped organize a food drive....It's time for each one of us to step-up and be The Knight That GOD put on earth to help those that can't help themselves!!

Food for families is one of the Supreme feature Programs and is a huge part of Building the Domestic Church , Please take the time to do your part.



SENIORS PRAYER

A friend of the couple who founded Home Instead Senior Care, Mary Maxwell was asked to give the invocation at the company's 2009 convention. Initially it seemed like a normal prayer, but it soon took a very funny turn. Her deadpan delivery and lines like '...This is the first time I've ever been old ...and it just sort of crept up on me....soon had the franchise owners rolling in the aisles. With the timing of a professional comedian, Mary shines a very funny light on the foibles of aging, to the delight of this audience of senior-care experts."



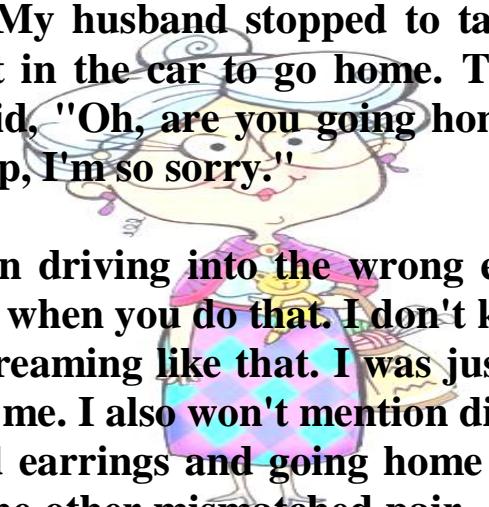
THERE ARE PEARLS OF WISDOM IN THE FOLLOWING;

By MARY MAXWELL

First of all just to introduce myself there are a few things I would like to mention. Over the years I've noticed that the two things most people want to know about you are the two things they are far too polite to ask. So let's get that out of the way. I'm 72 years old. And I weigh a hundred and 45 pounds.

As you know, we seniors are sometimes not very likeable, let alone loveable. So Lord, could you please continue to keep the people of Home Instead patient and aware of why we are the way we are? And Lord please remind them that the thing about old age is that you don't get a chance to practice. This is the first time I've ever been old. And it just sort of crept up on me....There were signs. Random hair growth - that's special - particularly that first time you go to brush a hair off your lapel and discover it's attached to your chin. You turn your left turn signal on in the morning and leave it on all day. Non-life threatening skin growths large enough to name after deceased pets and relatives begin to appear. And neck tissue seems to develop a life of its own.

Last November, I was afraid to leave the house Thanksgiving week. You do strange thing as you age like driving up to a curbside mailbox and ordering a cheeseburger and fries. And Lord, I know you're aware that one Sunday in church I put my light bill in the collection basket by mistake. And last Easter after services at St. Cecilia's cathedral, My husband stopped to talk to a friend and I went on out and got in the car to go home. The gentleman sitting behind the wheel said, "Oh, are you going home with me?" And I said, "Oh Archbishop, I'm so sorry!"



I won't even mention driving into the wrong end of the car wash. People get so excited when you do that. I don't know why the lady in the other car was screaming like that. I was just as surprised to see her as she was to see me. I also won't mention discovering you're wearing mismatched earrings and going home to change them and ending up wearing the other mismatched pair. And you know, Lord that it's hard for old people to exercise. I did try to jog once; but it makes the wine just jump right out of your glass.

**Well, Lord you understand seniors and their care.
I would like to share a poem I found in a caregivers newsletter:**

"Blessed are they who understand my faltering step and shaking hand.
Blessed are they who know my ears must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know that my eyes are dim my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away when I spilled the coffee at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile who take the time to chat for a while.
Blessed are they who know the ways to bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Just like you, to us, it's personal."



DIFFERENT CAN BE GOOD

Here's to the odd ones:

The dreamers. The rebels.

*The troublemakers. The round pegs
in square holes. The explorers. The
ones who see things differently....the
people who are crazy enough to think
they can change the world, they often
are the ones who do.*



"THE "SECOND EDITION" "FAITH-FILLED EXPLORATION"

*It is no small thing
To have enjoyed time in the sun;
To have seen the rebirth of spring,
To have known love, to have ideas, to voice your ideas;
To have stood as brothers, and changed people's lives.
There are times when it is better to
disturb the silence, than to fade into silence!*

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

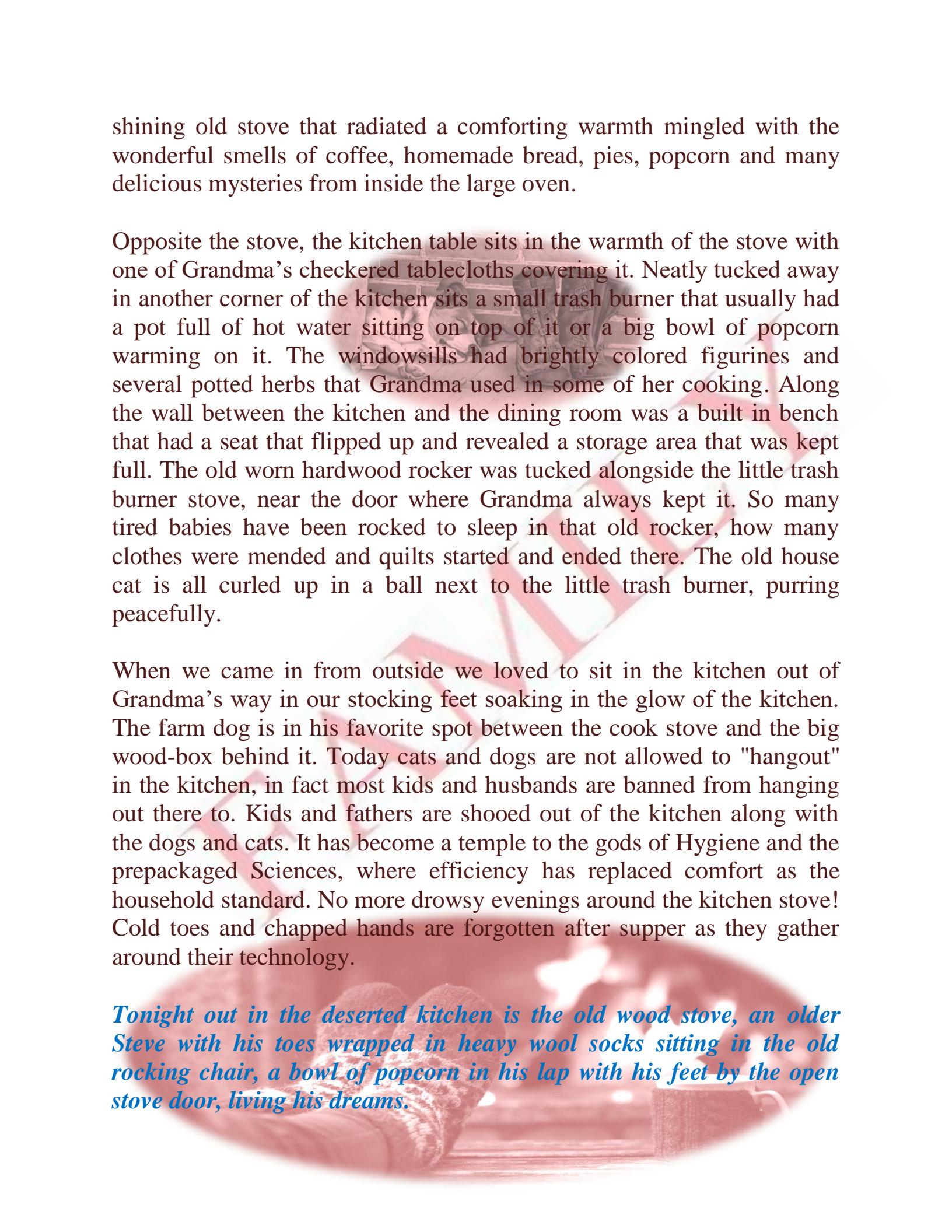


When the rolling snow clouds have covered the last of the light from the fading winter sun, when the power of the winter northern comes in to shake the farm buildings and throw the lose shingles into the air and swoop down through the rafters of the barn, when horses, cattle and men stomp their feet in an attempt shake off the cold, to get warm. There was no place on the farm that looked and felt so good as grandma's kitchen.(Great place to say the rosary.)

By STEVE SNELL

The farm dog, knew what the final shutting of the barn door meant, he crawled out of his bed of straw, and follows us down the snow trail to the back door of the farm house, where ice has formed on the back door. We bust the ice from the outer door and "break into" the warmth of the kitchen. The kitchen where there is warmth, food and a place for each of us within the four walls of the farm kitchen. Today's homes have their big living rooms, their modern spacious kitchens and their addictive technology. What modern kitchen could ever compete with grandma's kitchen, the old wood stove with a crock of baked beans sitting on top and an oven door that the old man could let down to warm his feet on? In grandma's kitchen, where the big wood cook stove was the very essence of home.

Grandma's kitchen stayed basically the same for most of my youth; comfort came first. As the years passed, the oil lamps may have given way to electricity, the little hand pump to running water, but the old wood stove remained as the queen of the house. Throughout the winter months, when snow covers the farm in deep snow drifts, or when everywhere you step in the farmyard is the mushy cold mud, it was the



shining old stove that radiated a comforting warmth mingled with the wonderful smells of coffee, homemade bread, pies, popcorn and many delicious mysteries from inside the large oven.

Opposite the stove, the kitchen table sits in the warmth of the stove with one of Grandma's checkered tablecloths covering it. Neatly tucked away in another corner of the kitchen sits a small trash burner that usually had a pot full of hot water sitting on top of it or a big bowl of popcorn warming on it. The windowsills had brightly colored figurines and several potted herbs that Grandma used in some of her cooking. Along the wall between the kitchen and the dining room was a built in bench that had a seat that flipped up and revealed a storage area that was kept full. The old worn hardwood rocker was tucked alongside the little trash burner stove, near the door where Grandma always kept it. So many tired babies have been rocked to sleep in that old rocker, how many clothes were mended and quilts started and ended there. The old house cat is all curled up in a ball next to the little trash burner, purring peacefully.

When we came in from outside we loved to sit in the kitchen out of Grandma's way in our stocking feet soaking in the glow of the kitchen. The farm dog is in his favorite spot between the cook stove and the big wood-box behind it. Today cats and dogs are not allowed to "hangout" in the kitchen, in fact most kids and husbands are banned from hanging out there to. Kids and fathers are shooed out of the kitchen along with the dogs and cats. It has become a temple to the gods of Hygiene and the prepackaged Sciences, where efficiency has replaced comfort as the household standard. No more drowsy evenings around the kitchen stove! Cold toes and chapped hands are forgotten after supper as they gather around their technology.

Tonight out in the deserted kitchen is the old wood stove, an older Steve with his toes wrapped in heavy wool socks sitting in the old rocking chair, a bowl of popcorn in his lap with his feet by the open stove door, living his dreams.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WELCOME HOME

My wife and I went to Pizza Hut this evening for dinner. There weren't very many people in there and we were seated across the aisle from another couple. We took our seats and I noticed the man who appeared to be about mid- to late 60s was wearing an old Marine cap with a couple of insignia on it. I noticed he had a prosthesis on his left side from the knee down.

I asked if he was "Airborne" and he said no but he was a "Huey" pilot in Nam. He said 'I pulled four tours in Nam and was shot down 7 times, the last time was when I lost this leg, as he pulled up his pants leg to reveal the prosthesis. I asked what he did when he came back home from Nam, and he said not much because people back then would not hire Vietnam veterans and particularly those that lost limbs.

He said he lived in New York for a while and drank away his misery for about a year or so and then moved back home to North Carolina. He said the VA gave him 35% disability when he returned, but later on he got a lawyer and sued to get 100% disability as he aged. I never asked his name, and he didn't ask

mine. The waitress brought him their bill and laid it on the table. I got up and walked over to his table and pulled the bill from the folder and told him that I would be taking care of this for him tonight. I stood at attention and saluted him, holding it until he returned my salute. He looked up at me and with tears swelling in his eyes he said: 'You are the first one to ever do that for me since I came back'

I went back to my seat to begin our meal. He and his wife finished their meal but before he left, he walked over to our table and gave me the insignia pin that he wore on his hat that signified his being a "Chopper Pilot". I stood up and saluted him again. He looked me in the eyes and said, "I've got to go now before I start crying."

Now folks, this is what a real hero looks like in everyday life. And for one brief moment in my life, I felt as though I had done my best to welcome home a Vietnam veteran.



Story taken from social media.



An old Cherokee told his grandson: "My son, there is a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is evil. It is anger, jealousy, greed, and resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, empathy, and truth."

The boy thought about it, and asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The old man quietly replied, "The one you feed."



"HARD TIMES"

TACOMA
COMMONS
MISSION

"Breakfast outside the Tacoma Commons Mission," taken in 1930, captures men using a wheelbarrow as a makeshift stove.



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA, CARRIER OF GOD'S LOVE

Pray for Us!

A SILENT WAY:

I choose to love you in silence...
For in silence there is no distraction.

I choose to love you in loneliness...
For in loneliness there is no other.

I choose to adore you from a distance.
Distance will cover me & allow my growth.

I choose to embrace you in the wind.
For the wind is gentler than me...

I choose to hold you in my heart...
For in my heart, there is no end to love.



WINTER DD MEETING !

WINTER DISTRICT DEPUTY MEETING WILL BE UPON US VERY SOON.

I'm writing this now so that we all can reserve our rooms. Please be advised that will only reimburse for one night, Unless you are traveling 250 miles or more one way.

Our Worth State Deputy is working with Supreme on getting a Second night paid for all the District Deputy's. **\$89 dollars a night with breakfast included.**

The Address for the meeting is

Red Lion Hotel

607 East Yakima Avenue, Yakima, WA 98901

(Phone: 509.248.5900)

When you call please tell them that you are with the Knights of Columbus Meeting
DATES ARE FRIDAY NIGHT THE 2ND AND SATURDAY THE 3RD OF DECEMBER

TALK TO YOU ALL SOON.

*Eugene Daly
District Deputy Director
Master 4th Degree
Washington State
KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS*



Yakima
WA
★

SECOND ANNUAL

Crocodile Classic Golf Tournament

Bellingham Knights of Columbus Council 929

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Shotgun start at 8:30; must be there by 8:00

Raspberry Ridge Golf Course, 6827
Hannegan Road, Everson WA. 98247

Golfers

All Skill Levels encouraged, so get a partner and come have some fun.

Individuals are Welcome- Will pair you with another Golfer

2 Man Scramble- 9 Holes

Cost

\$30.00 per person; does not include lunch

(All Proceeds Benefit Knights of Columbus Charities)

Prizes

1st Place Team

Closest to the Pin on Hole #3

Long Drive on Hole #6

Side Games

Power Ball- 50/50 Split, \$5.00 per Ball

Putting Contest- 50/50 Split, 3 Shots for \$5.00

Team Mulligans available- \$5.00 each

Secret Hole Low Score- 50/50 Split, \$10.00 per Team

Schedule

Check in Between 7:00 and 8:00, Putting Contest Open from 7:00 to 8:00

Lunch and Prizes on Deck After your Round is Complete

Contact

Kevin Schmid: 319-9843, or Tom Bernard: 223-5648



Entry Form

Player #1 (Contact) _____ Phone _____

Player #2 _____

Please reserve a power cart for me: YES or NO If yes, pay for power cart at clubhouse on the 24th. Would like to play in the same group as _____

Entry Forms Due By September 19, 2016

Please Mail Entry form with payment to:

Kevin Schmid, 1121 Ross Road, Bellingham WA 98226

Make checks payable to: Knights of Columbus

Submitted By Manny Aguilar, PFS, FDD, FDDM, FHC

Am sending you a sermon I heard while attending mass at Christ The King church in Seattle few weeks ago. It was presented by another Knight and Deacon Joe Sifferman. I was very impressed by it and asked his permission to use it at some other KOFC venue. He agreed and here it is.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

August 20-21, 2016

In the not so distant past, I thought the perfect weekend was to attend a Washington Husky football game on Saturday afternoon then turn around and go to a Seattle Seahawk game on Sunday. Mary and I would be among the crowd moving toward the entrance to the game. At first the entrance seemed wide and open to all. But once we began surging to go in, we'd discover that the gate wasn't wide at all. The broad entrance narrowed down to a turnstile where we would enter one by one and the ticket taker would say, "Hold your own ticket, please."

So Jesus describes the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven. It begins wide and open to all but then comes the struggle to go through the narrow gate: one at a time, and hold your own ticket. This doesn't always match up with our sometimes comfortable idea of a Christian life: such as being a missionary disciple if it suits us; going to Mass when it's convenient; helping with the Lord's work when we feel like it; acknowledging Jesus when we happen to think about it.

It's easy to think that once we're members of the parish we've reached the goal, come to the end of the road, and our striving for the Kingdom of God is done. Today's sobering gospel message tells us that the Christian life is a constant struggle to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it. This means that the Christian life isn't simply a destination but a journey.

Jesus says we're to "strive to enter the narrow gate." (Luke 13:24) It's interesting to note that the ancient Greek word for "strive" is the same word from which we get our word "agony" (*agónizomai*). So when Jesus was asked, "Will those who are saved be few," (Luke 13: 23) his reply says, in effect, that we're not to worry about that but he does warn us that we ourselves need to "agonize" to enter God's Kingdom.

That seems like a strong word for the kingdom of a loving God. But if we think about it, we shouldn't be too surprised. There are many narrow gates in life where those who enter must "agonize" to enter. English poet John Milton said it's true of a scholar who must, "scorn delights and live laborious days." It's true of an athlete who must reject fast food, engage in rigid discipline, and practice with constant, faithful diligence. It's true of a great musician. Someone once said to the great Polish pianist, Paderewski, "Sir, you are a genius." To which he replied,

"Madam, before I was a genius I was a drudge." He went on to say that if he missed practice one day, he noticed it; if he missed practice two days, the critics noticed it; if he missed three days, his family noticed it; if he missed four days, the audience noticed it.

The gate is narrow. Why should we think we can "drift" into the Kingdom of God? The Christian life is a constant striving to do the will of God. Have you ever tried to walk up a down escalator? Not to strive upward is to be constantly pulled down by the forces of evil within us and around us, dragging us down from generosity to selfishness; from compassion to indifference; from sacrifice to greed.

A little boy once asked his mother if people who told lies went to heaven. She replied, perhaps unwisely, "Of course not." "Well," he said, "it must be awfully lonesome there with only God and George Washington." The forces of evil say, "lie a little, why struggle with it; be partially honest, relatively pure, occasionally forgiving, comparatively loving, sometimes reverent. Relax. Nobody's perfect."

The goal of Christian living is a life of love and sacrifice as we strive toward holiness. We enter the Kingdom, not by going through the motions of regularly attending Sunday Mass when we're really not loving or sacrificial or because we choose to live in a neighborhood by a church that we rarely attend. A man doesn't enter the Kingdom because his wife is a member of the Finance Council. A woman doesn't enter the Kingdom because her nephew is a priest. Each one of us must strive to enter the Kingdom on our own. The question is, "are we doing all we can?" Someone once said to a woman, "Your husband seems like a wonderful man." To which she replied, "You don't have to live with him." Funny or not it was her experience of intimately living with her husband for years that spawned the comment. Intimate experience, as well as our public relations, form who we are. God lives intimately with us. He'll know how we responded to Jesus' message of love and sacrifice when we approach the narrow gate. It doesn't matter what the neighbors think.

I'm certain the answer would be yes if we were asked the question, "Do you love Jesus?" Lots of people don't actively hate Jesus and what he taught. They're simply indifferent to it, doing what suits them, not what suits Jesus. It's God's judgment, not the world's that will determine the citizens of the Kingdom.

Jesus once again points out that for each of us, we don't know when, there will come a day when suddenly that narrow gate will be before us. He cautions us that life is short as we continually strive, even agonize that the gate be open to us. He challenges us that our Christian faith is an active, lifelong struggle, with God's help, against our fallen nature and the evil in our world. Pray that we resolve not to be minimalists about our gift of faith but eager, determined to do our utmost as followers of Jesus. By doing so, in the end we'll enter the eternal turnstile: one at a time, holding our own ticket..... **God bless you!**

COVINGTON PARISHIONERS RAISE MONEY TO HELP LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS

Written by Nathan Whalen for Northwest Catholic



Mindy and Tommy LaCour collected \$400 for Louisiana flood relief during a recent food festival at his Covington parish.

Photo: Courtesy St. John the Baptist Parish

SUBMITTED BY TOMMY LACOUR, STATE FAMILY CHAIRMAN

COVINGTON – When floodwaters swept through southern Louisiana in August, Tommy LaCour’s 92-year-old aunt had to climb atop the roof of her Baton Rouge home to be rescued. Every member of LaCour’s family sustained damage to their homes; some of his cousins lost everything.

So LaCour rallied his fellow parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish in Covington to help the thousands of people affected by the disaster. In a special collection at Masses Sept. 3-4, parishioners donated nearly \$6,000 to the cause.

“I felt sending money there would help people I personally know,” said LaCour, who grew up in Louisiana. All of the money raised will benefit those affected, he said, and the funds will be matched by the Winn Dixie supermarket chain, which operates in the southeastern United States.

LaCour had planned to operate a Cajun booth as he did last year, but the disaster prevented his brother in Louisiana from sending him frog legs, alligator, crawfish and other Cajun delicacies for the booth. So he decided to use the space to educate parishioners about the disaster and provide support for the victims.

LaCour, a past grand knight of the parish's Knights of Columbus council, contacted the Knights at St. Mary Parish in New Roads, Louisiana, to see what was needed. Donations from St. John the Baptist Parish will pay for supplies to clean up homes and businesses in New Roads, a town of about 4,000 located north of Baton Rouge. Two nearby communities, St. Amant and Denham Springs, suffered more severe damage, said Twanna LeJeune, bookkeeper at St. Mary's. People interested in helping those communities can contact [Holy Rosary Parish](#) in St. Amant or Immaculate in Denham Springs, LeJeune said.

Donations for flood recovery are also being accepted by the [Diocese of Baton Rouge](#) and the national Columbus organization.



Stanley Bell looks out at the flood waters surrounding his apartment complex in Hammond, La., March 11. The state has been hit hard with extreme weather this year, most recently with historic flooding in August that destroyed some 60,000 homes. Massive flooding in August displaced thousands of people in southern Louisiana, and many had to be rescued by boat. Parishioners at St. John the Baptist Parish in Covington have raised more than \$6,000 to help pay for cleanup efforts.

Photo: CNS/Dan Anderson, EPA



SEE YOU IN OCTOBER !