



From
Deacon
Chuck

I am continuing the new year around the central prayer for all Christians, the “Our Father”. So let us continue this wonderful journey to a deeper understanding of this beautiful prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.

“Our Father” – recognizing the Family of All Creation

The first words of the Lord’s Prayer reminds us of our relationship with others and with the wider family of creation. The way of a Knight of Columbus, the way of the disciple is the way of *love, intercession* and *hospitality*. Let’s first take a look at the way of the disciple as being the way of *love*.

One of the first mysteries we were taught is that God is trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This mystery alerted us to the relational quality of divinity. The Father loves the Son; the Son loves the Father; and their very relationship is bonded together by the Holy Spirit. The very essence of our God is... loving relationships. If we are created in the image and likeness of God, then we too must be in loving relationships.

Eve was built up around one of Adam’s ribs. Adam and Eve complement and complete one another. In their relationship to each other, they discover their truest identity: “Therefore a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). **THIS** is love.

Jesus also emphasized the importance of relationships in his understanding of spiritual formation. He combined two Mosaic laws into the “greatest commandment”: love of God (Deuteronomy 6:5) and love of neighbor (Leviticus 19:18, Mark 12:29-31). One love complements and completes the other love.

In the words of the first letter of John: Those who say, “I love God”, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:20-21).

In other words, love of God is *expressed* in love of neighbor; love of neighbor *celebrates* the experience of God’s love. They are the two sides of the coin of spiritual formation.

Our truest identity feels pity and compassion for the worries and concerns of others, so as followers of Christ, we intercede for the world. Many people mistakenly believe that the purpose of intercessory prayer is to change the mind of God or to make God aware of a particular problem that needs special attention. But that understanding is rooted in the image of a distant, aloof God, not our Abba, who

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is as close to us, the beloved, as a father is to his children.

Intercessory prayer is an expression of our engagement with the world. It is one of the many ways to take a stand against war, to dispel our suspicions and fears about the so-called enemy and to strengthen our resolve to work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Intercessory prayer is *love*. It proclaims that Abba is “our” Father and our journey is about God, others and me.

Christian disciples are incapable of praying with their eyes closed to the sufferings of the world, with deaf ears to the cries of the hungry and with hearts insensitive to the sobs of those who have lost a lifetime in a tsunami, a forest fire or a hurricane. The first words of the Lord’s Prayer reminds us that our prayer must move beyond the egotistical boundaries of “me”.

The importance of compassionate intercession was one of the points Jesus was trying to make in his parable about the Good Samaritan (see Luke 10:29-37). This parable challenges any kind of “institutional piety” that is content to reduce the spiritual life to a selfish, private affair. Jesus highlights the inability of rigid observance of the law to bring forth selfless acts of sacrificial love for others. In many ways, this parable is a commentary on the words written in the first letter of John, “Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers and sisters, are liars.”

Compassion makes us aware of *who* we truly are, as Knights, as Christians; as it bonds us to each other... in loving relationships. It is about “our Father” and his love for each of us as his adoptive children through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We continue the way of the disciple as the way of *hospitality*. Part of hospitality is simply welcoming another as a sister or brother into the circle of our attention. We do this with welcoming words and by calling the other by name; by a firm handshake, embrace or kiss; and sometimes by letting a person feel noticed by a silent, friendly nod, wink or smile. We sometimes go through all the motions of hospitality, laudable as they may be, and miss the most fundamental attitude of welcoming a guest; offering our undivided attention.

Hospitality not only acknowledges the other person but also accepts the person without judgment or criticism. As disciples listen with reverence, in the spirit of love, the genius of God is revealed. We become intimately aware the “our Father” is the creator and conductor of the symphony of creation. And living that reality as Knights of Columbus, as disciples of Christ, leads to the way of compassion, intercession and hospitality toward our brothers and sisters, toward *all* of the family of God.

Vivat Jesus



Grand
Knight’s
Message

Dear Brother Knights.

Several of your officers attended a training session recently. The discussions varied in content – membership goals, recruiting ideas, council activities, etc. One thing I came away from this meeting with was defining what the Knights of Columbus do and who we are. The answer is that “we save lives and change lives”. Through example, we have a profound influence on those around us. Through example, we encourage others to be better Catholics. Through example, other men may want to become Knights. We then become better husbands, fathers and friends by absorbing the effects of our examples.

St. Stephen’s Church took on a seasonal-aura with the decorations we helped set up. Many thanks to those who helped in setting up and later taking down the decorations. Some of the volunteers brought their families to help. This is a perfect example of how a family can work together.

There was recently a national “Walk for Life.” I hope many of you had a chance to participate. If you did not, your prayers will certainly help with this cause. We, as a council, had a chance to assist by sponsoring a bus to transport the many people to St. Paul. Thank you to Roger Renner for making it happen. The facts on abortion are frightening. There were approximately 20,000 abortions in Minnesota. For more information, you may contact Pat Larson or www.marchforlife.org. Perhaps next year we can do more for this cause. As a council, let’s work together to support these kinds of church events and show our resolve.

The free-throw contest is happening as this copy of the *Shield* goes “to press,” more about that next month, as well as a report on the Spaghetti Dinner and dance. Stay warm.

David Hudoba, Grand Knight

History 2018 1912

Arizona was the last territory to become a state in the lower 48 on April 14th. I wonder how many snowbirds were wintering there in 1912.

On April 10th the Titanic left port in England almost colliding with a New York liner. Apparently the Titanic was an accident waiting to happen. It has been said that the ship was going too fast while navigating through icebergs in the shipping lane 5 days later and sunk after striking one, killing about 1,600 people. Also in April, Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, died on the 12th.

Here are a couple of sports items for May: 1) Ty Cobb took matters into his own hands by going into the stands and bopping a heckler. He was suspended for his actions, so his teammates refused to play again until he was reinstated. The Philadelphia Flyers hockey team took that one step further in the 1980s by having a few players join the fans in the stands; 2) the second Indy 500 hit the bricks and the winner was.... Joe Dawson, with the amazing, average speed of 78.7 mph on a four cylinder engine. I'm sure that actually was an amazing speed back then.

The Tea Party isn't the only problem the Republican Party has ever had. The Progressive or Bull Moose Party split off as a third party in support of Teddy Roosevelt after the Republican Party nominated William Howard Taft to run for a second term in August of '12. The result was a win for Democrat Woodrow Wilson on November 5th. (My mom would have said 'that's cutting off your nose to spite your face'.)

The marines were being used to protect American interests even then! They landed in Cuba on May 31st (I think that was sugar interests) and in Nicaragua on August 4th (I don't know what interests).

Here's an item I wasn't aware of. Theodore Roosevelt survived an assassination attempt on October 14th, when his glasses case slowed a bullet. He finished his speech before going to the hospital. No report of damages.

And lastly, the Turkey Trot was the newest dance craze. It was considered sensual by some and ugly by others. I have no idea what it was like, but didn't they say the same things about the Charleston and rock and roll in later years? At any rate, if I knew how to do it I would Turkey Trot outta' here, 'cuz my time is up. See ya' next month!

Mike Petschl, historian

ATTENTION: GOV'T CHANGES IN LONG TERM CARE ARE STILL COMING!

In my September article I warned that the Department of Human Services would make it more difficult to qualify for long term care assistance through Minnesota's Medical Assistance (MA or Medicaid) program as of January 1, 2014. To qualify, or remain qualified, for long term care assistance from the government one would now have to be unable to perform FOUR ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (ADLs). Most private long term care insurance policies require that you satisfy only TWO ADLs to qualify for benefits – much better! ADLs are activities normally associated with day-to-day personal care, such as personal hygiene, using a toilet/continence, dressing, cooking, eating and taking one's medication.

I recently received an update from one of my very dear clients in the long term care industry informing me that these changes have been delayed for one year.

Here is the text of a statement from Governor Dayton's office: "The 2009 legislature eliminated eligibility for in-home services now being provided to about 3,300 Minnesota senior citizens, effective January 1, 2014. I have asked my administration to delay implementation for at least one year, to assure that the necessary community supports are in place to ensure those seniors will receive alternative care. This delay will also provide the 2014 legislature the opportunity to reexamine the law and make any changes deemed necessary."

While the governor has imposed a delay, you should not. Do not let yourself be caught off guard with a sudden injury or chronic illness that devastates you and your family's finances. Call me today and I will gladly provide you with a NO OBLIGATION QUOTE on a top rated Knights of Columbus long term care insurance program tailor made for you. You may find that it costs much less than you think!

God bless,

Dale Robinson, FIC
Certified Senior Advisor
Knights of Columbus Field Agent

651-757-4400 (office)
dale.robinson@kofclife.com

THANKS!!!

A tremendous 'THANK YOU' to all those who helped with the set up and take down of the Christmas trees at St. Stephen's. The set up had to be done On Monday, December 23rd, and the take down had to be done on Monday, January 13th, the night before our January business meeting, which only gave us a half hour to get everything out of the sanctuary before the church was put to use at 6:30PM. With many helping hands involving wives, sons and daughters, as well as Knights, we were able to accomplish both tasks quite efficiently.

Midwinter Breakfast

Mark your calendars for February 16th, because the Midwinter Breakfast is back! We will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, orange juice, and coffee after the 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 AM Masses. Many volunteers and diners are needed to make these events successful, so if you can help, please contact Joe and Carole Santer at 763-421-1971, or bring your friends and family and enjoy a good breakfast. Hope to see you there.

Joe and Carole Santer
Jeff Keiffer
Kevin Setterholm

QUOTES

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do. Helen Keller

If Patrick Henry thought that taxation without representation was bad, he should see how bad it is with representation. Farmers Almanac

The smaller the mind the greater the conceit. Aesop

Stupidity is a gift from God, but one mustn't misuse it. Pope John Paul II



The SHIELD



Planning Meeting every 1st Tuesday

Council Meeting every 2nd Tuesday

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 4 Planning Meeting, 7:00PM
KC Hall

Feb. 11 Business Meeting, 7:00PM
KC Hall

Feb. 14 Valentines Day

Feb. 16 Pancake Breakfast
St. Stephen's FCC

Feb. 17 Presidents Day

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
16950 Tulip St. N.W.
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Prayer

List

Please pray for all those on our prayer list:

Jim & Ruth Lovsted; Patrick O’Gorman; John Patchen; Blake Wahlberg; Ralph Smithers; Michael Lehn; John Gobernatz; Robert Nichols; PGK John Johanson; Brian Hoffman; Benno Barthel; Wayne Blue; Bill Ayers; Mathias Schaut; Jim Meyer; Michael Abbott; Vern Lieser; Florian Backowski; Dan Ross; Mary Marlen (mother-in-law of George Olson); Irene Ronning (friend of Brian Hoffman); Theresa Filkins (wife of Bob).

If you wish to add a name to the list, please contact Shield Editor Mike Petschl at 763-421-7926 or mickeypl543@gmail.com.

A Prolife Message

The following is a portion of an article written by Dr. John Loes, a member of the Peace and Justice committee at St. Stephen’s, concerning abortion. It is excerpted from an article promoting the March for Life at the state capital in January and is reprinted with permission.

“Sadly, for the past 40 years the most dangerous place for most Americans has been their mother’s womb. This past year witnessed the fortieth anniversary of the infamous 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in America and establishing abortion as a ‘constitutional right’. This decision, from the perspective of a high school student at the time, eroded the trust that many of us had that those in authority would do the ‘right thing’ and protect all Americans, especially the weak and voiceless, from tyranny and injustice. Although at first, opposition to the ruling was vocal, the Father of Lies was strong and with rallying cries of “free choice”, “blob of tissue” reaffirmed and further entrenched the deception into American culture through subsequent court decisions. As the decades passed, the prolife movement began to reorganize and refocus their efforts to resist the Culture of Death. The core lie that eluded the learned members of that court in 1973: “that no one knows when human life begins” began to crumble as new generations of proliferers became more sophisticated in their understanding of human genetics and DNA and the field of Obstetrics advanced to the point where hardly anyone in America was born whose parents and family had not first seen them long before their birth on a prenatal ultrasound – reaffirming that they were long before ‘knitted in the womb by a loving God’ “.