

The Beacon

A Publication of the St. Albert Knights of Columbus Council # 4742

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Grand Knights Report

Brother Knights

We are now into the second week of Lent. How has your life been changed – more prayer, more almsgiving, and more fasting? What does all this look like? To start, Lent is derived from an Old English word which means “lengthen”. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self) and almsgiving (justice towards neighbors). Certainly Lent is different for each one of us!

At our last General meeting we had our pastor Fr. Ignacy as our speaker. His address to us covered many topics but centered on what we as Knights can do to grow our faith lives. He showed us a wonderful website for our own further reflection produced by Supreme:

<http://fathersforgood.org>

This month rather than presenting a monthly challenge from our Supreme Chaplain, I would like you to spend time at this site and reflect on some of the information presented. Truly these topics are ones we as Knights must become more familiarized with as part of our spiritual lives.

In the Beacon for this month is an article from the January 2020 issue of the Columbia magazine. Titled “This Crisis Calls for Knights”, this article from our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, presents many ideas for us to consider in helping our parish. Please take time to read and reflect on this topic.

Br. Bernie Hryciw
Worthy Grand Knight



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LIFE

March 11, 2020

Dear Fraternal Leader,

The Knights of Columbus is carefully monitoring the coronavirus situation and its impact on the Order. Since the virus is spread by personal contact, containment efforts stress social distancing by restricting travel, meetings and other gatherings. Accordingly, the Supreme Council most strongly recommends the following actions to protect brother Knights and others:

- Cancel all personal contact meetings, including business meetings, until further notice.
- Cancel all planned events, where people would gather, until further notice.
- Cancel all travel for Knights of Columbus business until further notice.

There are many ways to continue council operations without face to face contact. Here are some suggestions:

- Conduct meetings by conference call, Skype, Google Groups or other methods.
- Use a webinar service for large meetings like monthly business meetings.
- Allow member votes by email or text to approve bills and candidate admissions.
- Use the email feature of Officers Online for member communications.
- Set up a call tree to contact members and ascertain their wellbeing.
- Conduct degree ceremonies in homes using the [combined Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity](#) video or the [First Degree video](#).
- Use applications like "Go fund me" to digitally raise funds for causes.

Additional information is available for members and their families on the websites of the [CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL](#) and [WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION](#). Be aware that the elderly and sick are highly vulnerable to this disease.

This is a moment to deepen our commitment to the very principles which define us: charity, unity and fraternity. There will likely be many opportunities in coming weeks to live out these principles in service to our brother Knights, our families and our communities. May this time of difficulty also be a moment when we as Knights step into the breach and show ourselves to be disciples of Jesus Christ and men at the service of others.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carl A. Anderson".

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

Good of the Order

Keep in your prayers those at the Youville and elsewhere:

Rev. Louis Gendre, William Oshanyk and Leon Richard;
Ely Estillore's wife Remedios
Richard LeBlanc's mother Therese;
Ray St. Martin's wife Gail, who had surgery.
Father Ed Kosa who had surgery.

We will visit our fellow Brothers who are ill and in continuing care. Some members of our council will visit them, preferably in the mornings. If you are able to participate please contact Br. Brian Wolbert at 780-460-8294 or Br. Tony Csilics 780-458-0065 e-mail kofo@stalbertcouncil4742.ca.



◆**REMEMBER**◆
◆**Knights support**
Knight Events!◆

Pancake Breakfast

The March 29 Pancake Breakfast is Cancelled.

Remember you can buy your grocery cards and pay with your credit card at the Morning breakfasts.

You may also contact :
Gerry Buccini guccini@telus.net
Frank Polanski 780-459-7941

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our Council's regular membership dues are \$50.00 per year, most of this money used for activities within our Parish. Some of the dues are used for administration and various charities of the Knights of Columbus administered through State and Supreme Councils. These State and Supreme expenses become due upon receipt of their statement whether or not membership dues have been received. Thus, a timely collection of membership dues lessens the financial burden on our Council.

Please forward outstanding membership dues as soon as possible.

Br. Tony Csilics, Financial Secretary.

State Hockey Tournament - Wainwright AB - April 3 - 5

Cancelled



FATHERS FOR GOOD

THE KNOTS OF THE FATHERS



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The Family Fully Alive

This new feature highlights active and engaged Knights of Columbus families.



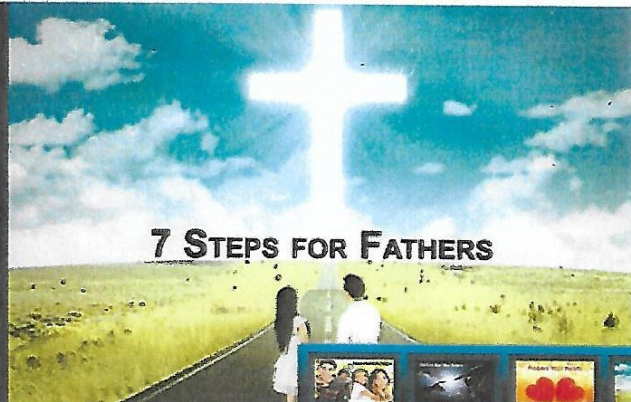
Reel Reviews

Our reviews and trailers help you choose movies for your family.



Husband & Wife

Finding your vocation will bring joy to life, writes Carrie Gress.



The Balance - Work and Family Life



Making a Tough Decision

Surveys show that the work-home life balance is the #1 concern for men in today's difficult and competitive economy. As a man dealing with many competing demands on your time and attention, how do you handle the balance?

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Articles



Featured Video

Knights of Columbus leader Carl Anderson talks about the Fathers for Good program and how you can get involved.



Common Challenges

Learn how to handle it all: arguments, terrible twos, TV habits, dating, discipline, father-daughter friendship - and more!



Podcast

Dr. Meg Meeker, a pediatrician and author of *Boys Should Be Boys*, has an important message for fathers and their kids.



Keep Your Kids Catholic

Best advice for passing on the faith to your children from those who have done it



'Courageous Dads'

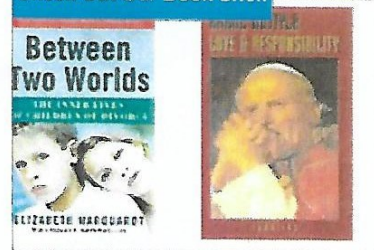
On the front lines of the Cold War, Brig. Gen. Gerald McIlmoyle flew U-2 missions during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis



You have Power over Porn

Learn how to beat the porn plague and protect your wife and children.

Check Out Our Book Shelf



This Month's Topic



» See Past Topics



'This Crisis Calls for Knights'

The Order will strengthen the Church by forging new paths that stay true to the founding vision of Father McGivney

by Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson

On Nov. 23, I delivered the following address at the Order's midyear organizational meeting of state deputies in Orlando, Fla. I encourage all Knights to read and reflect on these remarks about the mission and future of the Knights of Columbus and a historic moment in the life of our Order — the introduction of a new, optional combined exemplification of our principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

EACH YEAR in November, we take stock of what we have done and what still remains to be done. Yet this year is different. Why? Because we've reached a turning point. We've reached a crossroads as an Order, and in the Church itself.

A rising tide lifts all boats, and there has been a rising tide since the Second Vatican Council. The council opened the floodgates of lay involvement and lay leadership in our Church. The Knights of Columbus has been there at every level of the Church in service and in solidarity. In so many ways, we have been indispensable as the strong right arm of our pastors, our bishops and even, at times, our popes. As an Order, we have nearly doubled our size since the middle of the 20th century, and in recent years, we exponentially increased our charity.

But there is another tide — a tide that is no longer rising. In fact, it is a tide that is receding, and it is receding fast — and it's pulling much of what we love out to sea. We all can see what is happening; it's impossible to ignore.

Over the last 50 years, more than 26 million Americans have left the Catholic faith, along with millions more in Canada. In the past several decades alone, baptisms have fallen by more than 40%; sacramental marriages have plummeted by two-thirds; and the percentage of Catholics who attend Mass every week has dropped from more than half to just over 20%.

Approximately four out of every 10 "born and raised" Catholics no longer identify as Catholics, and for every person in the United States who converts to the Catholic faith, seven leave. This year marked the first time that a majority of Hispanics in the United States said they don't identify as Catholic. Although the recent scandals have contributed to this trend, the involvement of Catholics in

our Church — usually measured by attendance at Mass — has been declining for many decades.

This is a crisis for our Church. This is a crisis for our Catholic families. We are not talking about abstractions. We are talking about *our* parishes, *our* communities, *our* councils, *our* families and *our* friends.

And this is a crisis for our Order. The hard reality is that the Knights of Columbus is not immune to these trends. You know as well as I do that we are finding it harder to recruit men — especially younger men. And while many jurisdictions are still adding members and inspiring more good works, in other jurisdictions this is no longer the case.

This trend makes clear that our long-term future is far from secure — both as a Church and as an Order. We cannot expect someone else to come in and make everything right. The challenges are too great. All of us have a responsibility. We must step up and we must act now. *This crisis calls for Knights.*

OUR ESSENTIAL ROLE

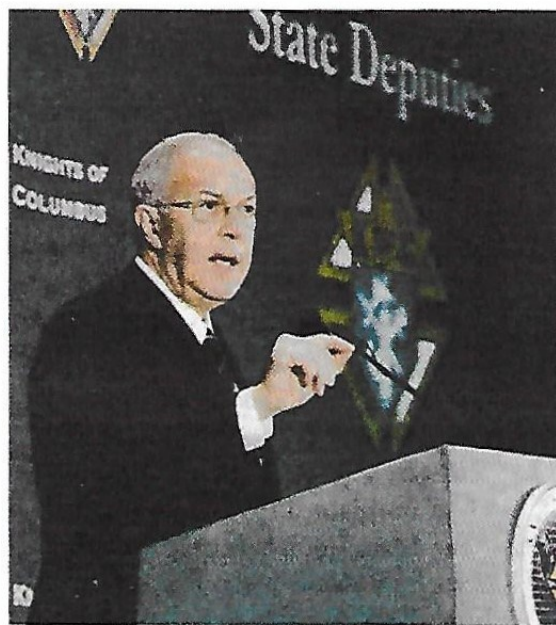
Our popes have been calling our attention to this crisis for decades — most importantly when they speak about the Church's mission of evangelization, as did Pope St. Paul VI in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, Pope St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* and, most recently, Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*. We can see why this

is a crisis of evangelization when we examine the reasons Catholics themselves say they leave.

First, large numbers of young adults rebel after years of catechesis and sacramental practice under their parents' guidance. Many of them find they were only going through the motions with their parents; they never really internalized the Catholic faith and now they find it boring.

A second category is made up of Catholics who choose a lifestyle contrary to Catholic moral teaching and leave the Church.

And a third group is made up of Catholics who faced a crisis and needed help, but did not receive support from their fellow Catholics.



Supreme Knight Carl Anderson addresses state deputies during the midyear organizational meeting in November.

My brother Knights, this crisis in our Church is really a crisis of evangelization — or rather, it is a crisis of a *failure* to evangelize. In a particular way, it is a failure to evangelize the Catholic family and to evangelize *within* the Catholic family. Such a crisis cannot be adequately responded to without the action of Catholic husbands and fathers.

Three decades ago, St. John Paul II told us that the lay faithful have “an essential and irreplaceable role” in the Church’s mission of evangelization (*Christifideles Laici*, 7). Today, I say to you that the Knights of Columbus has “an essential and irreplaceable role” in confronting the crisis we now face as a Church.

The Knights of Columbus will rise to meet this challenge. We will take up our essential and irreplaceable role. We must become again a Church that evangelizes — a Church that evangelizes its children and families and at the same time reaches out to those who do not yet know Christ who is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” We can and we must do this by our witness and our charity.

Today, the Knights of Columbus has the tools to meet this crisis on two important levels. First, because of our Faith in Action model we now have effective programs to meet the challenges we face — programs to evangelize and strengthen Catholic family life with our men’s spirituality and marriage spirituality programs like *Into the Breach*, *Complete My Joy*, and *The Family Fully Alive*.

We are also inspiring a new generation of Catholic men by the witness of brother Knights who are true *Everyday Heroes* through the video series with that title. Our Office of Youth Protection offers a robust program to enhance a safe environment for our children, and the film *Protecting Our Children: A Family’s Response to Sexual Abuse* offers families knowledge and concrete steps to help keep their children safe.

We continue in countless ways to bring Christ’s love and concern to millions who suffer and are in need. We provide a charity that evangelizes because it sees in the face of all those who suffer the face of Christ. And this must be especially true for our brothers and sisters in our parishes who face hardship and suffering. We must redouble all these efforts, and we must bring the programs in our Faith in Action model to even greater heights.

We must forge a new generation of Knights — men who see in our principles of charity, unity and fraternity a path to leading a Catholic way of life that can strengthen their families, their parishes and their communities. Just as our forefathers rallied to meet the challenges of their day, we must inspire the men of our day.

We must reach out to meet these men where they are. And when we do, we must show them that they are called to be men of charity, unity and fraternity. Because of this, we are acting to make our Order more inviting and more accessible. Our online membership initiative has already opened the door to membership where no local councils may be active. Early in the new year, we will begin offering a new and groundbreaking combined exemplification of our principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

A NEW CEREMONY FOR A NEW ERA

This historic new ceremonial is rooted in our past and tailored to our present. It will inspire more men to join us. Most of all, it is essential to the sustainability of the Knights of Columbus, as it will empower us to advance our mission and grow in the years ahead. It is essential to our ability to meet the crisis we now face.

Before I explain *what* the new ceremony entails, let me first address *why* it is necessary. The current degrees are products of the late 19th century. At that time, the Knights of Columbus competed with other fraternal societies. In those days, men wanted secrecy and the sense of progression that came with multiple degrees. That’s why our founder and first members initially created a system of two ceremonies. Over time, a third and then a fourth were added.

The idea of a journey through knighthood in which men progressed from one degree to the next was meant to encourage greater participation in the activities of the Order. It was meant to inspire men to seek leadership roles in our local councils — and for a time it worked well. But the men of today are not the men of the 1880s, or even the men of the 1980s.

In recent decades, we have found it harder to bring men, especially young fathers, into the Order. When we ask them why, they tell us three ceremonies are too time-consuming and too difficult to attend. They also tell us that secrecy is unnecessary, and sometimes, it is even an impediment to joining.

Many local councils lack ceremonial teams or the manpower to organize degrees. This means many candidates wait far too long to fully join our ranks. Some give up. Too many never take their Second and Third degrees. Last year, little more than half of the men who took their First Degree also took their Third Degree.

This situation will not improve during the coming decade as the number of ceremonial teams — especially Third Degree teams — decline. Today, our current system is too often a *stumbling block*, not a *gateway* to membership. Today, our current system too often fails to promote a truly Catholic fraternal membership according to the vision of Father McGivney.

Our ceremonials have always been an essential way we teach the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. But today, too many men never hear the lessons of unity and fraternity. The current inability of our system to reach so many brother Knights and teach them the lessons of unity and fraternity must have an impact on the character and life of many local councils. All this threatens the future of our Order. We have the responsibility to act and to act now.

We must find new ways to bring the men we need — and the men who need us — into our Order. We no longer need a journey through knighthood based upon a progression of degrees that nearly half our men are unwilling or unable to take. Today, we need an exemplification of our principles that presents, in a clear and convincing way, how charity, unity and fraternity can come together to form a Catholic way of life for today’s man and his family.

JUST AS OUR FOREFATHERS
RALLIED TO MEET THE
CHALLENGES OF THEIR DAY,
WE MUST INSPIRE THE MEN
OF OUR DAY.

Our most recent Supreme Convention adopted a resolution from Illinois to consider combining our current First, Second and Third degree ceremonies into one and removing the condition of secrecy. Following the Supreme Convention's action, I directed an in-depth review of our ceremonials with an eye toward staying true to our roots while at the same time presenting our principles of charity, unity and fraternity in a more clear and convincing way. We undertook an inclusive process with supreme directors, state officers and ceremonialists with many decades of experience in the exemplification of our degrees.

The result is a new ceremony that stays true to our traditions while addressing the needs of our times. Instead of having separate ceremonies, all three degrees can now be conferred in a single ceremony. The new exemplification focuses on the history and principles of our Order. It presents a fuller and richer understanding of who we are, what we stand for and what we are called to be. It hearkens back to the simple ceremonies of unity and charity first approved by Father McGivney.

Our new ceremony can be held in a council chamber or in a church with families and friends seated in the pews. They will see firsthand the organization that their husbands, fathers, brothers, sons and friends are joining — the principles and values they are committing to and why it matters.

FOLLOWING OUR FOUNDER

Now, I recognize that this is a significant change. Like so many of you, I have a special fondness for the old degree ceremonies. Yet, also like you, and every leader of our Order, I want to see the Knights of Columbus thrive and grow. The Knights of Columbus needs the men of today. In the 1880s, Father McGivney oversaw reforms that were needed to allow his young organization to flourish. Looking back on those changes, our founder proudly declared: "The Knights of Columbus is the same now as when first instituted."

My brother Knights, I say the same to you today. Together with our online membership initiative, our new combined ceremonial will form the two wings upon which membership growth can soar to new heights. All of this will be supported by a new branding and marketing campaign that will be released early in the new year. It will focus on how we can more effectively invite men to join us. And it will show that "one-on-one recruiting" is most effective when it expresses our own personal experiences in the Order.

We are making a paradigm shift. Years ago, when each of us accepted the responsibilities of fraternal leadership, few of us thought that those duties would one day include taking up programs to support the Church's mission of evangelization. Yet, such are the circumstances we face. Throughout our history, the Knights of Columbus has been called to adapt to change. Now we are again taking bold steps. But boldness is what the times demand. We cannot shrink from the crisis around us. We must meet it head-on, with firm reliance on our faith and in each other.

Today, we face a great crisis throughout the Church in North America. We are at a crossroads we cannot avoid. At such times, our thoughts turn to Father McGivney.



Supreme Master Dennis Stoddard (left) and Supreme Council staff demonstrate the new combined ceremony for the exemplification of charity, unity and fraternity during the midyear meeting of state deputies.

During his trip to the United States in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of our founder. He said Father McGivney represented "the secret of the impressive growth" of the Catholic Church in our continent. We should be inspired and humbled that a pope should highlight Father McGivney in such a way as a model for our fellow Catholics. We continue to pray for his canonization — that through the example of his heroic virtue, his vision and his intercession, millions of Catholics will be inspired.

Father McGivney's example and his vision can again be the reason for the "impressive growth" of our Church in the days ahead. Father McGivney saw that Catholic men united in charity could form a brotherhood that would enable them to fulfill their mission to manifest Christ to others by their witness and in that way contribute to the sanctification of the world. For Father McGivney, the path of charity, unity and fraternity was to be an enduring path of Christian discipleship.

Then, Father McGivney did something that made all the difference — he entrusted this great task to the Catholic laymen he called his brothers. He could have chosen to serve as the leader of the new organization that his vision and his determination had made a reality. Instead, he trusted laymen, in unity with their clergy and with their guidance, to direct and carry out their own part in the mission of the Church. This is the great legacy that you and I have inherited.

May the intercession of Father McGivney guide, sustain and enable us to fulfill our vocation as leaders of this great Order for the welfare of our brother Knights and the renewal of our Church.

Vivat Jesus!

**Knights of Columbus Alberta-Northwest Territories
Formation Program-March-2020
When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him...
Final Judgement, (Mt. 25, 31)**

Opening Prayer

Lord, teach us to pray:
“Our Father...”

The Reading
(To be read by the Leader)

Brothers, the past two months we have reflected on the value and importance of the “Faith in Action” program that is the flagship, the mission and the mandate of our councils within the order. Faith in Action seeks to balance the priorities of the Knights of Columbus Order with the priorities of the Knights of Columbus who are within our Order. Stated purpose; “Our goal is for men to lead their family in service, not leave their family for service.” Brothers, we noted that in each of the four pillars, **Faith, Family, Community, Life**, there are eight potential areas of focus. Of further note, in order to receive the **Columbian Award** (which in my estimation, is the baseline target for all our jurisdiction Councils), we need to implement and document four of the eight programs that are proposed in each of the four pillars. What I propose to you is that 16 events in the Columbian year might seem like a lot, but 1.25 activities per month is not and they are the same thing, simply said differently. My goal in the months of March and April is to walk you through the basics from a priestly perspective, in order for you to accomplish your goal of receiving the Columbian award, and more. More importantly, serving your parish effectively.

So why and what is Father Jim going to tell us how to go about accomplishing our programs within the Faith in Action Categories? Brothers, this is far simpler to accomplish than we may allow ourselves to acknowledge. Don’t think about sixteen-twenty Knights of Columbus activities in a year. Think about a couple of activities this month. Trust me, if I did not believe this was straight forward, I would not be writing about it. I must say, as I was reading the Faith in Action manual, the language and the directions seemed easy enough to comprehend, even for this old pastor. My goal is to speak pragmatically about these activities in a way, that I as a pastor would appreciate being approached about them. If this pastor buys in (me), there is a reasonable chance your pastor may, as well.

The Reflection

(To be read by the Leader)

One of the toughest elements of implementing any program or process, in my experience, particularly when you are dealing with volunteers, is getting someone to take on the leadership role. Hence, you as a Grand Knight or Program Director, need to have a sense of the project and an idea how to accomplish it, in order to remove the fear factor and sell it to one or two of your brothers to take the lead on. Perhaps the second most challenging, at least in some situations is getting a buy in from your pastor on what the council wants to accomplish. Brothers, our hearts are good, but action speaks louder than words. If as a council you can show me (rather than tell me) that you have the best interests of the parish, the faithful of God at heart, things will go well for you. I have had many good positive experiences with my brother Knights. As a pastor it has often been when the Knights have done an event that in my estimation has furthered the mission of the Church, has been a form of evangelization, has built community, or has been a catechetical tool that has assisted the faithful to grow in their faith. When these things occur, it gives a sense of collaboration and common mission, which of course is the name of the game. It is inspiring when we see **Faith in Action**.

**When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all
the angels with Him... (Mt. 25, 31)**

Meditation Period

(The Leader now invites the members to spend a few moments in silent reflection, as the above text is not meant to be a ready-made answer but a starter for personal reflection on the theme.)

Fraternal Sharing

(The leader now invites the members to share with their Brother Knights any relevant thoughts that came to them during the meditation period.)

Closing Prayer
(Recited by all)

Let us pray:

“Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

UPCOMING EVENTS



We have two new Knights in our Council initiated March 14, 2020
Br Jeff Arthurs and Br Jordan Sperling

March 2020

25 - Wednesday - General meeting **CANCELLED**

29 - Sunday - Pancake Breakfast **CANCELLED**

April 2020

6 - Monday - Executive Meeting - 7PM Grandin Room

12 - Sunday - EASTER

15 - Wednesday - General Meeting 7PM Grandin Room

May 2020

3 - BLUE SUNDAY 11AM Mass -
Pancake Breakfast following 9AM & 11AM Mass

4 - Monday - Executive Meeting - 7PM Grandin Room

20 - Wednesday - General Meeting 7PM Grandin Room

Chaplan's Corner

“Social Sins that Have Become Embedded in the Fiber of the Society”

During this season of lent, let this be our prayer intentions

Pope Saint John Paul II coined this long theological term. What it means is simply this: there are some serious sins that are not only individual and personal, but they have actually embedded themselves into the very fiber, marrow, if you like heart of society. These structural sins would be the following: abortion, legalization of same-sex unions, the legalization in some States of euthanasia—killing the elderly and infirm. For these social sins embedded in and encrusted on the very fabric and heart of society, we beg pardon and willingly intend reparation. About every 20 seconds an innocent baby is being murdered through the abominable crime and heinous sin of abortion. “O Lord, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

In conclusion, let us enrich our personal prayer life by learning a prayer intention that possibly we have never done or have never done really well and completely, that is the prayer of *Reparation*. Jesus and Mary have Hearts that are wounded, with thorns embedded in them. These are the sins of humanity. It is our spiritual duty, by means of reparation, to take out the thorns and gently place roses in the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Indeed, they will rejoice in our acts of reparation and have a special place for us in their Hearts in time and for all eternity! Amen.

Fr. Ed Kosa