



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

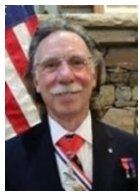
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## The Assembly Voice

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### FROM THE HELM OF: THE FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR S.K. Tony Arrinelli



Faith, Flag, and Resurrection: The Patriotic Legacy of the Catholic Church in America This Easter As I write this I'm just back from an Exemplification of Patriotism (the "new" name for the Fourth Degree Exemplification) in Augusta. If you haven't been to one of these in a while I strongly encourage to attend the next one – your get a great lesson in Catholic patriotism, and you'll walk away inspired! And the timing of this latest EP was perfect. As we prepare our hearts for Easter—the glorious celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection—Catholics across the United States are called not only to spiritual renewal but also to reflect on a beautiful truth: the deep and enduring patriotism that has defined the American Catholic experience for more than 250 years. Despite facing prejudice and suspicion in the early days of the republic, Catholics have consistently proven their loyalty to America. One shining example is Charles Carroll of Carrollton (Maryland, not Georgia), the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. To distinguish himself from others, he signed as "Charles Carroll of Carrollton". A devout believer, Carroll risked his life and fortune for the cause of liberty, showing that faith and patriotism have never been at odds.

The Catholic Church has long taught that true patriotism is a virtue. Drawing from St. Thomas Aquinas, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us that love of country flows from piety and justice—the same virtues that bind us to God and family. It is not blind nationalism but a grateful commitment to the common good of the nation that has given us so much.

No organization embodies this spirit more visibly than the Knights of Columbus. In 1900, the Order created its Fourth Degree precisely to affirm Catholic loyalty to America at a time when anti-Catholic voices questioned whether faithful Catholics could truly be patriots.

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### FROM THE DESK OF FAITHFULL CAPTAIN



### The Importance of Lent to the Knights of Columbus

For the Knights of Columbus, the sacred season of Lent is far more than a period marked by ashes, abstinence, and simple meals. Lent is a profound time of spiritual renewal that calls Knights to live their faith more intentionally through prayer, sacrifice, and service. Rooted in the Gospel and aligned closely with the Order's core principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism, Lent strengthens Knights as Catholic men, husbands, fathers, and servants of the Church and community.

#### A Season of Spiritual Renewal

Lent invites all Catholics to prepare their hearts for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection at Easter through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Knights of Columbus embraces this call in a uniquely communal way, encouraging members to grow not only as individuals but also as brothers united in faith. The Order provides Lenten reflections, devotional resources, and opportunities for deeper participation in the sacramental life of the Church, helping Knights focus on conversion of heart and a closer relationship with Christ during this penitential season.

Prayer during Lent takes on special importance for Knights, many of whom participate in Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, because they were invited by someone they respected—a friend, relative, or fellow parishioner whose example mattered.

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Today, the Knights' Color Corps—our unmistakable honor guards in uniforms and swords—continue to lead parades, stand vigil at veterans' graves, and serve at parish events nationwide, proudly uniting faith and flag.

From Revolutionary War heroes and Civil War chaplains to the battlefields of World War II and beyond, American Catholics have answered the call to serve. Catholic schools, hospitals, and charities have strengthened communities coast to coast. And every Sunday, in parishes large and small, we pray for our nation—asking God's blessings on our leaders, our military, and our people.

This Easter, as we rejoice that Christ has conquered death, we are reminded that hope is never lost. Just as the empty tomb brought new life to the world, the Catholic Church in America continues to breathe fresh life into our nation's highest ideals: liberty, justice, and the dignity of every person.

So, this Easter season, light your Paschal candle with extra gratitude. Hug your family a little tighter. Say an extra prayer for our country. And know that being a faithful Catholic and a true American patriot are not only compatible—they are deeply intertwined.



Happy Easter and God bless America!

(Continued From The DD)

Eucharistic Adoration, and parish missions. These practices help Knights reflect on Christ's sacrifice and renew their commitment to living as faithful disciples. Lent becomes a time to slow down, listen to God's voice, and recommit to daily prayer within the family and council life.

### **Living the Principles Through Lenten Sacrifice**

The Lenten disciplines closely reflect the four core principles of the Knights of Columbus. Charity, the first principle, is especially visible during Lent as councils organize food drives, fish fries, fundraising events, and outreach to the poor and vulnerable. Acts of almsgiving remind Knights that faith must be expressed through action and generosity, particularly toward those most in need.

Unity and fraternity are strengthened as Knights journey through Lent together. Shared sacrifices, communal prayer, and service projects build bonds among members and reinforce the idea that no Knight walks the path of faith alone. Lent deepens the brotherhood that defines the Order.

Fasting, another pillar of Lent, calls Knights to self-discipline and humility. By willingly giving up comforts and confronting personal weaknesses, Knights are reminded that true strength

is found in surrendering to God's will. This discipline prepares them to lead their families with integrity and to serve others with greater compassion.

### **Serving the Church and Community**

Lent is also a time when the Knights of Columbus become especially visible within parish life. From supporting Stations of the Cross to hosting events that foster fellowship and raise funds for charity, councils play a vital role in helping parishes observe the season meaningfully. These activities not only support Church ministries but also create welcoming spaces where faith is lived out in community.

Through service and sacrifice, Knights bear witness to the Gospel in practical ways, showing that Lent is not simply about giving things up, but about giving more of oneself. This witness reflects the vision of the Order's founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, who believed that strong faith expressed through charity could transform families and communities.

### **A Call to Deeper Discipleship**

Ultimately, Lent challenges every Knight to grow in holiness and to recommit to his vocation as a Catholic man. It is a season that calls Knights to lead by example—at home, in the parish, and in the public square—by embracing prayer, sacrifice, and service with renewed purpose. As Easter approaches, Lent prepares Knights not only to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, but to live as witnesses to that hope throughout the year.

For the Knights of Columbus, Lent is a sacred journey that strengthens faith, deepens brotherhood, and renews the mission to serve God and neighbor with courage and love.

### **A Message From Fr. Henry, St. Lawrence Pastor**



In this time, I would like to let mention some expectations and responsibilities of parishioners.

**To Worship God:** We gather to celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday (the Lord's Day). We expect all parishioners to gather for Sunday worship unless they are unable to do so because of illness or travel. To worship God is a human need.

**To Grow:** To be a follower of Christ is to be his disciple, and a disciple is "one who is learning." We expect every member of St. Lawrence Parish to commit to at least one Faith Formation program each year. Good formation is necessary for a healthy spirituality.

**To Serve:** Jesus said, "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45). The essence of the Christian life is to serve God and one another. Every parishioner has

something to offer. So, we expect every parishioner to be involved in at least one ministry each year.

**To Connect:** The Church is a community of believers and not simply a collection of individuals who gather in the same place each week. We ought to be accountable to and for one another. Given the size of our parish, this requires some intentionality.

**To Give:** We expect all parishioners to give generously of their financial resources in proportion to what they received. We give not simply to help the parish meet its obligations, but as an expression of our gratitude to God. Our Sunday offering is a necessary part of our thankful dutiful worship of God.

God bless you and see you at Mass!  
Fr. Henry



### The Sanctuary of the Home: Strengthening Your Domestic Church this Lent

First, what is the “Domestic Church”? As in many things in life, your first teachers were you parents and your family. In my opinion, it doesn't take a village, it takes a loving family who cares. Living your faith began with emulating those around you as you grew to adulthood. Today, you try to teach your children the faith they were born in. Simply put, the Domestic Church is your kitchen table, your den, your prayer time.



Issues today are more complicated than in the past. TV and computer tablets are the new babysitters. It's so easy to give sweets to a fussy child and obesity and diabetes are on the rise. Families eat separately as someone is always on the run to other activities. Microwaves are the way prepared frozen meals are prepared. Attending weekly mass as a family is rare.

Building the Domestic Church begins with returning to family values. Shared beliefs, principles, and standards that should guide how our families live, how decisions are made, and the way we treat one another. Family values are our Catholic beliefs that guide how we live together in our home and extend to our community.

We root our family life in our trust in God, and we try to show that faith through love, patience, forgiveness, and responsibility toward one another. We believe our home should be a place of prayer, peace, and mutual respect, where we honor God by caring for each other and passing our faith on through our daily lives.

As Knights, we are often defined by our visible works. We attend meetings, we participate in parish functions and ministries, and we support our parish in the ways only known

to you personally. But the most important meetings are not held in the Kane/Beltran Center but rather within the four walls of your home. That is where the Domestic Church is found. That is the primary place where our Catholic beliefs are lived and hopefully passed on to the next generation.

During Lent, we should look inward and ask ourselves: *Is my home a sanctuary or merely a residence?*

Building the Domestic Church doesn't require us to be theologians or ministers. It only requires the intentional heads of households leadership as a Catholic man. There is a difference in being a “Practicing Catholic” and being a “Practical Catholic”. One is doing the least necessary to being faithful to our religion and the other is truly living our Catholic ideals. It begins at the kitchen table, which serves as the “altar” of the home—the place where we break bread, share our struggles, and offer gratitude. By leading a simple grace before meals, a Knight fulfills his role as the spiritual leader of his family, guarding their peace and fostering their growth.

Begin with little things. Have a bible, a crucifix, statues of the Holy Family or, even establish a “prayer corner” somewhere quiet where a family can sit together and signal to your family that God is also a permanent resident and member of your clan and not just a Sunday visitor forgotten once you leave Mass.

This transformation is fueled by small, deliberate habits. Consider establishing a prayer corner in your living room—a quiet space with a Bible and a crucifix that signals to your children and spouse that God is a permanent resident in your house, not just a Sunday visitor. This Lent, we might also practice the “ministry of hospitality,” opening our doors to a neighbor who is lonely or a fellow Brother who is struggling. In doing so, we prove that our charity isn't just a line item in a Council budget, but a living virtue that starts in our hearts and spills over into our hallways.

When we strengthen the Domestic Church, we strengthen the entire Body of Christ. A parish is only as vibrant as the families who comprise it, and a Knight is never more courageous than when he is leading his family toward Heaven. This season, let's commit to making our homes places of prayer, sacrifice, and deep, abiding love.



### AEI Launches AI Ethics Council to Safeguard Human Dignity

[\(Read the Entire Article From EWTM\)](#)

The American Enterprise Institute has launched a new Council on Artificial Intelligence Ethics, aiming to ensure that rapid technological innovation remains grounded in human dignity. Modeled loosely on the President's Council on Bioethics, the group brings together scholars from diverse philosophical and religious backgrounds—including Catholic

theologian Brian Boyd—to examine the moral challenges posed by AI.

Rather than seeking forced consensus, the council intends to foster honest debate about the ethical questions emerging from AI’s growing influence. Members highlighted concerns ranging from political economy to human autonomy and the future of human thought. Boyd emphasized the need to secure a future “ordered to the goods of our nature,” while Duke Law professor Nita Farahany stressed protecting human self-determination in an age of increasingly capable machines.

The council’s work is meant not only for policymakers and scientists but also for parents, teachers, business leaders, and community organizations navigating AI’s impact on daily life. For faith communities, the initiative offers a hopeful sign: a public effort to ensure that technological progress serves the human person rather than eclipsing it



### **THE EUCHARIST IS NOT A SYMBOL** (from Catholic Answers)

Why is belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist required for our salvation? Because Jesus Christ said that if we don’t eat his flesh and drink his blood, we won’t have eternal life. That’s a good enough answer for me! If anything counts as “believing in Jesus” for our salvation, then shouldn’t that include believing in what Jesus said about his presence in the Eucharist?

Some Protestants say “eating Jesus’ flesh” and “drinking his blood” are merely metaphors to refer to having faith in him. The problem with that explanation is that Jesus does speak symbolically about food in John’s Gospel, just a few chapters earlier, and he corrects the disciples when they misunderstand him. He says, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work” (John 4:34). But in John 6:66, we learn that “after this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him.” Jesus does not correct them, because he wasn’t proposing a symbol they misunderstood; he was offering the gift of himself, in bread and wine, that they rejected.

Jesus also said, “It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail” (John 6:63) not because the Eucharist is merely a symbol. (He didn’t say, “My flesh is of no avail.”) Jesus said this because his disciples still doubted that he could give them his body as food. They were stuck in man-focused “fleshy” ways, as opposed to spiritual ways of thinking that recognize God’s almighty power. The latter way of thinking would have allowed them to trust Jesus when he said, “The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

Another reason to believe that Jesus’ words were not symbols is that the phrase “eating my flesh” was symbolic . . . of cursing someone (Micah 3:1-3). And even if Jesus didn’t mind

that he was echoing cursing language to symbolize spiritual nourishment that comes from belief in him, why did he talk about drinking blood? There are a thousand better forms of nourishment Jesus could have used to make a merely symbolic point . . . especially since drinking blood had been forbidden since the time of Genesis (9:6).

Through the Eucharist given to us at every Mass, we receive the risen, glorified new Passover sacrifice, whose death takes away the sins of the world. We receive him in a miraculous, unbloody way, under the form of bread and wine.

The Eucharist is not a symbol—it is Christ himself, given for our salvation. Trent Horn’s *NEW Salvation Is* from the Catholic Church outlines this clearly and succinctly.



### **What Is the Point of a Priest? Standing With Christ the High Priest**

**The ancient history of the priesthood reveals a lot about the Catholic Mass**

*(Excerpts from “Catholic Answers Magazine”. Read the entire article [HERE](#))*

One of the great privileges of our Catholic faith is that we never approach God alone. From the earliest pages of salvation history, God has chosen to work through men set apart to stand before Him on behalf of the people. These men—priests—have always played a central role in God’s plan, offering sacrifice, interceding for the community, and serving as visible signs that God draws near to His people.

Sacred Scripture makes this clear. As the Letter to the Hebrews tells us, “Every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” This simple yet profound truth lies at the heart of the priesthood and, indeed, at the heart of our life as Catholic men. The priest is not merely a religious functionary or community leader. He is a man configured by God to serve as a bridge between heaven and earth, offering the sacrifice that reconciles humanity to the Father.

### **Christ, the Eternal High Priest**

All priesthood finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He is not simply one priest among many, but the Eternal High Priest—the One to whom all previous priesthood pointed. Unlike the priests of the Old Covenant, whose sacrifices had to be repeated again and again, Christ offered Himself once and for all on the Cross. His sacrifice on Calvary is perfect, complete, and eternal.

Yet this sacrifice is not locked in the past. Christ’s offering lives forever in the presence of the Father. Through the ministry of the ordained priest, that one saving sacrifice is made present to us here and now. At every Mass, time and space are drawn into the eternal “today” of God. What occurred once on Calvary becomes sacramentally present on

our altars, not as a new sacrifice, but as the same sacrifice offered in an unbloody manner.

This is why the Mass is not merely a communal meal or symbolic remembrance. When the priest speaks the words of consecration, bread and wine—so ordinary and familiar—become the very Body and Blood of the Lord. Christ Himself acts through the priest, who stands in persona Christi, in the person of Christ. This mystery was foreshadowed by Melchizedek, who offered bread and wine, and fulfilled completely in Christ, who gives Himself entirely for the life of the world.

### **The Eucharist at the Center of Our Lives**

For us as Knights of Columbus, this truth has profound implications. We are men committed to charity, unity, and fraternity—but we are also, and above all, men of the Eucharist. Our identity as Catholic men is inseparable from the altar.

Our works of charity do not flow merely from good intentions or human generosity. They draw their strength from Christ Himself, whom we receive in the Eucharist. When we serve the poor, support families, defend life, and stand with the vulnerable, we do so not in our own power, but in His.

Our unity as Knights is not simply organizational or social. It is rooted in the One who gives Himself to us as food. When we kneel side by side before the same Lord, receiving the same Body and Blood, our unity is forged at a depth no human bond can achieve.

Our fraternity, too, is strengthened at the altar. The Eucharist teaches us what true brotherhood looks like: self-gift, sacrifice, and love poured out for others. Christ does not give us a part of Himself—He gives us everything. In receiving Him, we are called to live that same pattern of generous love in our families, our parishes, and our communities.

### **Why the Priesthood Matters**

This is why the priesthood matters so deeply—not only to the Church, but to us as Knights. Without priests, there is no Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, there is no sacrificial offering made present among us. And without that offering, the Church—and our Order—cannot receive the grace Christ won for us on the Cross.

The priest stands at the center of the Church's sacramental life. He baptizes, forgives sins, anoints the sick, blesses marriages, and most especially offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Through his ministry, Christ continues His work of sanctifying the world.

In a time when the priesthood is often misunderstood, criticized, or taken for granted, we are called to see it with eyes of faith. The priest is not perfect—he is a man in need of God's mercy like all of us—but he is chosen, consecrated, and sent to act on Christ's behalf for the good of God's people.

### **Our Responsibility as Knights**

Because of this, we have a special responsibility. Today, let us renew our gratitude for the priests who serve our parishes, guide our families, and stand at the altar in the person of Christ. Let us pray for them daily—that they may be faithful, courageous, and joyful in their vocation.

Let us also support them in practical ways, offering encouragement, respect, and brotherly friendship. A priest who knows he is prayed for and appreciated is strengthened to persevere in his calling.

Finally, let us encourage vocations among our sons and grandsons. The future of the Church depends, in part, on men who are willing to hear God's call and respond with generosity. By fostering a culture of faith in our homes and councils, we help create the soil in which vocations can grow.

### **Standing With Christ the High Priest**

As Knights of Columbus, we are called to stand with Christ the High Priest—not only in words, but in the way we live. May our charity flow from His sacrifice, our unity reflect His Body, and our fraternity mirror His self-giving love.

When we live from the Eucharist, our lives become a witness to its power. And in a world hungry for meaning, truth, and hope, that witness has never been more necessary.



### **Comical Closure**

Joe, the carpenter, goes to confession. He tells Father, rather sheepishly, that he stole some lumber. Father asks him, "What'd you do with it?" He says, "I built a birdhouse." Father figures it couldn't have been that much lumber and tells him to say a Hail Mary for that particular sin.

"Anything else?"

"Well, with the lumber left over from the birdhouse, I built my dog a house."

Father figures how much wood that must've been and assigns Joe three Hail Marys and three Our Fathers.

"Anything else?"

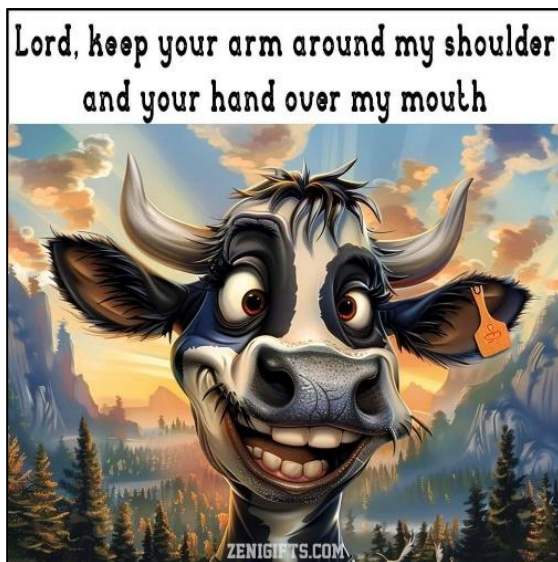
"Well, with the lumber left over from the doghouse, I built myself a deck."

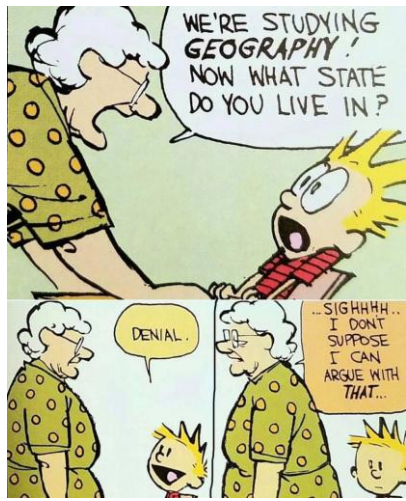
Father's made some notes, sketches estimates on a piece of paper, and he assigns Joe two rosaries for his penance.

"Anything else?"

"Well, with the lumber left over from the deck, I built myself a new garage." Father interrupts him and says, "Joe, do you know how to make a novena?" Joe says,

"No Father, but if you've got the plans, I've got the lumber!"





"Grandma, how do you work this phone with the little wheel on it?"



