



MEDITATIVE MUSINGS

Volume II | Issue III | Louisiana State Knights of Columbus Chaplain's Newsletter

The Fraternal Cornerstone

The Knights of Columbus mourns the loss of Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant, who passed away in his sleep at the age of 89 during the early morning hours of 16 February 2020. He was the order's longest-serving Supreme Knight, holding office from 1977 until 2000. He always mentioned his goal was to "leave the Knights better than he found it." During this Lenten season, we too are reminded of our mortality. As we seek holiness during this season, how can you, as a Knight, work toward building up the Fraternal Order, knowing that we too are mortals?

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(Feel Free to Read this at Your Council Meetings in the Absence of Your Chaplain!)

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(Read this Gospel for Your Opening or Closing Prayer which is the Basis of the State Chaplain's Message)

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Chaplain's Spiritual Message

Dear Brother Knights:

The phrase "Give it up!" signals two very different practices, which are part of two equally different occasions. The more recent meaning is a call to applaud a musical or dramatic performance of quality; the traditional understanding is a summons to penance, particularly during Lent. As different as these meanings may appear at first glance, each can point to an important aspect of the liturgical season.

During the next six weeks of Lent, the first readings highlight the covenant relationship that God establishes with the people, while the epistles and Gospels constitute an album of snapshots that capture Jesus bringing God's love to the world. It is clear that the readings for Lent focus on what God has done out of love, rather than on what we might do out of guilt. This is certainly reason for applause, so "Give it up!"

**“Lent offers us a
graced opportunity
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readjust our
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God.”**

The Scripture readings of Lent do much more than simply describe the saving action of God. They call us to respond to that divine magnanimity. Mercy and love have been offered to us; our acceptance of divine solicitude will prompt us to change the sinfulness of our lives. This is the reason for our penance, so, if necessary "Give it up!"

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are religious disciplines that have long been cherished in many of the religions of the world. As important as they are, they are not meant to be merely public displays of personal prowess. The concern for inner integrity is clear in Jesus' words in the Gospel: Do not blow the horn before you; do not pray in order to be noticed; do not let others know that you are fasting.

Today we may have to discover new ways of appreciating fasting and almsgiving. Isaiah once wrote: "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed" (Is 58:6). Perhaps today our covenant with God is calling us to care more deeply for children, even those who are not our own; to show greater respect for the cultural or religious diversity within which we live; to take a more active role in church matters. Perhaps instead of giving our money to others, we are being asked to give of ourselves, of our time or of our talents.

Lent offers us a graced opportunity to reevaluate and readjust our relationship with God. So, give it up for that relationship!

~Fr. Jamin



Gospel for Reflection: Matthew 6:16-18

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

Knights’ Connection

As Past Supreme Knight Dechant was a great leader recently called home by God, Dechant took the Gospel seriously. His concern for inner integrity was clear in his leadership of the Fraternal Order. He was not worried about blowing the horn, praying for notice, or letting others know of his fasting. Rather, he attempted to live the Gospel and the values Knights profess by constantly reevaluating and readjusting the Knights relationship with society and the world at large. This Lent, we pray for the repose of his soul. But his example of lived faith invites us to reflect. Are we doing works of charity so others will notice? Or do we serve our communities simply out of fidelity to the Gospel we profess?

In his audience in St. Peter’s Square on Ash Wednesday 2020, Pope Francis said that “Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel.” He recalled when he was a child, there was no television, but his family would make it a point not to listen to the radio. He continued, “It is time to give up useless words, chatter, rumors, gossip, and talk and to speak directly with the Lord.” In a world in which we often struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord, Jesus calls us into the desert and invites us to listen to what matters, the Holy Father explained. He recalled that when the devil was tempting Jesus, he replied, “One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Lent is surely a good time to “give it up.” What are you going to give up so that you and your Council can continue to grow in grace?



READ the Scripture Reading on page three of this newsletter.



SHARE the reflection of the State Chaplain with your Council in the absence of your Chaplain!



REFLECT on how you might put this spiritual message into practice in your Council.