



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

Worthy Grand Knight, Worthy Chaplain, Brothers all, *Vivat Jesus!* Welcome back to both a new academic year here at The Catholic University of America and another fraternal year with the Knights of Columbus.

As we begin to prepare for the months ahead of exams, essays, and projects, I would like to share with you the words of Saint Peter written in his first letter: "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. If you have the gift of speaking, preach God's message. If you have the gift of helping others, do it with the strength that God supplies. Everything should be done in a way that will bring honor to God because of Jesus Christ, who is glorious and powerful forever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11) Together, we make up a diverse community of students in the schools of theology, philosophy, business, engineering, architecture, arts and sciences, social services, music, and nursing. We each have skills that come easier to us than to others, and interests that some may find unpalatable. Though our goals and aspirations in life are different, we all must seek Christ in everything we do.

There's a very simple way to welcome Jesus into every aspect of our lives, and that is through prayer. Isaiah 59:1 says, "Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call." There is no prayer that is too trivial or too great for God to answer. We may not always get the answer that we hoped for, or see God's work directly, but He is always listening. "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer" (Romans 12:12). The verses in the Bible that tell of the power of prayer are virtually endless, as is God's willingness to come to our aid.

This summer, the world was struck with many incidents of evil and devastation. Each time, millions of people around the world turned to prayer as a means of

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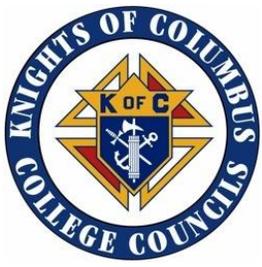


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healing. No matter what you believe in or where you come from, prayer has the ability to connect all of humanity. Even in our darkest hours, we still seek Christ.

Because we are human, we are not perfect. And since we are not perfect, we are prone to sin. God gave us the gift of reconciliation so that we may always be in His good graces. Pope Francis said in his first Angelus, “Never forget this: The Lord never gets tired of forgiving us. It is we, who get tired of asking for forgiveness.” The path to forgiveness is through prayer. Even when we hurt Him, we still seek Christ.

As CUA students and young Catholics, we are still learning and finding our way through the world. We will make mistakes, we will be unsure of things, and we will feel defeated at times. Yet, our lifeline to make it through these tough times will always be prayer. Even in despair, we still seek Christ.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (*Matthew 6:33*). Brothers, we will never find Christ in our lives if we do not seek Him or invite Him through prayer. Let us reflect on the role that we allow Jesus to play in our lives, and as we begin this new fraternal and academic year, let us make the effort to seek Christ in all things.

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