



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

First and foremost, I would be remiss not to acknowledge and welcome all of our new brothers to the council. This is certainly not the college fraternity that involves partying or excessive drinking, but rather a lifelong fraternity that will support you even beyond your time here at Catholic University. I encourage all of our new members to take every opportunity to get to know your Brother Knights in this council and make long-lasting fraternal bonds. I also congratulate you all for answering the call to be witnesses of Christ's love here on our campus.

As a student, I feel as though the only thing I do more than read and write essays for my classes is fill out applications. I am forever applying, and sometimes reapplying, for scholarships, internships, and various roles on-campus. And as many of you can relate, there is always that brief moment where you ask yourself, "Can I stretch the truth just a little bit to make myself seem more qualified?" Sometimes, the hardest part is not deciding what *to* include, but what *not* to include. Is there something about ourselves that might make us seem unattractive to what we're applying for? What if every application asked us about our Faith, like they ask us about our citizenship and race? Would you ever choose to hide your Faith, or not include it on an application?

Apart from just applications, how many times in our lives have we been in situations where our Faith has been unpopular? Among my friends at home, I'm probably the most vocal about my religion, even though many of my friends were raised Catholic and attend mass at least on the big feast days. I also have many friends who have rejected religion altogether and have openly disagreed with my beliefs, or even laughed at what I believe to be true. It never bothers me, though, because defending my faith allows me to grow in it at the same time, and I know at the end of the day my friends and I still love each other no matter what we believe or don't believe. It is when I am not among friends that I really start to struggle with "including" my faith on my application. I worry that people will make a rash judgement about me just based on the

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fact that I'm religious, that I attend The Catholic University of America, or even that I'm a Knight of Columbus. When it's not the social norm or widely accepted, it sometimes just feels easier to leave that part out of the application.

In his homily at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, Cardinal Wuerl gave us four steps of how to further the mission of Christ: to go out, to encounter, to accompany, and to engage. By no coincidence, in following these steps, we also end up seeking Christ in all things, which is our main intention for this fraternal year. Through this whole process, Cardinal Wuerl tells us, we all become closer with Jesus. Ultimately, we are left with two options: include our faith on every application we fill out in life and grow closer to the Lord Jesus, or don't and remain complacent in our relationship with God.

So, consider if you were submitting your application for salvation today, would the lines on your resume reflect your faith? Would your activities and accomplishments show that you went out, encountered, accompanied, and engaged with those seeking the Lord? Or would it be an application that merely reflects what the rest of the world has deemed acceptable?

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