



# Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

*In Service to One, In Service to All*

In just a few days, we will celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, or otherwise known as All Souls' Day. During this time of prayer and remembrance, I invite you to reflect on our fraternal motto: "*Tempus Fugit, Memento Mori*" - "*Time Flies, Remember Death*". It's a difficult subject for us as young college students to consider. We would like to think that death is a distant issue for us and that we have plenty to worry about before we reach the final end. Yet, we are reminded in the Gospel that, "...of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father *alone*" (*Mark 13:32*). Therefore, we cannot take a single second for granted here on Earth, and we must spend each moment living out the Word of God in order to one day live in His Kingdom. One way we can do this is to identify the things in our lives that have just an earthly existence, namely, money and the things we are able to buy with it. By thinking in terms of "how much money will I make if I do x, y, or z" we miss out on the opportunities to improve both our lives and the lives of others, and to grow in faith and grace. By valuing love more than money and working harder to serve our neighbor than ourselves, we may not be rich in our wallets, but we will be far richer in spirit. In the grand scheme of things, being richer in spirit is more valuable than being wealthy on Earth. In Heaven, there will be no rich or poor. We will not be judged by the amount of money we made in our lives or by the titles we have accumulated throughout our careers. We will be judged based on the lives we have lived and the deeds we have done.

However, before we finish our lives here on Earth, we will sadly have friends and family who pass on before us. It is a painful experience to go through the death of a loved one, and, unfortunately, we all have probably felt this pain at one time or another. My first experience with death was when I was rather young--still in elementary school, when I lost a relative who had lived with my family throughout my entire childhood. I was at the age where you ask a lot of questions and when the answer isn't clear enough, you ask about 30 more questions. I remember asking my parents why my great-aunt

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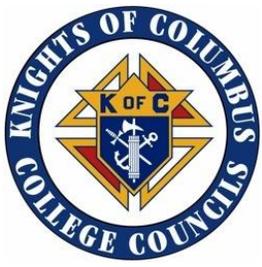


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had died and if she was in Heaven. My parents, trying to remain as strong as possible in front of my sister and I during a difficult time of mourning, did the best they could to explain death to a young child. As I have grown older and learned more in my Faith, I have come to find that death is possibly one of the biggest mysteries in life.

There is much debate throughout the world of whether we only have one life to live, or if we will return again in new life, and if there is a life after death, or if death is the ultimate end. Jesus tells us in the Gospel according to John, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die" (11:25-26). In the Catholic Church, we believe in three possible outcomes of death: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. We will reach Heaven if we die in a state of perfect grace and communion with God, however, if we die in a state of mortal sin then we are condemned to the fires of Hell. For those who die not quite in a state of perfect grace or mortal sin but somewhere in between are then sent to Purgatory where they are cleansed before entering the Kingdom of God. During this time of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed we take a moment to remember those in our lives who have passed on and pray that their souls be purified so that they may rest eternally in the Lord's peace.

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