



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

Vivat Jesus! For the Knights of Columbus, this exclamation serves as much more than a slogan; in the proclamation “Jesus lives!” brother Knights find the foundation, meaning, and mission of the Order. So too does the Church find and experience for herself the mystery of salvation, which then energizes and animates all her works. Because Christ has risen from the dead, we are assured of a most glorious hope that God loves us and that no trial nor any tribulation can overshadow the truth of such saving grace.

Doesn't it feel so liberating to once again be able to exclaim, “Alleluia!”, or burst into the Gloria at Mass? That innate feeling of wanting to, needing to, and being compelled to praise God in these ways reflects a deeper desire to share this incredible Good News with others— there just isn't any room for passivity in the Christian life. Certainly, the Resurrection Event gained for us the eternal reward in Paradise that we could not achieve ourselves, but to really benefit from it, the experience needs to change us, that is, to make us marvel at God's merciful love and then continuously reveal that to all the world. Cardinal Wuerl made this observation back in January for the occasion of the dedication the new altar of the Pallottine Seminary at Green Hill:

In His command, “Do this in memory of Me,” Jesus invites each one of us into the Mystery of His Death and Resurrection. We're not just going to be passive bystanders who come to know Him. We're not just going to be someone who looks on the merry-go-round and says, “Isn't that wonderful?” We're invited into the Mystery itself.¹

In doing so, we manifest the glory of the Lord; it is our mission as Christians. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI reminded us at his installation Mass, “the purpose of our lives is to reveal God to men.”²

The Resurrection cannot be confined to a mere moment in history two thousand years ago. All that it accomplished cannot be measured; its effects continue to affect and move us even now. Today we are truly experiencing the great joy that the Risen Lord promised His disciples. And this authentic joy does not fade in times of mourning or despair. Especially in those times, we can look up in hope, knowing the same Risen Christ is with us at every moment to offer courage and mercy. It is in this

¹ Cardinal Donald Wuerl, (homily, Hyattsville, MD, January 16, 2016).

² Pope Benedict XVI, “Mass, Imposition of the Pallium and Conferral of the Fisherman's Ring for the Beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome,” Vatican Website, April 24, 2005, accessed March 3, 2016, https://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/homilies/2005/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20050424_inizio-pontificato.html.

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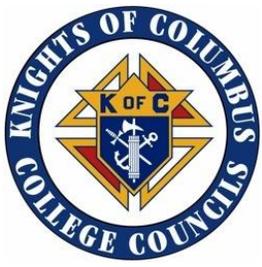


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reality— not mere speech and daydreams— that the Church exists and works from: “The Church is alive — she is alive because Christ is alive, because he is truly risen.”³

As Christians, we bear the Name of the Savior we were baptized in. We invite the world to encounter Christ Whose presence we manifest through the charitable actions of our lives. Just as we share with one another the light from the Paschal candle during the Easter vigil, so too do we share the light of hope and faith with those in darkness. By the grace of God and the support of each other, may we, at every moment of our lives, join with the whole Church and the heavenly host to praise God for His mercy and goodness:

Thou only art immortal, the Creator and Maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so Thou didst ordain when Thou createdst me, saying, Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. All go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.⁴

May God bless you, and God love you!

Fraternally,

SK Thomas Wong

³ Ibid.

⁴ “The Burial of the Dead: Rite One,” BCPOnline.org, accessed March 24, 2016, <http://www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/Buriall.htm>.

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