



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

“There are two ways of waking up in the morning” Fulton Sheen once said, “One is to say, ‘Good morning, God,’ and the other is to say, ‘Good God, morning!’”¹ Each of us knows all too well the struggles that we awake to each morning. How we choose to deal with them would then seem to be a reflection of our faith and how we view God’s place in our lives. As opportunities to remind ourselves of our dependence on God, the trials of our lives can demand much of us, yes, but how much more willing are we to embrace them if we unite our (insignificant) sufferings to those of Christ! As the late Mother Angelica observed, “Holiness is not for wimps and the cross is not negotiable, sweetheart, it’s a requirement.”²

Tonight especially, having elected next year’s officer board, I fondly think of how the Knights have helped me to grow in faith and devotion to our Lord as well as being a better servant of the Church. I hope you do the same. From fostering my prayer life, particularly to the Blessed Mother thanks to the rosaries we continuously wield, to helping me to step up to address the needs of the local community, being a Knight has not only provided me with a firm sense of belonging and purpose, but has also made me more aware of the impact of my life’s every action, direct or indirect, starting with how I wake up each morning. In striving (and struggling) to model my life after Christ’s, that is, “[aiming] at what is most perfect always and in everything”³, I am constantly reminded that I must not and cannot go about my faith journey alone— this is where our Order’s call to unity and fraternity rings especially true:

As Knights, we have to remember that the journey to heaven is not a solo trek. You seek to bring everyone with you. If one person falls, you travel to him or her, and help them get up, and you carry along together towards the destination. This is what God has entrusted us to do, to reveal such love as His love. Within our families, jobs, school, or wherever God calls us to be, we must give everything of ourselves in bringing others on the adventure, and helping them endure. Think of the image of exhaustively falling down on God’s doorstep after the journey is over. You look back, and see no one, because the ones traveling with you have gone inside already.⁴

How many times have I found the Knights to be a source of solace and support whenever I hit a rough patch in my life! How beautiful to have been the object of each other’s prayers lifted up to God!

¹ Fulton J. Sheen, *Your Life is Worth Living: The Christian Philosophy of Life* (Schnecksville: St. Andrew’s Press, 2014), n.p.

² Raymond Arroyo, *Mother Angelica’s Little Book of Life Lessons and Everyday Spirituality* (New York: Doubleday, 2007), n.p.

³ Pope Benedict XVI, “Address to Men and Women Religious on the Occasion of the 12th World Day of Consecrated Life,” *Vatican Website*, February 2, 2008, accessed April 13, 2016, http://w2.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/speeches/2008/february/documents/hf_ben-xvi_spe_20080202_vita-consacrata.html.

⁴ Joseph Cuda (lecture, Knights of Columbus Council #9542 business meeting, Washington, DC, November 3, 2013).

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In a [video address to the Order](#), Pope St. John Paul II praised the good work the Knights continuously performed to support the Church in living the Gospel message. “Authentic witness to the Gospel,” he said, “is marked by an unwavering hope in the face of all difficulties. A hope based not on our own strength and resources but upon the power and mercy of God.” Similarly, Mother Angelica observed, “Faith is what gets you started. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what brings you to the end.”⁵ Our lives and achievements as Christians and especially as Knights are not to be based on our own strength or will power, but, to be really authentic, upon humble obedience to the Father and the acceptance of His perfect love. How earnestly, then, shall we follow the example of the Holy Father, “As long as I have breath within me I shall cry out: ‘Peace, in the name of God.’”⁶

As I close my lecture series, please know of my profound gratitude and affection I have for you all. I thank you for your noble witness of charity, unity, and fraternity that inspires and encourages me to live ever more dearly the principles so valued by our Venerable Founder. In the words of St. Paul, may you always know that:

I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace... in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.⁷

May God bless you, and God love you! Amen! Alleluia!

Vivat Jesus!

SK Thomas Wong

⁵ Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, PCPA and Christine Allison, *Mother Angelica’s Answers, Not Promises* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1996), n.p.

⁶ Pope John Paul II, “Apostolic Voyage in Azerbaijan,” *Vatican Website*, May 22, 2002, accessed April 13, 2016, http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/speeches/2002/may/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_20020522_world-culture-azerbaijan.html.

⁷ Philippians 1:3-5, 7-11 (NABRE).

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