



Marshall Council 966

## Knights of Columbus

PO Box 1672, Marshalltown, IA 50158

### Thoughts from the Grand Knight - April 2018



How many examples of service can you spot in the picture above?

First of all, the deceased pictured is Sharon Stalzer. She was a devoted mother and a service-minded Catholic woman who included managing the KC hall as one of her devotions. Her husband Cy was a devoted husband for 56 years of marriage as well as being a member of the Knights of Columbus. The 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knights pictured are Vince Frederick, Eric Boone, Leroy Schulte, Dennis Paul, and Eldon Schneider. Serving in the Honor Guard at wake services, funerals, and numerous other activities, is among the most rewarding types of service available to a Knight. Did you notice the example of service that I haven't mentioned yet? It's only the greatest act of self-sacrificing service in the history of the world—Christ dying on the cross for us.

At the holy week services (another example of service to our church, our Lord, and all parishioners by all those involved in the preparations and ministries) we were reminded of Christ's instruction to his followers that we are all called to serve one another. He demonstrated this with the washing of the feet of his disciples.

Why all this talk about service? Eldon and I recently attended the Iowa Knights of Columbus state convention in Davenport. One topic that is always discussed is the importance of recruiting. I once had the cynical attitude that the main reason they want us to recruit is to make their numbers look good and help them get awards. This time, however, the best reasons got through to me. We recruit because Catholic men need to be encouraged to get more involved in service, to continue their faith development, and to be supported in their mission as good Catholic husbands and fathers. If a man is not involved simply because we have failed to invite him, we have failed him.

The second good reason to invite men into the Knights, and for inactive members to be more active, is the world of good we can do...for the needy, for widows, for the sick and elderly, for the church and the school, and for the community. More active members can do more service.

I encourage every person reading this to encourage at least one man to join the Knights of Columbus, or to get more active if he is already a member. We are all busy, and I know many men are not active in the Knights out of fear of being pressured to do something they don't want to do. I think, during my term as Grand Knight, that we have done a pretty good job of avoiding such pressure. Those who take on roles and responsibilities make that decision themselves, out of devotion to their own mission in life or because they buy in to the mission of the KofC.

My next thoughts are on this question: What would you like to have more of in your life? Close your eyes, take a deep breath, and answer that question. By any chance, did your answer include any of these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?

If you have access to the internet, I ask you to take 20 minutes to watch this:  
<https://thewildgooseisloose.com/segment/the-fruits-of-the-holy-spirit>

THE FRUITS ARE SIGNS OR  
MANIFESTATIONS THAT OUR LIFE  
IS BEING TRANSFORMED OR  
PERFECTED BY GOD.

CCC 1832

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE,  
KINDNESS, GENEROSITY,  
FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS,  
AND SELF CONTROL.

GALATIANS 5:22-23

Quotes from the video:

Pope John XXIII: "The surest sign of the Holy Spirit is Joy."

"We live in a world that desperately needs Joy."

"Imagine your life, just in your family, if there was more generosity, more kindness, more patience, more love, more joy."

"Go before the Lord, be quiet, be still, and ask Him to show you the type of fruit your life is producing."

I think what struck me most about this was the idea that we can easily tell if the Holy Spirit is alive in us by looking at the degree to which these gifts are present. And what's even more important, we can best increase the presence of these gifts, not by seeking the gifts directly, but by seeking Him--the Holy Spirit.

A hundred times a day, take 5 seconds to say: "Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in me the fire of your love."

Our next council meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the St. Mary church basement with a rosary before at 6:40PM. Hope to see you there.

God bless you and your families.

Steve Seberger – Grand Knight

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## Insurance Corner:

### ***We Stand Strong on Ethical Ground***

Some people believe that ethics in business is a contradiction in terms. They think that in order to be profitable, a company and its leaders must abandon morality and embrace the dark, greedy side that they see so often in the news and in movies.

At the Knights of Columbus, we know this isn't true. A business can be both ethical and successful. We are.

As a Catholic organization, we understand the value and importance of our core beliefs and the original mission of Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney. In fact, much of the strength and financial security we provide to members and their families can be attributed to our ethical, moral standards.

More than 96 percent of Knights who buy our life insurance keep it, year in and year out. The Order takes this commitment to our members very seriously. This means carefully planning when it comes time to invest. Our professional staff researches all transactions to insure that they fall in line with Catholic values. If a transaction makes them uncomfortable, they don't make it.

"We exclude any company engaged in activity that conflicts with Catholic moral teaching: companies directly involved in abortion, contraception, human cloning, embryonic stem cell research, for-profit health care that pays for any of these, or pornography," said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. "There are many companies in the pharmaceutical and communications industries that would undoubtedly provide excellent returns for us, but which are not in our portfolio because they engage in research and development or programming in ways that violate the sanctity or dignity of human life."

In the end, the Knights of Columbus investment strategy is motivated by morality, not money. Yet, each year we remain profitable, increase our assets and stay dedicated to this vision that will keep the Order financially sound for generations to come.

But don't just take our word for it. In 2017 the Knights of Columbus was named a "World's Most Ethical Company" by the Ethisphere Institute for the third year in a row. We were one of only two life insurance companies to earn the honor.

"Faithful Catholics have choices when buying life insurance," said the Supreme Knight. "But they know that at the Knights of Columbus their policy is supplied by an insurer that shares their moral and ethical values and is guided in all of its investment and sales practices by those values."

Contact me today to learn more about our products.



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**April 2018 Newsletter**