

KNIGHTS CORNER

November 12, 2023



St. Charles Council #2084

A few weekends back I had the privilege of joining the 4th degree (the patriotic degree) of the Knights of Columbus. At dinner afterwards Father Peter Omogo, Pastor of the parishes of Montague, Rothbury, and Claybanks gave a speech in which he shared the story of his path to the priesthood and the work he and the foundation in his late brother's name does in his home country of Nigeria.

The part that struck me most was how he tied it back to the Irish missionary priests who came to Nigeria and through the example they set inspired him to decide then and there at a young age to dedicate his life to becoming a priest and helping others. He then made a point to call out that it was the generous donations of parishioners like those given on World Mission Sunday that paid for him to attend the seminary.

Those seeds planted by the missionary priests and by our donations have allowed Fr. Omogo and his fellow priests from Nigeria turn around and give back by ministering to the faithful in other parts of the world (he shared that some were even asked to come be priests in Ireland with extra pride). We often don't know how far the things we do, both big and small, can reach.

This resonated in a particular way because earlier that week, brother Knight Andrew Havens and I had run the first meeting of the Blue Knights at St. Charles School. Despite the name it's not a Knights of Columbus program (though a few of the 2nd graders thought they were joining early), but rather an after school club for boys modeled after the Little Flowers girl's club that focuses on Catholic virtues and the lives of the saints. Even though it was our first time with this group, just like all the other times I've gotten to work with youth from our parish and school, I was blown away by their questions, answers, and excitement about their faith and St. Peter and St. Charles. The families, Father, our teachers, our catechists, our volunteers, and all of us are planting some seeds to be proud of.

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St. Charles Council 2084
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