

# KNIGHTS CORNER

October 1, 2023



## St. Charles Council #2084

In *"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"* Linus says "I've learned there are three things you don't discuss with people: politics, religion, and the great pumpkin." I'm not going to touch two of those things but last weekend made me start to wish maybe we talked about religion a bit more freely.

Last weekend my family had the privilege to be in an Eastern Orthodox friend's wedding and as I'm sure most of you know our Eastern Rite brothers and sisters share a considerable amount of similarities with us. Because many of the prayers and responses were so similar to our own, people noticed I was able to follow along and respond appropriately more so than my fellow groomsmen. This led to several wonderful conversations with other guests both non-religious and protestant. I was asked things like, "How similar were things to Catholic? What are the major differences? How did you learn all that?"

Curiosity got the best of them, and while I'm no expert, my Catholic school education gave me a strong enough foundation in apologetics, and the history of the Church (including the schism) that I was able to share answers, and before I knew it we were having open conversation about what makes Catholics different from Orthodox and what makes us both different from a protestant denomination. All without the stigma of argument that people normally fear in these conversations. It felt great and I hope I got a few people intrigued by how rich our theologies were.

This made me reflect: I think it's important to know these details and share them. 1.) Because it allows us to speak with humble knowledge that invites curiosity in others, and 2). In my experience at least, finding the answers to my own questions along the way opened the door to the magnificent depth of our faith.

Sorry Linus, your Christmas speech is pretty good, but I think you're wrong on this one.

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