

Knights Corner

August 9, 2026



St. Charles Council #2084

Fraternity: For this final reflection on Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, we are looking at the aspect of Fraternity. Just as a Knight of Columbus is a man of integrity he is also a man for others. Safeguarding those in his care and standing in unity with his brethren putting faith into action. Thus, a Knight of Columbus is called to the fraternal charity of his brothers. Standing in the breach against the world, the flesh, and the enemy he and his brothers form a wall of defense against the ills of this world for those he is charged to love and protect.

"If any one says, 'I Love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should love his brother also" (1st John 4:20-21)

While as a fraternal order, the Knights of Columbus is, as expressed in the discussion on charity, the world's largest Catholic services organization, I would like for us to focus on the state and local council again. From adopt-a-highway programs to be good stewards of the planet, to providing ultrasound machines/services in Catholic friendly right to life facilities, to distribution of food bags that provide much needed meals to those in need, our brothers do this not on their own but in fraternal communion-Serving together for the well-being of the entire body of Christ.

But I don't want you to think that all the fraternity does is only about service. There is another aspect that being in this fraternal order has, that of growing in the faith. By being surrounded by Catholic men, firm in the faith, and interacting in the various activities we hold almost weekly, a man can find a group of guys that are in a perpetual state of conversion themselves. Thirsting for the Word of God, for the Sacraments, and for brotherhood, it is this aspect that got my attention. Our council alone is a great way for men to form brotherly connections but also our Cor Mens Group is being held twice a month (hopefully weekly) and it is here where discussion occurs. Discussions on such a variety of topics that I would need a full page in this bulletin to really look into them. From the materials presented to personal thoughts, and often prayers for intentions, these men open their minds and hearts to each other and find support. I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone that you do not have to be a Knight to come to these Cor meetings.

Ultimately, I am doing a very poor job in these discussion on what the Knights of Columbus have shown me and there are those who have served in fraternal brotherhood as long as I have been given the "breath of life" and coming into existence and I would like to thank them for their time, talents, and treasure. We newer brothers are ever learning from your foundations and will pick up the torch carrying Jesus's light to this world in fraternal communion with you. There is an excerpt at the very end of the right of exemplification that all new brothers hear and I would like to extend that to everyone today "The Knights of Columbus was, is and always shall be a brotherhood in solidarity with our priests whose ministry makes Christ present to us in the Eucharist." (from the exemplification ceremony).

As a final plea, please, wives of men looking for community, give your husband permission to come to the

Knights of Columbus. By becoming strong spiritual heads of house and growing in the faith the entire family thrives. And men, if there is anything holding you back today from joining with your parish brothers, I can only offer you my thoughts...LET IT ALL GO and join the community you are looking for. The community that cares about you and your family. The community that will help you grow in faith. The community that will push your boundaries of what you thought you could do. I never would have thought that I would be here writing to you today but here I am showing you that if I can do this anyone can. Join us today after mass for the exemplification of our newest brothers and see for yourself everything we have discussed over the last three weeks. Maybe even join us...

Peace be with all of you, my brothers, and Vivat Jesus (May Jesus Live)

Robert E. Pratt Jr. ~ Grand Knight
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