

Dear Interested Knights,

Our **“Personal Holiness”** mission within Council 6020 of the Knights of Columbus is now official in several ways:

1. Today I had a brief discussion with Father Jerome Karcher of our preliminary plans which he approves of including our title of “Personal Holiness.” There were detailed meetings in the past this one was just a kind of final “here we go” quick meeting.
2. Each month, we are formally to report on our efforts at our monthly Council Business Meeting which meets every 3rd Thursday of the Month.
3. As of Friday a **monthly meeting** is officially on the St Vincent de Paul Calendar to be held the **First Tuesday of each month** in the parish hall after the 8:30AM Mass.
4. As of Friday a **weekly meeting** is officially on the St Vincent de Paul Calendar to be held every **Wednesday from 6:00PM to 7:00PM**, with some exceptions, per the schedule below.

The full title of our Mission is “Personal Holiness in the Catholic Tradition” as our main focus will be on encouraging each and every Knight of Columbus to grow in personal holiness. Our group, along with its meetings and tasks to be identified as we move forward is a major, long term effort. We will focus on personal holiness “in the Catholic Tradition” meaning encouraging devotions such as daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Spiritual Reading, Lectio Divina, Morning Prayers, Evening Prayers, the Mission of Our Lady of Fatima and so on. These are the kinds of spiritual activities that canonized saints have recommended through the centuries. Related to personal holiness these same saints tell us the results of such devotional practices not only bring us closer to God but also closer to our neighbor and more invigorated to charitable activities.

Meetings will never be mandatory. We have quite a few meetings scheduled and also plan to have scheduled meetings at St Bonaventure as well. The point of so many meeting is that Knights are all busy and we will never find a time that meets everyone’s schedule. The scheduling is patterned after St Vincent de Paul’s “Catholic Inquiry” which is weekly at 7:00PM to approximately 8:30PM. In Catholic Inquiry, which I facilitated every week for over 10 years, we address the issues of those who attend. It is fluid and addressed to the personal needs of those who happen to attend,

Our meetings and priorities will develop as we go with input from all involved. A general format for the meeting is loosely based on the monthly Cursillo meetings which are divided into three parts: Piety, Study, and Action. We go into more detail as meetings progress.

Meetings will be open not just to Knights but to anyone and everyone. Part of the mission given the Knights by both Father Jerome and Father Joe is to inspire and encourage others to grow in personal holiness.

The sources of the “Personal Holiness” mission, in order of priority, is as follows:

1. Bishop Kevin Vann’s call for all Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Orange to take a leadership role in growing Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, in every parish within a Council.
2. Father Jerome and Father Joe’s call for the Knights to grow in personal holiness with an emphasis on “personal” and without trying to somehow prove Council 6020 is already holy.

3. The new "Faith in Action" program which is intentionally third in priority because our Bishop's call should absolutely be first, and our pastors' call should be second.

The identified starting approach and tasks described below come from a number of meetings already held with most of those on this email list, as well as Father Jerome and the Diocesan Team to grow Eucharistic Adoration which, at the request of Bishop Vann, I am currently leading.

Please note that justification of the priorities below is not included. For justification please read the Resolution documents found at <http://www.ocadoration.org/knights>

Priority 1 Eucharistic Adoration

In contrast to what was already stated, the ultimate goal of our first priority is very easy to state. Both St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul will have 24 hours per day, 7 days per week Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Exposition is really a numbers game. The Church requires that during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament there must always be at least one person physically present, preferable at least two. Twenty four hour per day times seven days per week times two adorers present at each hour means 336 people are needed to take one holy hour per week in order for both St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul to both have 24/7 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.

With 250 Knights and 200 Spouses we Council 6020 of the Knights of the Eucharist (which Carl Anderson claims the Knights of Columbus are also known for) can take all the hours at both parishes. This of course would not be the goal but it shows the potential. **At this time** less than 10 Knights are scheduled at St Vincent de Paul for weekly holy hours so **at this time it is unrealistic to even attempt to take a "leadership" role as Bishop Vann requested.** So Priority 2 will be out first priority for the time being.

Priority 2 Personal Holiness

As we Knights grow in personal holiness we will come to the realization of the importance of Bishop Vann's request not only for our parishes and our diocese but the world. The purpose of our ongoing "Personal Holiness" meetings will be to foster this growth. We have come up with the following initial suggestions for each Knight to try and incorporate into their lives:

1. **Daily Mass.** The Holy Mass is by far the best prayer. Sunday Mass of course is obligatory and no matter how busy we Knights are on Sundays we know nothing we do is ever more important than our Sunday obligation. But daily Mass is a habit that can change one's life and foster personal holiness.
2. **Visits to the Blessed Sacrament.** A scheduled weekly holy hour has so many benefits to personal holiness but in the event that we are not able or willing to do this we should try and make frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament even if it is only for a few minutes. Certainly any time we are at the parish for Knights events we should stop in for a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. **If you visit the Blessed Sacrament at St Vincent de Paul** write your name followed by "K of C" on the attendance sheet so we can include this in our weekly attendance. **Especially encouraged the 11:00PM Holy Hour of Adoration every 7th day of the month at St Bonaventure.** Like most ministries at St Bonaventure, the Knights have taken a single hour each month. Attendance has traditionally been sparse with between 1 and 7 Knights in attendance.

Dave Brach's departure was notable in that attendance went down as it did with the recent departure of Denny Shields.

3. **Silent Prayerful Preparation before and after Mass.** We should never "chit chat" in the Church with others before Mass. We are about to participate in the most holy event in the world. We should get to Mass a little early and no matter how early time in the Church should be spent in prayerful silence. This would be especially true when we are wearing Knights of Columbus apparel. Our sincere prayerful piety will inspire others. This silent prayerful preparation would include our participation as ministers of hospitality and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.
4. **Monthly Confession.** The Sacrament of Confession will help us grow in personal holiness.
5. **Daily Rosary.** Every Knight knows the importance of the rosary. We are supposed to pray it and carry it. While the rosary can be prayed any time and any place the Church encourages praying the rosary in a group and in Church. **St Bonaventure has a 5:00PM to 6:00PM devotion every weekday in the Church. The rosary itself begins approximately 5:30PM. This is a perfect way to start the monthly Knights business Meeting.**
6. **Spiritual Reading.** The Holy Bible takes pride of place in spiritual reading but also the writings of the saints, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and many other resources are available to inspire one to personal holiness. **One book particularly appropriate for a Knight of Columbus is "The Soul of the Apostolate" by Jean-Baptiste Chautard which was the bedside reading of Pope St Pius X. This inspiring book explains in great detail the necessity of a serious prayer life to those involved in active works and the pitfalls of being consumed with active works at the expense of a prayer life**
7. **Make Your 3rd Degree or Sideline the New 3rd Degree.** The new 3rd degree is very relevant to our Personal Holiness efforts. Every Knight owes it to themselves to be aware of the specificity of this relevance.

In addition to our personal holiness we are to find ways to inspire others to personal holiness. At St Vincent de Paul we have obtained permission to keep the chapel stocked with three booklets, two of them are published by the Knights of Columbus. These booklets are stamped with a message "Provided by the Knights of Columbus Council 6020. May you grow in personal holiness." Along with that message our council email is provided and a telephone number.

Our weekly and monthly meetings will also be open to anyone interested and this will be a way for the Knights to inspire others to grow in personal holiness.

Priority 3 Faith in Action

The State letter on the "Faith in Action" program is available on the web site already listed. The first directive of the State program is very much in line with our Priority 2. While there are several worthy efforts, I find it quite surprising that Eucharistic Adoration is not mentioned given we are the "Knights of the Eucharist" however all items in the program need to be addressed.

As an example the Program calls for "Consecration" to the Holy Family but when the details of this consecration are researched it is very weak. Any consecration should be intended as a life changing event. I know that requests to promote "consecrations" in the past have been rejected by Father Jerome at St Vincent de Paul because the content of the "consecration" was without serious depth. At the same time Father Jerome very much encourages personal Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as taught

by St Louis de Montfort and St Maximillian Kolbe because Father Jerome knows the beauty, value, and seriousness of Marian Consecration done properly.

As we move forward each Faith in Action item should be addressed.

Scheduled Meeting Dates and Times.

Below are the formally scheduled meeting times for "Personal Holiness" at St Vincent de Paul. Elsa, St Vincent de Paul's Parish Manager informed me there are some gaps in the weekly meetings but as you can see there are not many gaps.

Monthly

06/05/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
07/03/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
08/07/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
09/04/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
10/02/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
11/06/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
12/04/2018 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
01/01/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
02/05/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
03/05/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
04/02/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
05/07/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall
06/04/2019 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Parish Hall

Weekly

05/30/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/06/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/13/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/27/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
07/04/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
07/11/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
07/18/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
07/25/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
08/01/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
08/08/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
08/15/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
08/22/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
08/29/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
09/05/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
09/12/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
09/19/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
09/26/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
10/10/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E

10/24/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
10/31/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
11/14/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
11/21/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
11/28/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
12/19/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
12/26/2018 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
01/02/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
01/09/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
01/23/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
02/13/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
02/27/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
03/13/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
03/27/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
04/10/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
04/24/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
05/08/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
05/15/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
05/22/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
05/29/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/05/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/12/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/19/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E
06/26/2019 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Room E