

Eucharistic Adoration and Spirituality in Council 6020

The purpose of this document is to provide a plan for Council 6020 to rise to the challenge presented by Bishop Kevin Vann to all the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Orange as well rising to the challenge presented by the pastors of St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul. This is to be a working document that will develop as time goes by (James 4:14).

In a letter to all the Knights Bishop Vann called for the Knights not only to make Eucharistic Adoration a part of each Knight's life but also for all the Councils to take a leadership role in growing Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at their parishes.

In addition, Council 6020 has been called upon by the pastors of St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul to have every Knight make an effort to grow in personal holiness and inspire others in their parishes to do the same.

In response to these calls within Council 6020 a formal resolution has been written titled

“KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6020 RESOLUTION TO MAKE INCREASING SPIRITUALITY AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION A REPORTABLE BUSINESS ITEM”

This initial plan is divided into the following section: Spiritual Requirements, Surveys and Issue Identification, Eucharistic Adoration, Spiritual Tasks – Personal Holiness, and Spiritual Tasks – Parish Inspiration.

Past Grand Knight Russell Morrisey had this to say about this effort:

“The Knights of Columbus have often been described as a service organization—and so it is. But Knights have historically acted together with the Church's priests and bishops. The Bishop of Orange and the pastors of our Council 6020's two parishes have asked us to become “more spiritual.” In many ways we are already spiritual in that our practice has been to start with a good Catholic man and transform him into a better Catholic man.

By virtue of our Baptism and Confirmation we are called to spread the faith in some way. In the early church our religion grew rapidly because non-believers were attracted to it. Attraction is still a powerful force in any type of good work. Many of the members of our Council serve the Church in various capacities such as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, lectors, ministers of hospitality.

Some Knights are currently doing Eucharistic Adoration. The short-term goal is to increase the number of Knights involved in this key ministry. There is no better way to increase our faith and to influence our fellow Knights and parishioners than in this ministry. It is key to resisting the further secularization of our culture including the barbarous practice of abortion. Mass attendance is down to 20%. Very few Catholic families have children who also practice their religion on a regular basis. This must change and will change if we are more spiritual.”

At a recent Chapter Meeting where Bishop Vann's letter asking the Knights to take a leadership role in Eucharistic Adoration was presented and commented upon, one Grand Knight mentioned that the Knights already do so much work and expressed fear this could likely be taken as just another task to pile on an already heavy load.

Pope Francis addressed this fear in his March 2018 Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exultate* (*The Call to Holiness in Today's World*):

“Do not be afraid of holiness. It will take away none of your energy, vitality or joy. On the contrary, you will become what the Father had in mind when he created you, and you will be faithful to your deepest self.”

Eucharistic Adoration

Bishop Vann wants Knights to take a “Leadership Role” in growing perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and this is not a short-term mission. The Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Orange could look upon this current call from our Bishop as the Knights 40 years ago looked upon Bishop Johnson’s call for the Knights to take on the ID Drive. In the decades to come it is hoped that when “Eucharistic Adoration” is mentioned the Diocese of Orange, the Knights of Columbus naturally come to mind.

The Catholic Church requires at least one person (preferably two or more) be present when Our Lord and God is exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. As such, Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration requires the commitment of Eucharistic Adorers to at least one scheduled hour per week such that all the hours of Exposition are guaranteed to have adorers present. The Church and/or Chapel must not be left vacant when Jesus is exposed.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament requires manpower. For a parish to have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (24/7) approximately 300 holy hours need to be filled (with 2 adorers per hour). Carl Anderson stated “we are providentially positioned to take up the challenge of a leadership role in the renewal of parish life: to be the strong right arm of our parish priests...we must reach out into more parishes with an active presence”. Certainly, growing Eucharistic Adoration calls for this role and active presence.

At the time of this writing St Vincent de Paul has Exposition from Monday 9:00 AM around the clock until Thursday 8:00 PM. There are 200 adorers covering those hours. Only about six of them are Knights at this time. At St Bonaventure the Knights, like most of the other ministries at St Bonaventure, are responsible for one single holy hour per month and on average there have been about five Knights in attendance., less the past few months.

WHEN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BECOME THE CHAMPIONS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, ALL HEAVEN WILL REJOICE! (And the Catholic world will follow them to His Presence)

For the Knights of Council 6020 to take a “leadership” role, significant personal weekly holy hour signups will be required. If every Knight and spouse took a weekly holy hour both St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul could both be 24/7 Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels.



At the time of this writing the Knights involved in this effort agree that Bishop Vann’s call is not something Council 6020 is up for at this time. It is seen as a long-term goal that hopefully will be a byproduct of the spiritual tasks to grow in personal holiness as requested by St Bonaventure and St Vincent de Paul pastors, and as described below.

Spiritual Requirements

Father Jerome and Father Joe want the Knights of Council 6020 to become more spiritual especially the “active” Knights. The first step is for Council 6020 is to pass the “Spirituality” Resolution. The resolution calls for “Spirituality” to be a recurring item on the Council Business Meeting agenda.

The goal of this effort should be to set every single Knight of Columbus ON FIRE for the Catholic Faith such that sparks fly off to all parishioners. With a true zeal for the salvation of souls we Knights should become CATHOLIC PYROMANIACS.

In respect to Bishop Vann's call and also because there is really no better way to increase one's spirituality, every Knight in Council 6020 will be encouraged attend Holy Mass as much as possible and to make personal personal, unscheduled visits to the Blessed Sacrament at every opportunity. Never stop by the Church without making at least a quick visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament has been the advice of saints for centuries.

Joining in public Adoration and prayers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is especially useful not only for personal holiness but to inspire others. Council 6020 Business meetings are providentially scheduled at St Bonaventure because from 5:00PM to 6:00PM in the Church there is public prayer which includes the rosary, which all Knights carry with them.

At St Vincent de Paul we ask that if a Knight visits the Blessed Sacrament he notes on the Sign-in sheet his name with "K of C" following it.

Surveys and Issue Identification

Why are the Knights not generally considered spiritual? Certainly, Knights personally take on many roles in the parish and participate in spiritual activities. The Knights don't really emphasize and/or tend to ignore this aspect of the faith.

As previously mentioned, at a recent Chapter meeting Grand Knights talked about having pet projects and considering spiritual efforts as just another thing to do with no priority given them. Often Knights would rather spend eight hours working/socializing than one hour in prayer. Some inactive Knights have expressed disappointment regarding a lack of spirituality among the Knights. Council 6020 has never really sponsored a spiritual event or offered opportunities for spiritual retreats. Such efforts have been left to other organizations within the parish.

A first step activity suggested by the Knights involved in the "Spirituality" resolution is to conduct a phone survey on personal devotions of our Knights to gather information on the following: Mass frequency, Rosary, Bible Study, Public Liturgies, Retreats, Other Organizations, Spiritual Reading, Favorite Spiritual Books, Adoration, personal prayer habits, solicit suggestions, level of participation in Knight events, What Degree, Been to new 3rd Degree.

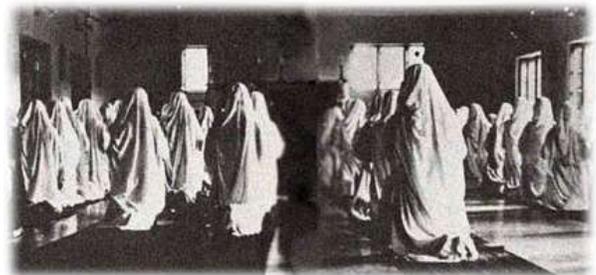
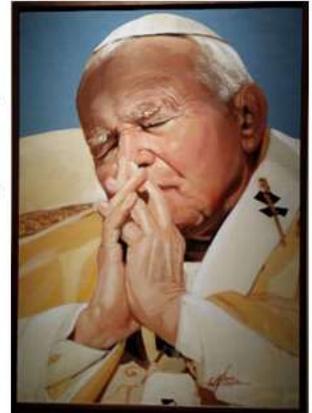
The purpose of this survey is not to somehow try and prove the Knights are already greatly spiritual so we should be happy where we are but rather to garner ideas from what is being done now that can be used to help all Knights flourish and to possibly find areas of spiritual weakness.

"The ultimate criterion of your dynamism is not to be found in human ingenuity, or activity, or even organization. It is to be found in union with Jesus Christ, above all in Eucharistic worship.

The real test of the Christian vitality of the village, the parish, the diocese and the nation is found in the answer to the question:

What place does the Holy Eucharist have in your lives?"

St John Paul II speaking to a group of lay persons quoted by Supreme Knight of Columbus Carl Anderson



"Although the world praised Mother Teresa for feeding the poor and bandaging the sick, secular media often ignored the only part of her day that was absolutely consistent and, in her view, vital -- the hour she spent, every single day, in Eucharistic adoration."

Supreme Knight of Columbus Carl Anderson

Spiritual Tasks – Personal Holiness

In Scripture God calls us to “Be holy as I am holy.” In meeting the call of our pastors, each Knight has to make personal holiness a priority. In addition to daily Mass (or as often as you can) and regular visits to the Blessed Sacrament (with a personal weekly scheduled holy hour a long-term goal) the following activities have been suggested by Knights involved with the “Spirituality” resolution.

- Become a 3rd Degree Knight or sideline new 3rd Degree as the lessons of this degree are so much in line with the goals of this effort.
- Attend proposed informal “Spirituality” meetings that will be scheduled once the “Spirituality” resolution is passed. At these meeting (open to all not just Knights) we can share personal devotions and teach private devotions such as Rosary meditations, Liturgy of the Hours, Catholic Meditation, Stages of Prayer.
- Make a habit of Catholic Spiritual Reading which gives pride of place to the Sacred Scriptures and where authors have “Saint” in front of their names or the books have been read by canonized saints or are about canonized saints. Possibly there can be a kind of Book of the Month club.
- Attend spiritual retreats such as the Passionist Retreat advocated by past Grand Knight Russel Morrisey and/or make a Cursillo, and/or attend retreats organized as part of this “Spirituality” effort.
- Have the Business Meeting Spiritual Nourishment talks focus on the identified spiritual tasks in process. Examples of topics are “Daily Mass”, “Spiritual Communion”, “Preparation for Communion as taught by St Louis de Montfort”, “Prayer Priority and Action Priority in the Legion of Mary.”
- Attend the Pro-Life prayer events especially those supported by our Council 6020.
- Participate in existing parish spiritual events such as prayer groups, bible studies, Alpha, Vespers, First Fridays, First Saturdays and, of course, Eucharistic Adoration.

Spiritual Tasks – Parish Inspiration

Our pastors have asked the Knights inspire others. In addition, it is acknowledged that few Knights are “active” and everyone is trying to figure out what to do about it.

It is impossible to separate all Spiritual Tasks into “Personal Holiness” and “Parish Inspiration.” They are not mutually exclusive. While the following suggestions are under “Parish Inspiration” they are certainly valid at the personal level:

- Purchase spiritual books for Adult Confirmation, RCIA Candidates & Catechumens, Youth Confirmation and other spiritual events such as formal bible studies. The Knights will gain visibility from providing this support and can recruit from such groups.
- Donate more classic devout “free” books at the Got Faith Questions table.
- Research K of C devotional recommendations and offerings. These include K of C pamphlet publications such as “The Holy Eucharist”, “The Eucharist”, “Light and Silence: A Eucharistic Diary”, and “The Messages of Our Lady of Fatima.” In addition, recommended spiritual devotions should be considered. It should not be surprising that among these devotions the Knights of Columbus call on Councils to participate in Eucharistic Adoration even suggesting that Eucharistic Adoration is a great way to gain Council membership.
- Provide chapel literature such as Holy Hour pamphlets and the above Knights publications.
- Keep track of and publish a Spiritual Calendar at parish levels. Handouts can be left at Catholic bookstores and parish literature racks.

- Sponsor spiritual events at the Parish level such as the Vatican Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles or Marian Consecration seminars. Develop a Eucharistic Retreat, Custom retreats on the Eucharist for Knights and spouses, as suggested by Father Jerome, (but open to more than the Knights makes sense).
- Foster the Sacredness of Holy Mass and the Church building by not talking in Church before, during, after Mass.
- Acknowledge the “loss of sacredness” in the Catholic Church and foster sacredness of sponsored events with an effort to save souls. NO LATE-NIGHT CATECHISM for example which at the very least does nothing to inspire holiness and at worst is a (good natured?) mockery of the Catholic faith.
- Promote the messages of Our Lady of Fatima especially prayer and sacrifice.
- Promote Eucharistic Adoration as the means by which all the hopes expressed by Pope Francis in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)* can become reality. A presentation of this is especially valuable for those involved in various ministries who find themselves too busy with the ministry work to take time for prayer and contemplation.

Father Jerome would like Nocturnal Adoration Society at least one night per month with 1st Friday making the most sense since Mass already takes place in the evening. The Nocturnal Adoration Society is a Hispanic organization that provides it own “manpower.” The Knights could help make this desire of Father Jerome a reality.

Summary

There are many ways for each Knight to grow in Spirituality and find joy in doing so. As we come to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strengths we can find our work here on this earth will not only bring us closer to God but many others along with us. Spirituality can cure the worlds’ woes especially Eucharistic Adoration as both St John Paul II and St Mother Teresa have stated.

As has already been stated: WHEN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BECOME THE CHAMPIONS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, ALL HEAVEN WILL REJOICE! (And the Catholic world will follow them to His Presence).



(and Knights membership will grow).