

## **Message to Knights of Columbus**

**Gathered at the Mid-year Meeting  
January 8-10, 2010**

Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Father Ready and Father Abe, and all my brother Knights.

I had hoped to send you a message by means of a CD or video, but circumstances have not been conducive to the approach. So, I thought that I would send you this written message as a substitute. I am grateful to Father Ready for sharing these thoughts of my heart with you.

All of us are called to be holy, each one within his God-given vocation. I would like to apply this truth to you as Knights of Columbus.

The universal call to Holiness is grounded in the Sacrament of Baptism. When you and I were born again of water and the Holy Spirit, we were each called to become holy, to live as a son in the Son, Jesus Christ. This call to become holy becomes specific by the individual vocation which God will for each one of us: for many among us, marriage and fatherhood; for some others, priesthood or diaconate or the consecrated life; and for still others, the single life lived chastely for the sake of God's Kingdom. (Within this latter vocation, one could include "widowhood" following the death of one's spouse.)

I am also convinced that a definite aspect of living out our individual call to holiness flows from the fact that you and I are members of the Knights of Columbus. In other words, being a Knight influences how we respond to God's call to be holy within our specific vocation-how in practice we live this fundamental call. After all, to be a Knight means far more than being a member of a club or of a social organization. To be a Knight means belonging to a religious society founded by the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, inspired by the witness of his life and guided by the principle which he espoused and gave to us as pillars for this particular society.

Certainly, love and care for those in need was for Father McGivney a fundamental principle in living a life of holiness and in forming a group of Catholic men called the Knights of Columbus.

So, inspired by his love and care for those in need and seeking to integrate this basic principle into our own efforts to be holy, we can ask: “Do I know and admit my own needs of soul and body? Do I know and seek to respond to the spiritual and material needs to those around me, beginning with the family? Am I sensitive and aware in a truly Christian way? How do I seek to respond to these spiritual and material needs? What made Venerable Father McGivney so responsive to the needs of his time was the sensitivity deeply present within him. In an article written by Father Peter John Cameron, O.P., for the January 2010 issue of *The Magnificat*, Father McGivney’s sensitivity is pointed out as the source of his priestly love and care for those in need. “But wasn’t this sensitivity the very source of Father McGivney’s astonishing priesthood? Pope John Paul II tells us that priests ‘should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems’ Father McGivney did this par excellence” (p. 9).

Dear Brother Knights, each one of us, as spiritual sons of Father McGivney, should possess the kind of sensitivity which will impel us to become more aware of and to respond to the spiritual and material needs of those whose lives interact with ours. This will be our prayer: “Lord Jesus, make my heart truly sensitive to the needs of others, as Yours was and as Father McGivney’s was in imitation of You. Then, let me respond as God the Holy Spirit guides me to do.”

Yes, my Brother Knights, you and I are called to be holy within the specific vocation which God has given us and to integrate into our living out this call to holiness the sensitivity of heart which our founder Father McGivney possessed.

Please accept this message which comes from my heart to yours. Please also continue to pray for Brother David Eddy. As you are aware, Brother David was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in November and is currently undergoing a series of chemotherapy sessions. He is very tired and has little energy. Hopefully, in time and with the assistance of our prayerful support, Brother David will regain his energy. He is very grateful for your expressions of concern and above all, your prayers for him. *Vivat Jesus!*

Bishop Paul S. Loverde  
State Chaplain