

Knights Knews



Grand Knight's Message

Members of the council meet together on Tuesday mornings to attend the 9 AM Mass and then join in fellowship for coffee and refreshments afterward. We would like to invite you to join us when you can. Family members are invited as well. Its a great way to start the New Year, give the morning to God and have fellowship with you brother Knights and parishioners.

We are always looking for new members. Talk to male parishioners 18 and over. If they want to join the Knights have the person fill out a Knights form 100.

We will have a membership blitz 10-11 Feb. There will be Knight announcements before all masses and we would like to have Knights after masses to greet all parishioners.

The Heritage Festival is nearly here. The big tent is up and the ride company is setting up rides. The festival is Feb 2-4. The Knights cook and

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serve food at the All American food booth.

A luau fundraiser is being planned more details will be provided soon.

We will be having K of C officer elections in June. Please consider being an officer. We have some new members and being an officer is a great way to help Council 13243 prosper.

I became a Knight be a better Catholic. I had attended a Christ Renews His Parish retreat and many of the retreat team leader were Knights. I am a Knight and have become more active in Our Lady of Grace ministries.

Kairos is a prison ministry. Kairos meetings start on Feb 12 for an upcoming Kairos prison retreat. Please email Mark Stephenson if you want to know about Kairos, email is mstephenson18@cfl.rr.com

The Hygiene Ministry desperately needs donations of Men's and Women's: underwear, tee shirts, socks, deodorant, bug spray, sunscreen and chapstick. These items can be dropped off at the hall on Fridays from 11-2 or at the Church.

St. Vincent DePaul needs help every Wednesday at 8 am to unload food at the Battersea St. location. Help St. Vincent DePaul if you can.

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Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
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We live in a world of options and we are constantly bombarded by choices. Some of these make our lives more complicated, but many of these choices are created with our satisfaction in mind.

At the Knights of Columbus, every product we offer has been designed solely for the benefit of our members and their families. When I present an option to you, it's because a team of experts has discussed it at length to be certain it serves your best interest.

We have a few options on how you can provide and pay for the whole life coverage that your family needs. Many whole life policies call for premiums to be paid for your entire life or to age 100. But we also offer permanent life coverage with guaranteed cash values (and the potential to earn dividends, which are not guaranteed) through policies that offer a limited period of premium payments.

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A plan with similar benefits is "Life Paid Up at 65." The difference over 10 or 20 Pay Life plans is that this permanent product requires you to pay premiums until age 65. Then, premiums stop (just in time for retirement), but the plan remains in force.

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To learn more about these products, our long-term care insurance, disability income or retirement products, please call me today.

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2/01 – David Hebert 2/13 – Todd White
2/03 – Paul Headlee 2/18 – Miguel Cartagena
2/09 – Santiago Garcia 2/18 – Michael Otten
2/12 – Ezra James

Anniversary of Knighthood

2/01/62 – David Sterman
2/07/91 – William Wanca
2/25/93 – Jack Davis Sr.
2/16/99 – Edward Schmitt

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2/16/99 – Adrian Sequeira
2/02/04 – Angel Hernandez
2/23/04 – Robert Lepri

The Family Fully Alive



THEME – THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The foundation of the domestic church is the sacrament of marriage. It is therefore important to reflect often on the mystery and calling of this sacrament. Also, our children may be called to become spouses and parents, so it is important to help them understand the type of love that is necessary in marriage and family life.

Meditation

From a homily by St. John Chrysostom on Marriage and Family Life

How is marriage a mystery? The two have become one. This is not an empty symbol. They have not become the image of anything on earth, but of God Himself. ... They come to be made into one body. See the mystery of love! If the two do not become one, they cannot increase; they can increase only by decreasing! How great is the strength of unity!

From Pope John Paul II's Familiaris Consortio

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The Spirit which the Lord pours forth [in the sacrament of marriage] gives a new heart, and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ has loved us. Conjugal love reaches that fullness to which it is interiorly ordained, conjugal charity, which is the proper and specific way in which the spouses participate in and are called to live the very charity of Christ who gave Himself on the Cross. ... Spouses are therefore the permanent reminder to the Church of what happened on the Cross; they are for one another and for the children witnesses to the salvation in which the sacrament makes them sharers.

1. Do we think of marriage differently when we remember that Christ is present in the sacrament of marriage? How does this change or challenge our personal views of love?
2. What do we think of St. John Chrysostom's principle of Christian married love — that spouses and family "increase" by "decreasing"? How does this principle relate to the words that we hear from John the Baptist: "He must increase; I must decrease" (Jn 3:30)?
3. Have we loved each family member by sacrificing for them as Christ has done for each of us? In what ways do each of us do this? In what ways could we be better at this?

Scripture Reading - Psalm 128

A prayer of the happy home that follows the Lord

Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and who walk in his ways.

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What your hands provide you will enjoy;
you will be blessed and prosper:
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your home,
Your children like young olive plants
around your table.
Just so will the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Zion;
may you see Jerusalem's prosperity
all the days of your life,
and live to see your children's children.
Peace upon Israel!

Family Project

Read the below nuptial prayer from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony. Share memories about your wedding day with your family over a nice family meal. At this meal, have each child share one thing they appreciate about their parents' marriage. Then, each spouse should share one reason why they are grateful for their marriage and how each one sees Christ as present in their marriage.

Nuptial Blessing

Holy Father, who formed man in your image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfill their calling in the world; O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful. ...

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May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel. ... Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Fathers for Good: How would you define/describe "spousal friendship" – how is it similar to or different from other types of friendship?

The ancient Greeks had four words to describe love: sexual and romantic love (*eros*), the love of friendship (*philia*), familiar everyday love for ordinary things (*storge*), and generous self-sacrificing love (*agape*). Marriage is unique because, besides our relationship with God, it is the one relationship where all four of these types of love can and should be present.

So spousal friendship is indeed a special kind of friendship (*philia*), distinguished by its more passionate elements (*eros*), its everyday familiarity (*storge*), and above all, by a self-sacrificing love (*agape*) that puts the spouse and her needs above one's own.

Our Lord himself taught by his words, and demonstrated in his passion and death, that the greatest love is that in which a man lays down

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his life for his friends. St. Paul described a man's friendship with his wife in precisely the same terms – husbands love your wives as Christ loved the Church, and gave himself up for her.

FFG: What Is a common barrier to friendship?

Dr. Kheriaty: In his excellent book, *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis describes some of the difficulties encountered in spousal friendships. He considers the situation of a wife who stays at home doing domestic work and rearing the children, while the husband is involved in the world of professional life outside the home. Lewis reminds us that friendship is always based upon common interests and common projects.

When one spouse works professionally outside of the home and the other does not, he argues that friendship tends to wane – the wife, no matter how hard she tries to “keep up,” will eventually feel alienated from the husband's professional interests. He moves in different circles, from which she inevitably feels excluded. Try as she might, she cannot “talk the talk” with him in the same way his colleagues can. Thus, Lewis argues, friendship between spouses in these circumstances becomes progressively more difficult with time. He does

not offer much in the way of a solution to this difficulty.

Without denying the potential problem he describes, I am more optimistic about the possibility of friendship between spouses, even those who, in their daily professional work, move in different circles. First of all, consider the spouses' common interests and projects, upon which a solid friendship can be built. For most married couples, God blesses their union with children. What could be a more important, fascinating, and demanding common project than parenthood? Good parenting requires constant communication, cooperation, and mutual support between spouses – the very stuff upon which a friendship can develop.

Of course, the foundation for their friendship needs to go beyond parenting – otherwise, when the children are out of the house, the spouses run the risk of losing their only common project. So their friendship should include other common interests and activities – politics, hobbies, projects, reading together, discussions and conversations about cultural topics.

Finally, if the man who works outside the home does not try to include his wife in his professional interests and activities, if he does not attempt to speak with her about his daily joys, sorrows, and concerns, then he is not

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treating her as an equal, as a true friend. She will feel this and resent it, as Lewis noted. To avoid this problem, men should be ready to talk with their wives about their work when they get home, even if they are tired from a busy day, and would prefer to sit with the TV or newspaper. Likewise, wives should attempt to show interest in their husband's professional life – if not for an interest in the work itself, then for his sake.

FFG: How important is "spousal friendship" to happy marriage?

Dr. Kheriaty: It is indispensable. Perhaps the most common cause of divorce is the lack of a solid and constant friendship between spouses. This foundation of friendship remains firm when the emotions and passions of eros wax and wane.

The antidote to the proverbial "seven-year itch" is real friendship that continues to be cultivated year after year. This takes work – it often requires sacrifice and always requires effort. A well-known psychologist has done studies comparing successful marriage relationships with those that end in divorce. The worst sign of a troubled marriage is what he calls "stonewalling" – a total lack of engagement between the spouses.

When the lives of a husband and wife begin to run on parallel tracks that never meet, the marriage is likely doomed if things do not change. Interestingly, this psychologist argues that for spouses who are "stonewalled," even getting them to argue with one another is a step in the right direction; at least in arguing they are engaging with one another.

Friends sometimes have disagreements, so spouses will have occasional arguments (of course, this should never be done in front of the children, and attempts to reconcile should come quickly). What should be avoided at all costs is a lack of daily engagement, a distance or coldness between spouses. This kills friendship; and when the spousal friendship dies, the marriage is in trouble.

FFG: What are some practical "everyday" things a husband can do to achieve "spousal friendship"?

Dr. Kheriaty: 1. A husband should pray with his wife daily. This can take many forms – the family rosary, night time prayers with the children, quiet mental prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament, vocal prayers. The husband should be the spiritual leader in the family (giving good example to the children), and the spiritual leader in the marriage (helping his wife on her way to heaven).

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2. He must demonstrate his love with words and deeds. Women need to hear, and to be shown, "I love you" many times a day. Just as Our Lady never tires of hearing the repeated prayers of the rosary, so our wife never tires of hearing how much we love her.

Tender and affectionate words are never boring or repetitious when love is present. So we say it (over and over – with phone calls, e-mails, or text messages during the workday), and then we show it.

Take care of the Saturday "honey-do" list without complaint. Try to anticipate her needs. Come up with projects that you can do together. Love is deeds, not sweet words (but the sweet words are necessary as well).

Finally: It sounds clichéd, but flowers work every time. Bring her flowers often – for no apparent reason, and without the need of a "special occasion." They are a great way to diffuse arguments or tensions: swallow your pride, and be the first to apologize.

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Council Web Site:

www.Knights13243 Facebook page:

Knights of Columbus 13243

State web site: floridakofc.org

Supreme web site: kofc.org

Knights gear: kofc.org/knightsgear



Knights putting tops on tents