Knight's Table

In this series we shall briefly review the history of knighthood as it relates to the Church: Part 1 - Knighthood and the Church; Part 2 - The Relationship of the Knights of Columbus to the Vatican (1895 to 1969 CE); and Part 3 - The Relationship of the Knights of Columbus to the Vatican (1977 to 2014 CE).

Part 1 – Knighthood and the Church

The concept of knighthood can be traced to tenth century Europe. Western Europe was being invaded by barbarians and Muslims. The nobles and elite of societies formed bands of specialized protectors who served as spear bearing mounted warriors protecting their lands and servants. They were sometimes given titles of knighthood for their services. Knighthood, as we know it, is derived from the Holy Orders established by the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages. During the Crusades, the rules governing monastic Orders were extended to soldiers in the Holy Land. They established religious-military orders to further the battle for Christianity and to protect the safety of pilgrims and the less fortunate. These warriors were skilled horsemen and fighters. As Europe became more Christianized, the rank of Knight became associated with the ideals of chivalry and was governed by a strict code of conduct and oaths to uphold the faith, loyalty, courage and honor. To distinguish different Orders, the use of colored banners was predominate along with other marks of identification on their shields, armor, helmets, and surcoats.

Literature of the day began to popularize Knights as romantic images.

The Church established a number of different military-monastic Holy Orders during the Middle Ages, the most important being Knight Hospitaller (1st Crusade 1099 CE), Order of the Holy Sepulcher (1099 CE), Order of St. Lazarus (1100 CE), Knights Templar (1118 CE), and the Teutonic Knights (1190 CE). In later years, there were numerous chivalric and honorific orders of knighthood. Almost every country had its secular Order of Knights, modeled on the regular Orders.

Of interest here are the Papal Orders of Knighthood. These orders are awarded in the name of the pope. The Holy See has five Equestrian Orders:

**Supreme Order of Christ:** This award is given infrequently and is limited to Roman Catholic heads of state.

**Order of the Golden Spur (Militia):** This is limited to Christian sovereigns and heads of state. Membership is limited to 100 recipients.

**Order of Pius IX:** This award is given to non-Catholics and to non-Christians.

**The Order of St. Gregory the Great:** Awarded in four classes (military and civilian) for conspicuous service to the Catholic Church without regard to religious affiliation.
The Order of St. Sylvester, Pope and Martyr:

This award recognizes members of the laity and non-Catholics for active service to the Apostolates.

There is a great deal of information available for other Orders associated with the Church, both online and at the public library.

Just like a Knight's Son

It was a fine sunny afternoon and little Tony was outside playing with his friends. He confiscated his mother's broom as a steed and he and his friends led one charge after another. The enemy never stood a chance. It became evening and it was getting dark so Tony and his friends abandoned the games and headed for home. Tony left his steed in the backyard on his way into the house.

His mother happened to be cleaning the kitchen when she realized her broom was missing. She asked Tony about the broom and he related the fine time he had that afternoon. She asked him to go and retrieve the broom so that she could complete her chore. Tony then informed his mother that he was afraid of the dark and did not wish to go and get the broom.

His mother smiled, patted him on the head, and said, “The Lord is out there, too, do not be afraid.”

Tony then opened the back door just a little and said, “Lord, since you’re out there anyway, would you please pass me the broom.”

By the Way

A man told Bishop Sheen he did not believe in hell. The Bishop replied, “You will when you get there.”

“If we are to find the source of the life, truth, and love that is in the world, we have to go to a life that is not mingled with its shadow, death; to a truth that is not mingled with its shadow, error; to a love that is not mingled with its shadow, hate.”

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Prayers for the Sick and Infirm

Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. Oh dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviate our worry and sorrow with your gentle love, and grant us the grace and strength to accept the burden. Dear God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge Your will and know that whatever You do, You do for the love of us. Amen.

In Memoriam

May the souls of all of the faithful who have departed rest in peace with the Lord.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small Churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.”

Pope Francis, Vatican Radio, 12/29/13

About Our Faith

Part 3 - The Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity Understood

Throughout the 2000 years of Church history, it has combated Trinitarian heresies and some still exist today. Most of the arguments against Church doctrine are not objective and some are biased against the Church.
Common disagreements point out that the word trinity does not appear in the Bible, that there are no teachings of the Trinity in the Bible, that the Trinity is not Christian but pagan, and that the Church is guilty of promoting pagan practices, as well as other arguments. There are many words and phrases related to theology that we use today which do not appear in the Bible. The word Bible does not appear in the Bible. It must also be remembered that our 21st century definitions have different meanings than they did at the time the scriptures were written.

Opponents of the Trinitarian doctrine claim that the Trinity cannot be proven from the Bible and that there is no place in scripture that states 'God is three persons in one being.' If one is looking for exact quotes, the antagonists have a point – at least partially. The Church does not contend that the Trinity is immediately the Word of God, but stresses its evolution over time. Over the centuries, our most intellectual biblical scholars have poured over the NT and OT in search of evidence linking scriptures with the Trinity. The NT writings do link God (Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit together in a manner that strongly implies the Trinitarian nature of God. Dozens of such passages have been identified in the NT and several in the OT. These passages illustrate that the NT faith is implicitly Trinitarian.

The Trinity is the basic test of our faith as Christians. It is noted that the Trinity states “In the name of” – and not “In the names of.” It is objectively our most fundamental doctrine and is the most crucial because it makes the most difficult demands on our understanding of the Creed. Going beyond these points, consider that the Trinity is much more than just a test of our faith. It is a perfect model of selfless love. This Triune love is not self-centered, but it gives and shares within the Godhead. For those of us who are more difficult to convince, let us subject our Holy Trinity to logic and subjective thinking. This was done for us by St. Augustine (354-430 CE). He defined our Trinity in seven concise statements:

1. The Father is God.
2. The Son is God.
3. The Holy Spirit is God.
4. The Father is not the Son.
5. The Son is not the Holy Spirit.
6. The Holy Spirit is not the Father.
7. There is one God.

St. Augustine places things in human perspective in his book On the Trinity. He stated: "Though human mind is not of the same nature as God, yet the image of him, than whom nothing is better, is to be sought in that part of our nature than which nothing is better: namely the mind. See how the mind remembers itself, understands itself and loves itself. When we see this, we see a trinity; not God, but the image of God. There is a kind of trinity apparent in memory, understanding and love or will. These three are not three 'lives,' but a single life. There are not three minds but a single mind, not three essences but a single essence. We attribute memory to a subject; and similarly understanding and will (or love) belong to a subject; but life, mind and essence are themselves the subject. These three are one: a single life, a single mind, a single essence."

"Although these three are distinct among themselves, we say they are one because they exist substantially in the soul. The mind itself is, as it were, a parent: and its knowledge is, as it were, its offspring. When the mind knows itself, it begets an idea of itself, and it is the sole parent of that idea. The third thing is love, which proceeds from the mind itself and from its idea, as the mind knows itself and loves itself. It could not love itself unless it knew itself. It loves its beloved offspring, its idea of itself; so love is a kind of joining of parent and offspring. See in these words how there appears a certain 'vestige' of the Trinity."

We conclude this discussion by saying, "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Amen

Afterword

The Holy Trinity is one of God's mysteries. We accept that we were made in God's image – he gave us free will, conscience and intellect, all of which we are expected to exercise in all things. At this stage of development, we can understand the evolution of the Holy Trinity and its implications in the scriptures. In retrospect, perhaps God left it to us to discover the Trinity and to accept it as an important part of our faith. The Holy Trinity has survived the evolutionary process and our understanding has been enhanced with time. Perhaps in future millennia our understanding will be further illuminated.

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The following biblical scholars are recognized: Adolf Harnack, Jaroslav Pelikan, Andrew Norton, Edward Gibbons, Will Durant, James Hastings, L. L. Paine, St. Augustine, S. J. Hooker, Alexander Hislop, Karl Rahner, and George Hart.


Chaplain's Message

Brother Knights: What is your reaction to all the violence that is now going on in the Middle East? As Catholic Christians, what can "we" as Knights and individuals do about it? Do you recall the first prayer we say after the meeting concludes? Yes, it is the Prayer of St. Francis in which we ask God to "Make us a channel of your peace." How can we be a channel of the Lord's peace amidst all the conflict locally, nationally, and worldwide?

Pope Francis tells us that peace does not mean renouncing our own identity when it goes against others, nor does it mean compromising Christian morals. He says that, to the contrary, "true openness involves remaining steadfast in one's deepest convictions, clear and joyful in one's own identity and therefore open to understanding the religion of another, convinced that the encounter with someone different than ourselves can be an occasion of growth in a spirit of fraternity, of enrichment, and of witness."

I think these words apply to all those who seem counter cultural to our beliefs. In Luke 6:27-38 Jesus tells his disciples, "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned."

On August 6th of this year, the Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq asked the U.S. Bishops to have us pray for "those Christians and others who have faced the destruction, burning, looting of churches, homes and businesses and, under threat of the Islamic State (ISIS), to join their extremist brand of Islam, have fled for their lives." The closing lines of the Patriarch's prayer are: "Lord, peace is the foundation of life, grant us the peace and stability that will enable us to live with each other without fear and anxiety, and with dignity and joy."

Let us take some time to reflect on how we can each be a channel of the Lord's peace, remembering the opening line to a well-known hymn: "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me." May the peace of the Lord that surpasses all understanding be with you always.

God Bless. Mike Kubasek

Knights of Columbus Insurance

Raising Awareness About Life Insurance

Each September since 2003 has been designated as Life Insurance Awareness Month. Like most awareness-raising campaigns, Life Insurance Awareness Month was created because there is an overwhelming lack of understanding of life insurance, its uses, its benefits, and its variations among the general public. Each year, the Life Insurance Market Research Association(UMRA) puts out the results from a recent survey and, unfortunately, the numbers they report continue to be discouraging.

A recent survey found that more than 75 percent of people polled did not have a personal financial advisor, even though 68 percent of them said their opinion of the current economic conditions were somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable.

In other words, a majority of those surveyed were uncomfortable with the economy and the uncertainty it brings, yet they did not seek professional assistance.
Maybe they spoke with their friends and family. Maybe they hoped the instability would go away on its own. Maybe they did not know to whom to turn.

If you fall into this category, please remember that as a member of the Knights of Columbus, you have a full-time, professional agent you can call your own. My primary responsibility is the care and service of your family's life insurance, retirement and long-term care needs. I'll answer your questions because I want your decisions to be informed ones. I want to help.

Another LIMRA statistic said 43 percent of people did not buy life insurance because they worry about "making the wrong decision." Talk with me, your agent, and afterwards you'll understand that the only wrong decision was not purchasing sooner to protect your family's future.

Ian McGinnis

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