

Good morning. It is an honor and privilege to address you, my faith family from this pulpit. Thank you Father Marc for this opportunity. Many of you may be familiar with the Knights of Columbus. No matter where you may have come from or gone, the works of the Knights are evident throughout the world. From our million and a half members in a dozen countries, our charity spreads far and wide. Historically, each year at this time we reach out in a recruitment effort for the men of this Parish. This includes educating those so they may see the depth of our reach of our work and consider joining us in our mission. I'd like to tell you why a local guy like me and my brothers who are among us here today chose to get involved.

Book of James Chapter 2 verse 18; "But someone will say 'you have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works". This verse affected me deeply and my roots of faith began to grow and spread. Upon prayer, the door to this Fraternity opened. I made the step and became a Knight. Other than marrying my wife, this decision became for me one of the most profound life changes.

I know from my pastors teaching that going to Mass alone is not our calling and that our mission is integral with our service to God. As a busy husband, father, grandfather and car painter, I count on the Knights to offer me countless opportunities of missionary work. Some members can only offer their time once or twice a year. This is not only tremendously helpful to our works, but more importantly infinitely rewarding to the Brother who serves. I, like many of my Brothers began with a very low profile. As we can attest, the experience became interesting, fun and most of all charitable. There are many positions within the council and many charitable events you can volunteer for, each one personally rewarding and spiritually developing.

If you are a baptized Catholic man at least 18 years old, I ask you, do you have a personal missionary plan? Do you want to grow and deepen your fellowship within our parish? As a Catholic man, do you walk in the teachings of Jesus? "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In closing, I would like to mention the Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, our founder, who from a modest Parish right here in New England in 1882, had a simple goal in mind; to establish an Order that would unite men in their faith as well as help provide for families in need. 136 years, and 10 countries later, 1.6 million men later, we continue to carry on this tradition. In the tumultuous times the Catholic Church has faced and continues to face to this day, the Knights will not leave the church, but rather lead it. We would like your help.

Today we have Members at the exits to answer any questions you may have. In addition, there's a table downstairs if you wish to talk with us further. Thank you for your time and may God bless all of us and keep us Holy. Thank you for your time and thank you Father Marc.