

Warm Christmas Season Greetings to All:

I want to share a brief story that I hope you find encouraging at this moment in your life while preparing for 2021. The situation happened Just last week...

I was privileged to usher at Christmas Eve, 8:00 PM Mass. I counted 267 folks in attendance, practicing social distance and all wearing their face masks. The priest delivered what I think was the shortest homily I ever heard. It was a repetitive series of only simple statements that all began with the words, "Because we are Catholic...." Each statement ended with a simple shared truth or belief. The series concluded after about two (2) minutes with "Because we are Catholic, this day we are filled with Hope". Then, our priest simply gazed upon the figures in the manger on the altar and silently sat down. Silence and unusual stillness followed without music or singing. During the silence, I noticed many husbands and wives (myself and Diane included) looking at each other a bit confused; questioning expressions and tilting of many heads with eyebrows raised.

Most often it takes me longer to "get it" but I truly hope you will find inspiration in this story. I trust that God sent His Son, Jesus for my Salvation. Our faith provides Hope for everlasting life. Until our passing, our short time on earth will give us reasons to be thankful of God's blessings and mercy while we face our many daily challenges and together share His Love by our charitable actions and compassion.

Because we are Catholic, I had countless opportunities to serve so many families, able to meet each person wherever they were on their Knights of Columbus journey. Whether they were non-member, associate, insurance, inactive or prior we met, talked and became closer to fulfilling the dreams and vision of our founder, Blessed Fr. Michael J McGivney. In conclusion, thanks for your hospitality, your smiles, your virtual waves, your encouragement, your tears of sadness, your inspiration and your prayers. They made a difference in my everyday life. Until we meet again, I wish you the best New Year ever! Finally,

Because we are Catholic Knights and Ladies, please ask your friends and relatives to "Join Us" so they too will be part of a larger journey of His service and His love on this earth.

Vivat Jesus. Chuck