**June Chaplain’s Report**

***St. Joseph and the Knights of Columbus – Forming Fathers Together***

June 26th is the Memorial of St. Josemaría Escrivá. He is the Spanish priest who founded the organization *Opus Dei*, a group within the Church especially committed to spreading the message that every person is called to holiness and that every honest work can be sanctified*.*[[1]](#footnote-1)His spirituality is a very simple but profound one – sanctify the world by doing the ordinary things with an extraordinary spirit, a spirit founded in the Love of God and neighbor.

St. Josemaría, in promoting this message and building Opus Dei, had a great devotion to the patron saint of workers, St. Joseph. Preaching on the feast of St. Joseph in 1963, St. Josemaría said this of foster-father of Christ:

***“Saint Joseph really is a father and lord. He protects those who revere him and accompanies them on their journey through this life—just as he protected and accompanied Jesus when he was growing up. As you get to know him, you discover that the holy patriarch is also a master of the interior life—for he teaches us to know Jesus and share our life with him, and to realize that we are part of God’s family. Saint Joseph can teach us these lessons, because he is an ordinary man, a family man, a worker who earned his living by manual labor—all of which has great significance and is a source of happiness for us.”[[2]](#footnote-2)***

As Father’s Day approaches we do well to pray especially to St. Joseph, asking his intercession for our own fatherhood and our fellow parishioners too. This man especially chosen by God to be guardian, protector and provider for the holy family teaches us of the sort of faith, hope and love required by any Father tasked with the same divine mission from God, our heavenly Father.

It’s no secret today that society suffers from a dearth of true fatherhood and masculine virtue. Broken homes, wayward youth, the rampant rise of pornography use, sexual abuse and others outright perversions among stem from men and women falling down in their called to be what they were made to be in Jesus Christ.

While the signs of the times aren’t encouraging, hope springs eternal. Conversion of hearts and minds on a grand scale begins with one person at a time. Remember, Jesus called twelve disciples to a deeper friendship and invested in them a great deal; these men in turn invested in others and so on so that the Gospel might be proclaimed to every creature, to the ends of the earth.

The Knights of Columbus play a vital role in promoting a new culture supportive of family life and fatherhood at every level. True culture must have *cult* at its heart, that is worship. We must begin there and let our worship and prayers feed our apostolic endeavors. We have been given a mission and ought to be anxious for its fulfillment.

Archbishop Lori while addressing the Supreme Convention of the Knight of Columbus in 2013 said:

***“We have to see the Knights of Columbus as a practical way of evangelizing husbands, fathers and their families, of helping them understand what the culture often rejects – how men and women should relate to one another in complementary ways and how important husbands and fathers are to children. The Knights are also a way of helping men embrace their manhood – not the culture of machismo but a solid, sturdy, secure manhood – which includes having the courage to defend life, to defend virtue, to defend authentic values...”[[3]](#footnote-3)***

We need not be experts, but we ought to be competent if we are to inspire others to a similar devotion and sacrifice. This Father’s Day at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Robert’s there will be new Kiosks installed with a number of print resources for families, and especially men to take advantage of in their leisure. The Knights of Columbus have also promoted a new resource in the website [www.fathersforgood.org](http://www.fathersforgood.org). This website collects a number of print, video and audio resources to help men they’ve been called to be in Christ.

Conversions begin in prayer – pray and sacrifice (fast, give alms, offer a work of charity) for two or three men in your immediate circle and consider sharing with them an article, word of encouragement, or simply your presence as one man to another, one father to another. St. Josemaría, St. Joseph and Venerable Michael McGivney, Pray for us.

**Practical Tips:**

***1) Consult the resources found in the Knights of Columbus Kiosk***

***2) Take a look at*** [***www.fathersforgood.org***](http://www.fathersforgood.org) ***and read two or three articles.***

***3) Pray and sacrifice (fast, give alms etc.) for two or three men in your immediate circle.***

Spreading the Gospel begins with prayer, personal holiness and reaching out in friendship and love to those immediately around us. It’s really that simple.

**Coming Up:**

***June/July***

* Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – 6/8/2018
  + Great day to practice devotion to the Sacred Heart; Solemn High Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel 6/8/2018 @ 8:00PM
* Father’s Day Weekend – 6/16-6/17/2018
  + Talk up new resources especially after/at masses for Fathers in Kiosks; talk up [*www.fathersforgood.org*](http://www.fathersforgood.org)too.
* Fortnight for Freedom – 6/22-7/4/2018
  + Celebration and remembrance of one of the most fundamental gifts to human person – Religious Freedom.
  + Beginning with Feast of Ss. Thomas More and John Fischer and ending on Independence Day
  + About Religious Freedom Week: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week/index.cfm>
* Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel 6/8-6/16/2018
  + Special event happening at the Carmelite Monastery in Philadelphia
* 50 Years Since *Humanae Vitae* – 7/25/2018
  + Many different conferences and activities being planned in Archdiocese
  + Begin by reading Paul VI’s Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* here: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html>

1. Opus Dei – FAQ, <http://www.opusdei.org/en-us/faq/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Escrivá, Josemaría. Christ is Passing By (Kindle Locations 1296-1300). Scepter Publishers. Kindle Edition. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Archbishop William E. Lori, Closing Address to 2013 Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in San Antonio, TX. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)