

Brother Knights,

There are many reasons I am a Chaplain at the Placer County Jail. I do this work because charity is very important to us as Knights of Columbus. There are many ways we raise money to support our church and our church family. Often we do not see the end result of how that money has benefited our church or our church family. However when you visit a man in jail, and give him a renewed sense of hope and freedom from the pain and suffering in his life you see immediate results and the blessings to you and the inmate are enormous. Giving men who have been abandoned by society and their families, a renewed sense of hope, faith, and love to realize they do matter – they are important to God and to us all –showing them they have a relationship with Jesus Christ who can forgive them, rebuild their lives, and lift them above their problems, pain and suffering is true holy work. Charity is one of the most important principles of our Order. Even more we are members of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ and this means our very existence should be charity not only to support our church financially but to help those who struggling today with pain and suffering. Today these people need the healing comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson in a lead article titled “In Service to One, in Service to All” in the August 2010 issue of *Columbia* tells us “In service to one, in service to all” has long been a motto of the Knights of Columbus. It simply means that Knights take seriously the two great commandments of Jesus Christ: to love God with our entire being, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (cf. Mt. 22:37-40). A good explanation of why this motto reflects the Order’s purpose comes from the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium*, which truly serves as our mission statement: “The laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven” (31). The idea of working in this world “as a leaven” is not a new concept for the Knights. We know that we are called to be witnesses to Christ in our families, in our jobs and in our service to society. We know God’s plan and will for us through an informed conscience and cultivate such a conscience by being faithful to the Church’s teachings. This requires solidarity with our bishops and priests, something we have been committed to since our founding by Venerable Michael McGivney. For 128 years, the Order has been led by its first principle charity. Every day, people witness the work undertaken by Knights as

members work in thousands of communities around the world. Combined with unity –with our Church and with our neighbor –charity provides us with the means to fulfill Christ’s great commandments. This is what it means to be “in service to one, in service to all.” Lives filled with charity, motivated by faith and hope, are what will make Christ known to others. In practicing charity, in a spirit of unity, we lead by our witness, and we bring to life Christ’s words in the Gospel, that all will know we are his disciples by the way we love one another.

Our *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us on page 423 (paragraph 1698) “I ask you to consider that our Lord Jesus Christ is your true head, and that you are one of his members. He belongs to you as the head belongs to its members; all that is his is yours: his spirit, his heart, his body and soul, and all his faculties. You must make use of all these as of your own, to serve, praise, love and glorify God. You belong to him, as members belong to their head. And so he longs for you to use all that is in you, as if it were his own, for the service and glory of the Father.”

I hope you will want to join us and become a chaplain at the Placer County jail. For more information please call 916-434-5087 or email me at rspringb@oshpd.ca.gov .

God Bless you my brothers

Robert Springborn