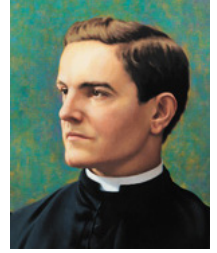




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
1501 TROTTER RD, LARGO, FL 33770 COUNCIL 4892

May 2018



Fr. McGivney

Young Catholics Tell Pope Francis They Want a More Open Church Where Women Play a Greater Role

In a fascinating final document from a weeklong Vatican-initiated conference, 300 young people from around the world joined by 15,000 young people online gave the older men who run the 1.2-billion strong church a piece of their collective mind. They urged Pope Francis and the bishops who will gather at the Vatican in the fall to back their recommendations that church leaders must address the unequal roles of women in the church and how technology is used and abused. They warned that "excessive moralism" is driving the faithful away and that out-of-touch church bureaucrats need to accompany their flock with humility and transparency.

Among the participants, however, there was no consensus on hot-button issues such as church teaching on contraception, homosexuality, abortion or cohabitation. The document said some young people want the church to change its teaching or better explain it; others accept the teachings and want the church to proclaim them more forcefully. But overall, the young people concluded, the church often comes off as too severe and its "excessive moralism" often sends the faithful looking elsewhere for peace and spiritual fulfillment.

The 300 young people who attended the conference were mostly

selected by their national bishops' conferences, universities or church movements. A handful of non-Catholics and non-Christians, as well as some atheists, also took part, and their views were incorporated into the final document. Their reflections will be formally presented to Francis on Sunday – Palm Sunday – and will become one of the working documents that will guide discussions during an October

synod of bishops at the Vatican on better helping young people find their way in the church.

On four separate occasions in the 16-page document, the participants demanded greater and equal roles for women in the church, calling for "real discussion and open-mindedness" about ways to promote the dignity of women so they feel accepted and appreciated. Some young women feel that there is a lack of leading female role models within the church, and they too wish to give their intellectual and professional gifts to the church.

The young people also made it clear that they love their technology and the church must get hip to that or lose relevance. At the same time, the document said young people are looking for guidance as to how to responsibly use technology and combat online addiction, pornography and cyberbullying. They called for the Vatican to issue a

teaching document about technology and use it better to spread the faith.

The final report is brutally honest in places, responding to Francis' call on the first day for the participants to speak freely and courageously. It noted that young people are leaving the church in droves, in part because they have experienced "indifference, judgment and rejection" by the institution. Church leaders, they say, are too focused on administration than community, and use words like "vocation" and "discernment" that young people often don't understand. But mostly, they say, the church needs to admit that it is human and makes mistakes, and that its mentors aren't perfect people but forgiven sinners.

The document cited the clergy sex abuse scandal as both an error that has driven people away and an ongoing issue that requires admission of wrongdoing. "Some mentors are put on a pedestal, and when they fall, the devastation may impact young people's abilities to continue to engage with the church," they said.



**The First Sunday
of Each Month**
Pancake Breakfast

**P.O. Food Drop-off
at St. Jerome**
Saturday, May 12
From noon to 4 p.m.

State Convention
May 25, 26, 27
Election of Officers
June 14
**Men's Retreat at
St. Jerome's**
Saturday, Oct. 13



COMPARING THE NRA TO THE KofC

I was considering the massive news blitz over the NRA that has taken place as a result of the tragedy in South Florida recently. Much of the country is talking about the effect the NRA has on the conversation regarding the 2nd Amendment. I looked



Aaron Treherne

up their membership numbers, benefits, and requirements to see why they have such a powerful

voice on the matter. They have about 4 million members and it costs \$40 a year to join on-line. Membership comes with a monthly magazine and \$2,500 of insurance on your firearms. But the point is that by joining, a member is supporting the NRA platform. Four million members doesn't seem like a lot to me.

Now consider that it costs \$30 to join the Knights on-line, which also comes with a monthly magazine and up to \$2,500 of accidental death on the member AND his wife. Then there is \$1,500 for a child who dies before

61 days old, \$25K toward tuition per year for the kids of our member cops, firefighters, and service members killed in the line of duty, allotments for orphans, and the list goes on. Our platform is widows and orphans so I wonder... what could we do with 4 million members? Protect your family, save the world, join the Knights!

It's pretty simple.



BOOSTERS

We have begun our Booster Club again. What is a Booster Club? It is an opportunity for like-minded individuals who want to help our Knights of Columbus charities to have a contribution noted each month in this newsletter.

If you would like to be a part of this, your first donation (you, for example) would be \$5.00; each additional name (your wife, for example) would cost \$3.00. Also, this would be a wonderful way to remember loved ones by posting their names for all to see. Please fill out the form below to submit names.

Here are our names for the new Booster list:

Bob Anderson, Vice Supreme Master PSD

Edgar Lecuyer

Anne Lecuyer

Dave Dumont, PFN

Thelma Dumont

David Ruppel

Patty Ruppel

Henry J. Cajiao

Tom and Mary Walsh

Henri and Judy Bellavance

In Memory of Earl D. Lochner, Henry Cajiao, Sue Anthony, Henri Bellavance Jr., David McConnell

FIRST NAME _____

SECOND NAME _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Please mail this form to

Dave Dumont
2638 Oakwood Dr.
Largo, FL. 33771
727-531-0905

FROM THE DESK OF OUR GRAND KNIGHT



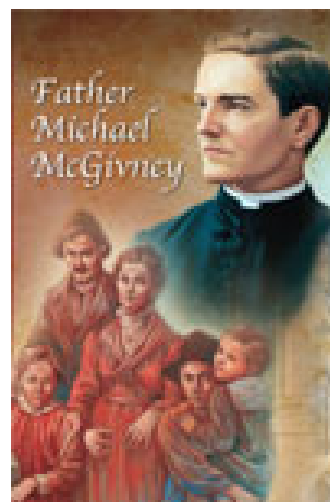
Danny McConnell GK

Brother Knights:

Another month has gone by and our council has so much to be grateful for. Our membership is just full of unselfish, caring, Catholic men fully giving of themselves to help others. It has been a blessing to be a part of this council.

Let our prayers be with our members and families who have lost loved ones, especially Knight John Hourican who died April 24. Paul Colotta is in Morton Plant Rehab Center, and Daniel Fitzgerald is at Arbor Oaks nursing home.

Your Grand Knight,
Danny McConnell



An hour-long docudrama on Father Michael McGivney that aired nationwide on public television is now available for purchase on DVD. Learn more about the founder of the Knights of Columbus as his cause for sainthood moves forward at the Vatican. It can be purchased at Amazon.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Give some thought to becoming an officer in our council. An election for all positions will be held on June 14. Anyone interested in becoming an officer should contact Richard Luzerne.

The next Knighthood Degree will be May 12, 2018, at Council #7621, St Ignatius of Antioch (Tarpon Springs). The address is 715 East Orange St Tarpon Spring FL 34689. Candidates should arrive by 11:00am. The degree starts at 12:00pm.



This year our delegates will be Henri Bellavance and Richard McCarthy. Alternates are Gilbert Jones and Pete Grasso.



SOCK HOP A GREAT SUCCESS



JOHN WAYNE'S CONVERSION TO CATHOLICISM

by Karen Edmisten

This American icon of masculinity and patriotism appeared in more than 175 movies. He won an Academy Award for his portrayal of crusty Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*. He played dozens of cowboys in a wealth of Westerns. If you remember an old war movie, it probably starred the Duke.

How did this thrice-married, hard-drinking, larger-than-life megastar make his leap to Catholicism? Faith danced around John Wayne all his adult life. All three of his wives had been raised Catholic, and all seven of his children were brought up in the Church. His first wife, Josie, who prayed for Duke's conversion till the end, convinced him to attend numerous parish events with her. He sometimes complained



to friends that he was up to his neck in Catholics, but perhaps as he interacted with genuine, faithful people, misconceptions and prejudices fell away.

Despite his early upbringing in the Presbyterian Church, Duke never had any denominational loyalty and was impatient with the infighting of Christianity. Wayne's son Michael thought his father was a man who quietly believed in God even as he shunned church attendance. "There must be a higher power," Wayne said in the year he died, "or how does all this stuff work?"

Catholic priest Fr. Matthew Muñoz, who knew Wayne simply as "Granddaddy," hints that obstacles to his grandfather's conversion toppled

slowly as Wayne grew in knowledge of Catholicism. "After a while," Fr. Muñoz said, "he kind of got a sense that the common secular vision of what Catholics are and what his own experience actually was were becoming two greatly different things."

In the mid-1960s, Duke was fighting a persistent cough. His wife urged him to have it checked, and since he needed to renew an insurance policy anyway, he had a physical. When he returned to the clinic the next day for results, he was subjected to an extensive round of X-rays. As he waited, he ran into the technician who'd performed the tests. The young tech revealed what he thought the star already knew: it was

lung cancer.

John Wayne, whom the whole world saw as invincible, beat lung cancer, as everyone knew he would. He became a vocal advocate for those fighting the disease, and his family eventually established the John Wayne Cancer Institute.

Then in 1974, when the star began battling repeated respiratory illnesses, he feared that lung cancer had returned, but the doctors told him not to worry. Symptoms of seemingly unrelated illnesses plagued him over the next few years until finally, in 1978, an accurate diagnosis was made. John Wayne had stomach cancer. He deteriorated quickly. By the following year, he was

extremely sick, wasting away, and often hospitalized.

Wayne had watched his friend John Ford suffer from the same kind of cancer just a few years before. Ford had been a Catholic; he died with priests in the room and a rosary in his hand. Ford's faith and its uplifting effect on his life and death were etched into Wayne's psyche. Duke remembered the comfort and courage Catholicism had given his friend.

On May 14, 1979, Michael asked his father if it would be okay to have Archbishop Marcos McGrath come and visit. Duke said yes, and the two men spent an afternoon together talking. Wayne agreed that day to call for a priest before he died. Duke had often joked with his family that he was a "cardiac Catholic," that at the last minute he'd call in a priest. With the end near, Wayne was in constant agony.

Two days before he died, Wayne agreed when his son Patrick asked him if they should call the priest now. "Yeah," Duke said, "I think that's a good idea." Fr. Robert Curtis, UCLA Medical Center chaplain, arrived. He baptized the dying man, probably conditionally, as Wayne had grown up in a Christian church, and administered last rites. That night, Wayne fell into a coma. "I don't know the technicalities of the Church or what constitutes a conversion," said Michael. "But Dad did die in the Church."

Karen Edmisten is a convert to the Catholic Faith and the author of several books including *After Miscarriage: A Catholic Woman's Companion to Healing and Hope*. This is an edited excerpt from *Deathbed Conversions: Finding Faith at the Finish Line*.

2018

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THE LIVES OF SAINTS

St. Joseph Cupertino, the Levitating Priest



St. Joseph Cupertino

Here is a look at the life of one of the most renowned of Catholic levitators, St. Joseph of Cupertino, born Guiseppe Desa in 1603 in Italy. Saint Joseph's contemporaries reported that he was absent minded, awkward, nervous, and a dullard, unable to complete a sentence or express a thought. Perhaps some of his personality defects were due to a hard family life. As a child he

was underfed and sickly. He suffered from what today would be called a learning handicap—barely able to read or write. His frustrated mother wearied of him and was abusive, punishing him without mercy. Understandably, he grew up insecure and throughout his life considered himself “dumb like an ass.” Since he didn't seem able to learn at school, his mother apprenticed him to a shoemaker—a trade he was unable to master. At seventeen Desa became enamored of the religious life when a begging friar came to the village of Cupertino.

After several applications for admittance to various religious orders were denied because of his lack of education, he was admitted as a lay brother to a religious community. This did not work out because of his absentmindedness and lack of awareness of what he was doing. Joseph would drop to his knees into prayer, utterly oblivious of everything around him, sometimes dropping plates and dishes. In order to cure him of this and some bad habits, broken plates were fastened to his habit, but the punishment didn't work. Finally he was defrocked and expelled from the monastery. Desa sought help and refuge from an uncle and his mother, both of whom turned him down. It was the low point of his life. He was destitute, living as a homeless man.

In his early twenties Joseph Desa was finally admitted to a Franciscan monastery as a servant. At this time he seemed to be transformed, becoming more humble and gentle, more careful and successful at his work. He went into the streets on his own and begged for the poor. The priests noticed that he was welcomed among the poorest of the poor, who saw better than others the man behind all the odd behavior. He was given another chance and was finally ordained a Catholic Priest in 1628.

Even as a priest he was still a character. Reports that have survived nearly four centuries reveal that he saw holy visions and he would “stand fixed as a statue, insensible as a stone, but nothing could move him.” His colleagues would prick him with pins and burn him with “embers to recall him to his senses” but he was oblivious to the pain.

Two years into his priesthood in Cupertino, the eccentric Joseph was in a procession honoring the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi when he “...suddenly soared into the sky where he remained hovering over the crowd.” When he finally descended, he was so embarrassed that he fled to his mother's house to hide. The soaring episodes increased—in the church during Mass, in the refectory during meals with plates of food in his hands.

Many times people saw him rise from the ground while say-

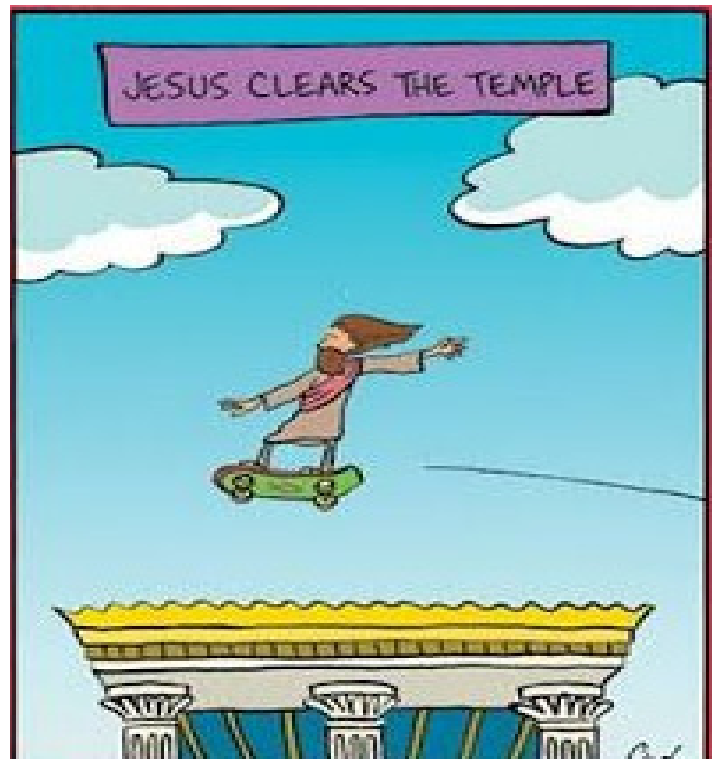
ing Mass or praying. On one occasion while out begging he flew into a tree. The following incident is told: when some workmen were laboring to plant a stone cross in its socket, Joseph rose up above them, took up the cross and placed it in its socket for them. His most famous flight allegedly occurred during a papal audience before Pope Urban VIII. One historian, Father Christopher Sharrock, recounts that some of these levitations would last upwards of seven hours.

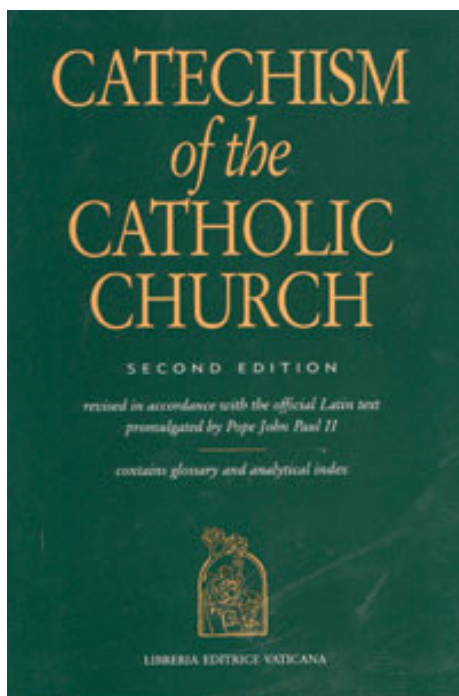
St. Joseph was also proclaimed a healer, touching the blind eyes of one young child, making her see. Historic accounts say he could lift sick children and cure them. As his flights and healing powers became more widely known, pilgrims and the sick began to seek him out.

St. Joseph's strange powers and unusual character were questioned by church authorities as his following increased. During an inquiry he was imprisoned—a normal procedure for inquisitions then. There is some evidence that he may have been subjected to an exorcism, but his levitations continued. Ultimately he was declared innocent of wrongdoing. Nevertheless, he was committed to a cloistered religious order and forbidden to speak to anyone other than his fellow religious. He was forbidden to receive or write letters. Although authorities attempted to conceal his location, he would be discovered by pilgrims and then be transferred to another religious order where the same regulations were enforced.

Such relocations occurred numerous times over the last two decades of his life. His fellow friars would observe him kneeling in the garden praying, when he would rise in the air, still in a kneeling position. They recalled his ability to read their minds and his visions of future events, such as the death of a pope before it was known to the population.

St. Joseph died in 1663. He was canonized a saint in 1767. At the Vatican library are thirteen volumes documenting his elevation to sainthood. These books contain numerous testimonies of witnesses (including princes, cardinals, bishops and doctors) who knew St. Joseph personally and in many cases were eyewitnesses to the wonderful events of his life.





What does the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* say about.... One's Conscience and Civil Disobience?

2242 The citizen is obliged in conscience not to follow the directives of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order, to the fundamental rights of persons or the teachings of the Gospel. Refusing obedience to civil authorities, when their demands are contrary to those of an upright conscience, finds its justification in the distinction between serving God and serving the political community. "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. We must obey God rather than men." When citizens are under the oppression of a public authority which oversteps its competence, they should still not refuse to give or to do what is objectively demanded of them by the common good; but it is legitimate for them to defend their own rights and those of their fellow citizens against the abuse of this authority within the limits of the natural law and the Law of the Gospel.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



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