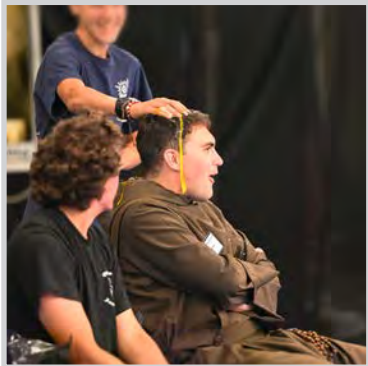


# THE KNIGHTS' *Journal*

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



FRANCISCAN BROTHERS • KNIGHTLY SERVICE • RADICAL LOVE • FOR GOD AND THE CHURCH



BR. MICHAEL AND BR. ANGELO WILL ONCE AGAIN RETURN TO  
CATHOLIC FAMILYLAND IN OHIO.



**KNIGHTS of the  
HOLY EUCHARIST**

CHRISTUS IN CORDIS TEMPLO  
7303 N. 112TH ST., WAVERLY, NEBRASKA 68462  
**KNIGHTS.ORG**





# Think of Your Mother

Spring is upon us once more. With the coming of spring comes Mothers Day and this calls to mind the Mother of all mothers, Mother Mary.

The month of May is a Marian month. We should take time to recall the maternal care of Our Lady. Christ gave Our Lady to be a mother to all of us. Mary wants to be our mother. She longs to wrap her children in the mantle of her protection.

Mary always wants to lead people to her son and to facilitate a genuine encounter with Our Lord Jesus. The National Eucharistic Revival is ongoing and has given American Catholics an extra emphasis on the importance of encountering Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist. Through Eucharistic themed homilies, exposition, and local Eucharistic revival events, parishes around the United States are rekindling and fostering love of Our Lord truly present in the Eucharist. This movement certainly has the potential of drawing the faithful towards a Eucharistic encounter. We could not be more excited, since our main charism is focused on fostering reverent devotion to the Eucharist.

Within the pages of this issue, you will find more information about the upcoming Eucharistic Congress held in Indianapolis.

We pray that this spring will be a fruitful season for all of you and that Our Lord may draw you deeper into the reality of His love for each of you. Continue to trust in God and stay faithful to your daily devotional practices. Our Lady wants to bring you close to Jesus and she loves each one of us with the heart of a mother as God Himself loves us with the heart of a loving Father.

Let us not forget to honor Our Lady during the month of May and to thank her for accepting Jesus' invitation at Mt. Calvary to become the mother of us all! **Mary, Mother of the Church, Pray for us!**



*"Sometimes we ask God for things, and we seem to get the exact opposite. God sees the whole chapter. You just see the beginning."*

*—Mother Mary Angelica, P.C.P.A.*

**Preach the Word in season and out of season.**





# The Importance of Prayer

When it comes to prayer there are multiple outlooks that one can have. There are many different ways one can approach prayer. One could view it as an obligation or something that we should do in order to obtain graces from God. There is still yet another perspective, one can see that prayer revolves around an encounter with the one we have come to know. St. John Damascene has said: "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."

We are constantly in the presence of God, and it would be good to remind ourselves of that reality. Jesus wants to be involved in our everyday life. Since God is constantly seeking us out, it is safe to say that one can see prayer as a response to God's promptings to pray. The Lord will give us inspirations to pray and when we have holy inspirations such as these, we should follow them.

There can also be struggles along the way when dealing with our prayer life. Sometimes I don't want to talk to God because the consolations that He gave me when I first began praying regularly have faded away. This is exactly when God wants us to talk to Him because we are showing Him that we love Him not for the gifts He gives us, rather we love Him because of who He is.

If you are experiencing spiritual dryness, keep praying and God will reward you for your faithfulness. Spiritual dryness can be difficult to get through, don't worry, like most things dryness has an end. Offer it up!



The article was written by:  
Br. Athanasius Mary

## Making Homemade Pizza & Pasta







# Pizza, Pasta, and Fraternity

by Joseph Marley

Fraternity is an essential part of life in a religious community. Quoting Saint John Paul II, "The effectiveness of religious life depends on the quality of the fraternal life in common". Brothers coming together to work on projects, prepare meals, and even to do chores, are great opportunities to bond and grow in fraternal love. By sharing our stories and by serving one another with our skills, we can begin to know and then love each other on a deeper level.

Prompted by a donation of a large sum of flour paired with the resourceful mind of Br. Michael, the brothers from St. Mary's Friary joined the brothers at Sacred Heart Friary for a joy filled day of fraternity, making homemade pizza and pasta. Until recently, making pizza was not common at either friary. That said, we were not starting from scratch (besides the ingredients), as at least 2 of the brothers and 1 excited postulant (myself) have experience working at pizza restaurants. I enjoyed reminiscing on what I had learned in the past and was happy to assist, even with the dishes. Which was fitting, admittedly, since that was where I started in the pizza business. Like a good manager, Br. Michael gave me a chance to prove myself.

As stated in the document *Fraternal Life in Community* released by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: "Without dialogue and attentive listening, community members run the risk of living juxtaposed or parallel lives, a far cry from the ideal of fraternity." While meant for religious communities, I believe that statement can easily be applied to families as well. I encourage families to gather their members and come together for a fun project. United to Christ, that fun project could lead to a day of much growth, healing, and joy!

Truly, the joy I had on that day we made pizza and pasta (and similar days after) was like that of when I was a child being surprised by my mother with some fun activity she had planned. A joy like when I was a young student on a day when I learned that we would be making crafts and having a class party instead of doing classwork.

Plainly, nurturing relationships is important and making homemade pizza or pasta can be a fun way to do so. For my new family, this was no different.



# My Vocation Journey

by Joseph Marley

Since early October, I have been living with the Knights of the Holy Eucharist, in Nebraska. I am currently a postulant. While I am still discerning consecrated religious life, I truly believe that I am exactly where God wants me to be. It was God that brought me here. As I look back on my life, even just the more recent years, I recognize that I have only been able to reach the place that I am now spiritually and physically, by the hand of God. When I think about some of the lower places I have been, be it sin or depression, this especially proves true.

I come from a Catholic family. I was baptized as a baby, and I attended a Catholic school from K-4 through 8th grade. I was shy when I was younger, but I was also kind, and I behaved well in school. I was friendly with my classmates and was well known, but I had few friends. While in elementary school, outside of school, I played soccer for multiple seasons. I liked to play outside a lot, often riding my bike or scooter in my neighborhood. During summers, my mother would take my younger siblings and me to go swimming at the public pools on the Air Force Base near where we lived.

For high school, I went to public schools. It was a big change from what I was used to, and I knew few people at the beginning. Generally, I did well with the transition. I got along with the other classmates, mostly. I found places where I could settle in, and I made new friends. My first year was probably my best year. However, it was during high school that I really fell away from the Catholic Church and God.

My return to God was brought about through suffering. Trapped in habitual mortal sin, having conflicts with my family, and being unable to sustain myself financially doing the design work that I was passionate about, described my state for a long time. All while having little thought for

God. Truly, I was in a place that my younger self never imagined that I would be.

God especially struck me (and ultimately brought about my reconversion) by permitting the devil to oppress me, especially in my sleep. It was that suffering, that cross, that brought about my return to full union with the Catholic Church. Finding myself low, and in need of help that only God could provide, I cried out to Jesus. God provided the grace to mend my life.

That period of my life was not easy. It was a period of much confusion; a period I often refer to as an “unravelling”, for multiple reasons. Looking back now, I recognize without doubt that God worked on me in ways that I would not have imagined, and at that time, would likely not have been able to believe. Thanks be to God I was raised by Catholics, so I knew where to turn to. The Catholic Church straightened things out for me. Proper catechesis is incredibly important.

God has not taken my cross away from me but is forming me to be able to carry it. Through my suffering, I’ve become willing to suffer for Jesus. My cross encourages me to maintain the state of grace, to receive the Sacraments regularly, and to always seek to grow in holiness.

Admittedly, I don’t recall feeling called to consecrated religious life when I was younger. Perhaps because I knew little of that type of vocation. While I did know of the vocation of priesthood, I don’t recall anyone talking about consecrated religious life for men. All that said, I did feel called to have good behavior and to be kind. That internal disposition came from God, surely working through good parenting from my mother and father. This was really a call to be a saint, though I believe this was in a way veiled from me.

Before I gave much thought to consecrated religious life, I had already started to live more like a religious at home. I cleaned out my room and became more of a minimalist. I made much effort to detach from sinful and worldly things. The





Holy Spirit radically changed my likes and dislikes during that time, making it very easy to throw away things that I had previously cared much about.

In 2020, I started to discern religious life more seriously, with the help of a “push” from my father. With very little knowledge of consecrated religious life, I went online to find the closest monastery. I found the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. I wrote a letter of inquiry and started a dialog with the vocation director. I made a total of three discernment trips, staying in their retreat house. For two of the trips, I was allowed to be with the monks, following their schedule, praying, and working with them. I enjoyed the monks, especially those I worked with, and I really loved the property. Even though the schedule was tough, I did plan to go back.

Looking to experience another community, one that was active and contemplative, I reached out to the Knights of the Holy Eucharist. I had a great call with Br. David and a trip was scheduled. Though sadly, after accidentally breaking my right foot, I had to cancel, but with full intent to schedule a new trip after I healed.

Admittedly, it was a very stressful period right after I broke my foot. I needed surgery, but I was without health insurance. Thanks be to God, I was sent to a facility that had financial aid programs where I qualified to have all the surgery costs paid for. God continued to provide for me after my surgery with me eventually getting a temporary work-from-home IT job. That temporary part-time job quickly became a full-time salary job with benefits. The work I did was interesting and called upon a lot of different talents and knowledge that I had gained in the past. I did very well, and I enjoyed that work. However, eventually I was let go because of the lack of projects that they had available. I decided to take advantage of my availability and schedule a discernment trip with the Knights.

During my aspirant visit, it became clear to me that the way the brothers were living was how

I was called to live. Before I went back home, I was invited to return to start postulancy. I gladly accepted.

To write about my time since joining the Knights of the Holy Eucharist will need its own article. This time with the Knights truly is a new stage in my life. I have learned many things and have met so many wonderful people. God has blessed me very much.

I am very happy that God has called me to religious life. When I was “in the world”, I tried very hard to become self-sustainable financially by doing the work I was passionate about. I was not interested in making a large amount of money; I just wanted to be able to provide for myself and do good work (creating 3D artwork and animations at that time). However, by giving me a religious vocation, God has given me something better than what I previously wanted. Thanks to our generous benefactors, I am being provided for. This frees me to do the good work that God wants me to do. With the Knights of the Holy Eucharist, I am now able to freely serve others with the talents and gifts God has given me. Thank you to all who are supporting our community. Please pray for my vocation and my perseverance. I am praying for you.







NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Congress

Come experience **REVIVAL** with us

**T**his July, we will be attending the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis! This Eucharistic Revival aims at restoring both understanding and devotion to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist within the Church in America.

Jesus wants to be the Lord of our lives, not of our spiritual lives only but our entire life. Now is the time to reflect on how our daily lives are aligned to Christ. What better person is there to discern this with than Christ in the Eucharist?

Jesus Himself is the Eucharist; we as Catholics must believe this. Faith is a gift from God; when was the last time you had an encounter with Our Eucharistic King? The National Eucharistic Congress allows attendees to foster a genuine encounter with Christ through various talks given throughout the congress along with opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In order to foster greater Eucharistic Devotion to Our Lord, we must take advantage of the opportunity that God has given: Christ making Himself truly present to us in the Holy Eucharist. Let us go to Him, spend time with Him, and adore Him, disposed to receive the graces that He wishes to give His people.

As the Eucharistic Congress approaches, we kindly ask for your prayers for safe travel, for an even greater

openness to the Lord's will, and for guidance from the Holy Spirit on how to spread devotion to the Most Holy Eucharist. As always, be assured of our prayers for you. Let us advance together with Christ today and everyday of our lives.



**ARE YOU **  
** GOING**

to the **first** National Eucharistic  
Congress in 83 Years?

[eucharisticcongress.org](http://eucharisticcongress.org)



NATIONAL  
Eucharistic  
Congress

**Come in FAITH.  
Leave with HOPE.**

INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
JULY 17-21, 2024





# We Need Your Support

God has given us a great opportunity to serve Him in our local area and in other places around the United States. We serve the Mystical Body of Christ, not only by our prayers, but also by serving the poor, standing up for the most vulnerable, promoting Eucharistic Adoration, and through our various other apostolates. Thank you to all who have contributed to the mission of the Knights.

We encourage you to prayerfully discern becoming a monthly donor via our website: **knights.org** It's your support that enables us to do all the apostolic and communal work that we do.

Thank you for supporting our mission. May God richly reward you for your generosity.

**Let's work together to bring more souls to heaven!**



## Donate Online at **KNIGHTS.ORG**