

THE KNIGHTS' *Journal*

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



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



EASTER VIGIL AT ST. ANDREWS CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TECUMSEH, NEBRASKA



KNIGHTS of the
HOLY EUCHARIST

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

We are Pilgrims of Hope!

I hope and pray that you are well. The brothers have been involved in a number of projects as we prepare for the many youth and family events that we will participate in this Summer. Currently, we are focusing a lot of our energies on new vocations as we continue to receive more inquiries from young men who now appear to be more open to serving Christ and his church. Brother Angelo continues to create new invigorating videos that are reaching thousands of young people.

Each year, we witness the trees that stood barren throughout the frosty months are now adorned with budding leaves and blossoms, while birds return from their seasonal migrations. Growing up in South Florida where the trees stay green all year long, it renews my spirit to see the fields of Nebraska come to life once again.

Our Lady of the Rosary serves not only as a reminder of the power of prayer but also emphasizes the importance of fasting and reparation. These three pillars act as a key that unlocks the door to personal happiness and world peace. Just as the world bursts forth in vibrant life each spring, we are called to nurture our own spiritual lives through prayer and acts of love.

So, as we step into this season of growth, let us take a moment to reflect on the beauty of the world around us and the promise of revival that it symbolizes. May we embrace Our Lady's call to action, unite our hearts with God. Let us sow seeds of hope and compassion, for when we do, we can trust that the beauty of spring will reign in our hearts and in our world once again, ushering in a new era of grace and renewal for all.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and donations! They mean so much to us and have enabled us to carry out the mission entrusted to us. Let us never grow tired of praying for each other.

Let us be pilgrims of hope!

May God richly bless you!

Br. David

Brother David Mary



Faith is what gets you started. Hope is what keeps you going. Love is what brings you to the end.
—Mother Mary Angelica, P.C.P.A.





What is Divine Mercy?

By: Br. Maximilian Maria

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8). His love cannot be exhausted. We might ask ourselves, "How could God be so loving and forgiving since our sins fill us with dejection and despair"? But we can come to know it through His love and the great manifestation of being with us daily in the Holy Eucharist, remaining with us and still more, longing for us. St. Peter says that love covers a multitude of sins; we see it in the Gospel when our Lord says about the woman crying at His feet, "Many sins have been forgiven her because she loved much." Our Lord is so loving that it seems that He loves the repentant sinner more than the one who does not ask for mercy. St. Therese said, "A God who became so small could only be love and mercy." He also told St. Faustina, "Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. I let My Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come then with trust to draw graces from this fountain. The graces of My mercy are drawn by the means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive". I was amazed to find out that what offends Jesus more than the sins people commit is people's lack of trust in His mercy.

Since we were created from love, to love, and with love, without love, our lives have no meaning; we have no reason to live. You are loved more than you will ever know since He not only knows how many hairs are on your head, but they are also numbered (Luke 12:7). Love is what sustains us. We often feel like we have no hope or love when we are struggling or in trouble. We struggle and think that God doesn't care or that He doesn't answer our prayers, but in a way we don't understand, He does. We must trust Him with everything like a little child; He will not abandon us. He can see the whole picture while we only see part of it. When it seems all is lost and we can't see a way out, we need to submit ourselves to His holy will. St. Faustina said, "Such submission to the will of God carries more weight with Him than long fasts, mortifications, and the most severe penances. Oh, how great is the reward for one act of loving submission to the will of God!"

God has prepared great graces for those who read the diary of St. Faustina. In it are the treasures of love and mercy of our God, Who is so madly in love with us. His kindness, patience, and love are shown in such a way that you come to know God in a way you have not experienced.

We might dismiss the thought that He loves us, but God is personal and very particular in His love. He loves each one of us individually as if we were the only ones in existence. Knowing that God loves and cares for us can give us the strength to bear anything for Him and see it as minor compared to what He endured for us. We must imitate our Lord in the garden of Gethsemane, where He was filled with sorrow even unto death. He was repugnant to endure the sufferings that awaited Him, but feelings come and go. So, we need to offer ourselves to the Father as Jesus did in His agony. Our wills must remain steadfast in His love, and we must never give up despite our feelings. Love does not depend on words or feelings but on actions. Love is an act of the will.

We might think we don't deserve to be loved by God because of our sins, but that is not the case. He loves us even in our sins. We need to come to know His great love for us because in doing so, we can brave anything. His love gives us strength and reason to fight. If we knew how much He loves us, we would die with joy. Knowing this, how could we not live to serve and adore Him? I remember the start of each of Mother Angelica's shows; how she said, "The essence of evangelization is to tell everybody, Jesus loves you!" how right she is because when you know you are loved, you will live life with confidence and security, you will become everything God created you to be and experience true peace even during difficult times. His love upholds us and reminds us how we are to live every day.

We give ourselves to you, O Mary, who stood at the foot of the cross, and ask you to show us how to suffer for love of Him. We unite ourselves to your sorrows, which we cannot even begin to comprehend, and ask you to help us love as you did!



The Flame of Love Devotion to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary



By: *Br. Maximilian Maria*

The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Movement is a devotion that was obtained by our Lady from God the Father for these times. It is a movement where the message was given to Elizabeth Kindelmann of Budapest, Hungary, from 1961 to 1985. These heavenly communications, which are recognized by the Holy Catholic Church through the imprimatur of her Diary, support and intensify the urgency of the messages of Fatima of prayer, fasting, and offering sacrifices in reparation to save many souls. Like Fatima, Our Blessed Mother gave Elizabeth a prayer to add to the Rosary, and Jesus Himself wants this prayer added to the Hail Mary. The prayer is: "Spread the effect of grace of thy Flame of Love over all of humanity", which Our Lord and Our Lady asked to have inserted in the Hail Mary after "pray for us sinners."

Our Blessed Mother also revealed to Elizabeth that she has gained from her Son "an outpouring of graces so great that they have not existed since the Word became Flesh". This is her Flame of Love bursting forth from her Immaculate Heart by which she will blind Satan. When Satan is blinded, then souls can turn to God. The Blessed Virgin pleads and begs that we share in her work by our prayers, sacrifices, holy hours, and fasting.

Our Lord told Elizabeth, "The grace from the Flame of Love of My Mother's Immaculate Heart will be to your generation what Noah's Ark was to his generation."

Our Lady complained that there are so many sins in the world and wanted Elizabeth to help her save souls. She was chosen for this task due to her understanding of poverty, suffering, and misery.

Our lady wishes every human heart to become a shrine where her love can become effective. "Mankind needs prayerful lay souls the most, it needs to hear my request faithfully and devoutly." "Satan wants to take hope away from you, he knows very well that if he succeeds in this, he takes away everything from you. A soul which loses hope is ready to commit sin; without hope, man is in deep darkness. He no longer sees with the eyes of faith and from him all virtue and good lose their value." She said to pray for each other constantly so that her graces can work in our souls. She wanted this prayer to be used often: "Mother of God, send forth your flame of love's graceful effect into the whole human race, now



and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Our Lord wishes everyone to experience the intimate relationship with Him that Elizabeth had. He says, "The whole Church is in great danger, and you cannot bring about any changes with earthly efforts. Only the Holy Trinity with the Blessed Virgin and with all the cooperation of the angels and saints and those souls you have helped can save the church.

Our Lady told her, "We will extinguish fire with fire. The fire of hate with the fire of love, the fire of Satan's hatred is so high that he believes victory is in his hands, but my flame of love will bind him. My flame of love will radiate an incredible light and warmth in the world, I need your sacrifices".

In the last years of her life, Elizabeth felt alone, and Jesus told her that she would die abandoned by everyone, all alone, but that He and His mother would be with her.

The Flame of Love is Jesus Christ Himself, Mary's Son. Jesus urges us to trust His Mother since she will sweep away all doubts and fear with her motherly love. She will mark all those who trust in her, and she will take them under her maternal protection. If you trust her, the evil one will be humiliated and will mindlessly fall back into hell. The future of the world is in our making, which will be illumined by her motherly smile.

In 2009, Cardinal Peter Erdo, Archbishop of Budapest and President of the Council of Episcopal Conferences of Europe, gave the imprimatur to the Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann and fully approved the Flame of Love Movement for his Archdiocese where the Movement originated.

In 2012, Archbishop Charles Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia gave the imprimatur to the English version of her Diary, and it has been spreading ever since across the United States. The first country to be dedicated to our Lady was Hungary. St. Stephen of Hungary gave a crown to Our Lady in the year 1038. Our Lady was formally made Queen and mother over its people. She gave the world a new devotion through Hungary and Elizabeth Kindelmann. The devotion to "The Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Year of Hope: To Jesus through Mary



By: Br. Julian Mary

Be a credible witness and a sign of hope!

It was May 9th, 2024, almost a year ago, when Pope Francis wrote the document *Spes non Confundit*, "Hope does not disappoint," announcing a Jubilee Year of Hope for 2025. This document was very timely because many of us experience many anxieties, disappointments, and discouragements. The Holy Father wrote, "We need to abound in hope so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and charity enthusiastic; and that each one of us may be able to offer a smile; a gesture of friendship, a kind look [and] a ready ear...". It is never too late to read the Holy Father's document and be a sign of hope to people around you by doing corporal works of mercy. As the Holy Father says, "works of mercy are also works of hope."

As we await the joyful hope, the reign of Jesus, the reign of Mary.

Indeed, we can be credible witnesses of hope as we look forward to our Lord's victory and his promise of everlasting life. Is this not what we pray for during the Holy Mass when the priest says, "...as we await in the joyful hope of the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ?" God will surely provide us the grace to do what the Holy Father had said, for as St. Ambrose says, "God is not accustomed to refusing a good gift to those who ask for one." We are even more certain when we ask for those graces through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We pray for the coming of the Reign of Jesus when we say the "Our Father". St. Louis de Montfort prophesied that the Reign of Jesus will come as a necessary consequence of the Reign of Mary. In his book *True Devotion to Mary*, the saint writes, "It is through the Most Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus came into this world, and it is through her that He will reign in the world." The saint continues, "If then, as is certain,



the knowledge and the kingdom of Jesus Christ come into the world, it will only be as a necessary consequence of the knowledge of the Reign of the Blessed Virgin Mary." (Intro. *True Devotion to Our Lady*)

Listen to St. Louis de Montfort, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Louis De Montfort prophesied the Reign of Mary; about two hundred years later, on July 13th, 1917, Our Lady of Fatima proclaimed, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph." A few days later, after Our Lady's October 13th apparition, St. Maximilian Kolbe, while still a seminarian, founded the Militia Immaculata with its mission to promote total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of personal conversion and sanctification and for the spiritual renewal of society. This Franciscan saint, like St. Louis de Montfort, was a great promoter of total consecration.

Let us be clear: Consecration did not begin with these two towering saints. First of all, consecration means setting aside for a sacred purpose. God consecrates us, setting us aside during baptism to make us holy and be God's adopted children. Consecration is also our entrustment, response, and total self-giving to God through the hands of the Blessed Mother.

St Louis de Montfort was so convinced, that consecration to Jesus through Mary is an excellent means of giving greater glory to God and by means of it many graces of conversion will flow from this consecration. St. Maximilian Kolbe, as he said, to Jesus through Mary is the sure means of personal conversion and spiritual renewal of society.

Let us ponder the invincible signs of hope of many martyrs. Do what St. Louis De Montfort and St. Maximilian Kolbe's teachings on total consecration instruct us to do, and be inspired by the Blessed Mother who promised the triumph of her Immaculate Heart. We entrust all to Jesus, all through Mary and surely our hope will not disappoint us.





I am on the way to Santiago!

By: Br. Angelo Marie

Opportunities for adventure often come our way at unexpected times. For any fan of Tolkien reading this, I can't help but recall the scene in **The Hobbit** where Gandalf meets Bilbo on his front lawn one seemingly normal morning, seeking someone to join him on an adventure. Although Bilbo is initially hesitant, he ultimately embraces the journey. Along the way, he faces orcs, goblins, and the terrifying dragon, Smaug. More importantly, Bilbo transforms into a person he would never have become if he hadn't set off with Gandalf and those fourteen dwarves.

Our lives are adventures. For Christians, this journey is a pilgrimage toward God. We are traveling to our true homeland, which lies beyond this world. Instead of battling orcs, goblins, and actual dragons, we combat the enemies of our souls who seek to hinder our journey's end: the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

An exciting opportunity for adventure has recently come my way. While it isn't to The Lonely Mountain, it is to Santiago, Spain! Many readers may be familiar with the film *"The Way,"* starring Martin Sheen. Nowadays, many people discover the Camino through that movie, and I was no exception. I first watched it in high school and always thought it would be a wonderful journey for me to take.

Last year, I met a travel organization called, Follow My Camino (followmycamino.com) at the Eucharistic Congress

in Indianapolis. We began discussing my aspirations, and I have now set my trip for May 2025. Along with my blood brother and a group of fellow pilgrims, I will be taking the Portuguese route, starting in Fatima (the same Fatima where Our Lady appeared) and heading north to the shrine that houses the tomb of St. James the Greater.

I am most excited about the opportunity to venerate the relics of St. James the Greater during my journey on the Camino de Santiago. His remains are entombed at the Shrine, making this experience particularly significant for me. St. James the Greater is one of the major patron saints of the Knights of the Holy Eucharist, as our community was founded on his feast day, July 25th, 1998. I hope to pray to St. James, asking for his guidance in becoming not only a great Brother but also a great saint!

The theme of the celebratory year 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope." We are all invited to be pilgrims alongside our Lord, who is with us always—until the end of our lives and the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). As Christians striving to remain in a state of grace, it's easy to forget that Jesus is also a pilgrim walking with us. We journey beside Him just as the Apostles did during His three-year ministry.

What is He saying to you? What do you need to communicate to Him? How can you engage with this Jubilee year of Hope in a way that helps you become a holier person, created in the image and likeness of God?





Knights host holy hour for vocations

By: *Br. Athanasius Mary*

Jesus reveals the devotion to His Sacred Heart in the Gospels. St. John the Beloved rested upon the Heart of Jesus during the Last Supper. At this moment, we find the essence of devotion to the Sacred Heart: to receive Jesus' Love and love Him in return. When we go to His Heart, we are filled with Divine Love. It is then that our hearts are moved to share His Love with others, console His Heart, and make reparation for those who reject Him. Our Lord, Who came down from heaven to be with us, has a human heart and wants to share a deep friendship with you.

Since Aug. 1, 1885, perpetual adoration has been maintained at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Montmartre in Paris. I was always inspired by the stories told by Venerable Fulton Sheen, who would frequently spend the night in prayer while visiting the Basilica, joined by over 1,000 men. Today, 135 years later, we started a men's holy hour for vocations in the Sacred Heart Parish adjoining our friary. As I kneel there in prayer, I can't help but think of something Mother Angelica said many years ago: "There is no distance

between tabernacles." I unite our prayers with their 135+ years of commitment to never leaving Jesus alone, asking for the Sacred Heart of Jesus to ignite a fire in young men's hearts to consider a calling to our community.

Seeing the need in the church for more "laborers in the vineyard," we started hosting a Men's Holy Hour for vocations every other month in collaboration with our local Regnum Christi chapter. This event is focused on fellowship and the commonality/solidarity that these men have in loving Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Encountering Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament surrounded by men striving to grow closer to Him is truly an amazing experience, and God has blessed us to have this opportunity. We've encountered men who have come to Adoration for the first time, and they've been eager to return. Jesus truly touches lives in the Eucharist, and we pray He will continue to do so.





St Michael's church and the Archangel sculpture from the bridge, historic city center of Ghent, Belgium

Shield and Sword of the Church

St. Michael led the fight against the demons in the great battle of heaven and cast them into hell. This Archangel is, moreover, the head of the Guardian Angels of individuals and institutions - he is the Guardian Angel of the institution par excellence, the Holy Roman Apostolic Catholic Church.

In him, therefore, two missions are linked together. God chose to use the Prince of the Celestial Militia as a shield against the devil and wants him to be equally the shield of men and of the Holy Church. However, the Archangel is also a sword; he is not limited to defending, but he also defeats and casts into hell. This is the double mission of St. Michael.

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, HE WAS CONSIDERED THE FIRST AMONG KNIGHTS, THE CELESTIAL, LOYAL, STRONG, PURE AND VICTORIOUS KNIGHT, AS MUST BE THE KNIGHT WHO PUTS ALL HIS TRUST IN GOD AND IN OUR LADY.

Such is the admirable figure of St. Michael, whom we must consider our ally in the battle to defend the Catholic Church.

Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

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