

To: Carl Anderson, Knight of Columbus, Supreme Knight
From: Steve Lovison, Knight of Columbus, 3rd Degree,
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Date: Tuesday November 13, 2007, Feast of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini
Subject: The Knights' Leadership Role in the Renewal of Parish Life

Worthy Supreme Knight,

In the November 2007 issue of Columbia Magazine which I just received today you wrote: **"Too often we are tempted to defer** our good ideas or best efforts until some later date. . . . **there is no better time than the present;** and if we use the present as fully as we can, we will find that the future will open up even more possibilities for us." **This proposal was written in October and has been deferred** as I let others review it but as you will see should you decide to read this proposal, **your writings have once again inspired me.** I also find this feast day an appropriate one for sending this to you, and so I take Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini as a special patron for this cause.

I have written the following proposal suggesting three activities that I believe will be of tremendous value to the renewal of the Catholic Church and that the Knights could drive to success. I am confident once you review these proposals you will agree that they are perfect for the Knights to play a spiritual leadership role in the Catholic Church, as you have recently written about.

I have spent several days in Eucharistic retreat writing this proposal at considerable expense because I believe it is so important. I realize you are extremely busy but I beg you to please give it your attention.

The activities revolve around **Eucharistic Adoration** which I have experience supporting in multiple dioceses in the United States. I believe I have an excellent understanding of the problems facing the Church in this area and how **the Knights can come to the rescue.**

I see these activities as so important that I have already invested a considerable amount of my own time and money into making them happen. But as a new 3rd Degree Knight I have come to realize that the Knights are the organization to make these activities successful on a world-wide scale.

I joined the Knights primarily due to your writings as related to the Eucharist which I became aware of while assisting the Archdiocese of Chicago with the August 2005 Grant Park procession hosted by the Knights. I fully see the vision you have of the Knights leading parish renewal.

If these activities seem worthwhile to you, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you in person or whoever would be responsible for these activities. I believe that I am uniquely qualified to assist in this effort, which I consider to be one of the most important in the world. I am at your disposal.

Steven Lovison

cc: This document will be sent to several Grand Knights (past and present), and several 4th degree Knights including 3 priests and a deacon who I have had discussions with regarding this proposal. I have also sent a copy to Supreme Director Charles Foos whose name and address was given to me by a 4th degree I discussed this with.

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this proposal is to enlist the Knights of Columbus into a formal, aggressive, worldwide campaign to increase devotion to the Blessed Sacrament through perpetual adoration, all-night prayer vigils, and the promotion of the Vatican Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles not only for the Knights themselves but for all Catholics.

In the September 2007 issue of Columbia magazine our Supreme Knight Carl Anderson remarked on the current concern of our Holy Father for the vitality and renewal of parish life. Carl Anderson stated **“we are providentially positioned to take up the challenge of a leadership role in the renewal of parish life: to be the strong right arm of our parish priests...we must reach out into more parishes with an active presence”**.

In support of Carl Anderson’s statement I believe that the most charitable thing the Knights could do is provide the example, inspiration, and resources to make the 1993 goal of Pope John Paul II a reality when he stated “I hope that ... **perpetual adoration, with permanent exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**, will continue into the future. Specifically, I hope that the fruit of this Congress results in *the establishment of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in all parishes and Christian communities throughout the world.*”

In that same issue of Columbia Cardinal Marc Quelet said there is a **“great Eucharistic movement** now under way in the Church”. While I agree, my experience supporting Perpetual Adoration in multiple dioceses in the United States tells me that **we have reached a point of complacency and stagnation in this movement, even a decline.**

One of the obstacles surely keeping parish priests from supporting Eucharist Adoration with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is a fear of having enough adorers to sustain it, and fear of problems managing the activity.

The proposals presented in this document are tangible ways to accomplish the great challenge Carl Anderson speaks of, and to revitalize the great Eucharistic movement to the greater glory of God.

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Background

I am an insured 3rd Degree Knight joining in June 2007 and taking my 3rd Degree last September. Since my return to the Church in the year 2000, I have used my professional skills and resources as a computer professional to assist groups in their adoration efforts.

Over my career I have held executive positions with manufacturing and distribution companies while at the same time keeping up my technical skill set. I understand systems from many angles and put those talents to use in adoration.

I work within several dioceses most notably Chicago, New Orleans, Orange (California), and San Antonio developing what I consider a world class set of tools to manage perpetual adoration which are available free to all at www.adorationservants.org.

I joined the Knights primarily due to the writings of Carl Anderson as related to the Eucharist. I became aware of these writings while assisting the Archdiocese of Chicago with the August 2005 Grant Park procession hosted by the Knights as part of their major conference.

As I discussed joining the Knights I made it clear my priorities are the Eucharist and my hope was that I could help the Knights promote Eucharistic devotions in a tangible, comprehensive way.

Proposals

Perpetual Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration: As already stated Pope John Paul II wished that perpetual adoration and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament be established in every parish throughout the world. It is a provable fact that when our Lord is exposed in the Blessed Sacrament, more people come to adore Him than would do so otherwise when He is hidden from view in the tabernacle.

But exposition requires a guaranteed presence of the faithful. Under no circumstances may exposition take place such that no adorers are present. To accomplish this guarantee takes significant commitment from many people and significant work in coordinating the ongoing efforts.

The active presence and leadership role in the renewal of parishes Carl Anderson speaks of can be immediately accomplished by every Knight in every Council scheduling themselves for a weekly holy hour where perpetual adoration is in place, finding out from the chapel leaders where they need help, and where requested, taking on any administrative duties that perpetual adoration entails.

All Night Eucharistic Powerhouse Vigils of Love: Establish all-night prayer vigils using the format created by the Marian Therese Vigil Society whose founder, Nancy Martin, is the spouse of a 4th Degree Knight.

These All Night Eucharistic Powerhouse Vigils of Love set out the whole night's activities making use of some of the most powerful weapons of the Church which amounts to a beautiful, organized medley of divine praise and petition. So when a council establishes an all night vigil, it will not be necessary to "reinvent the wheel" so to speak. The vigil can be off and running with limited preparation.

The Vigil stresses praying for the "four pillars" which are certainly close to the heart of all Knights: Life, Marriage, Family, and Priests/Religious. These four pillars are the essence of civilization and fruitfulness, and they are currently under attack from all sides. The recent Connecticut emergency contraception legislation and the turmoil of the bishop's in responding to that legislation is surely an example of these attacks. The restoration and health of these four pillars are essential to the promotion of life, and the renewal of Church and Society.

Vatican Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles: This exhibition, created by the Vatican and portrayed in 160 large posters, describes centuries of Vatican approved Eucharistic miracles. Currently there are in the United States approximately five sets of the posters. Already the Knights have promoted this display in some places and have helped to set up the display in others, but for the most part it remains unknown. This exhibition is surely a positive example of what Rome wants to show the world and the effects on those who see will surely be inspiration to be more Eucharistic. It is my understanding that Archbishop Burke recently requested the Knights help in this activity.

Resources Available

The three activities proposed are in position for the Knights to exploit them without very significant pre-implementation efforts.

The Vatican Exhibition is being promoted under the management of a National Eucharistic Adoration Organization called The Real Presence. When I personally financed my own set of the exhibition (\$6,000+) I became their coordinator for the West Coast. Getting started would require scheduling a time (usually a weekend) with a local parish and coordinating schedules with the availability of the exhibition set. An option would be for the Knights themselves to purchase their own set of panels and then they can coordinate display from council to council as desired. I do not know the extent of Archbishop Burke's proposal to the Knights on this.

The All Night Eucharistic Powerhouse Vigils of Love are completely organized and startup would just be a matter of getting the materials in enough quantity for expected participants, getting permission to hold the Vigil at a parish, and organizing each event.

Perpetual Adoration with Exposition is a completely different story that will vary not only from diocese to diocese but from parish to parish. Some bishops, like those in Chicago, San Antonio, and New Orleans have given their adorers complete approval to have 24/7 Exposition if they can or to have less times dependent on a Pastor's desires and adorer availability. Other dioceses, like Orange California, need the bishop's permission to expand beyond the current one day a month of exposition.

Starting up perpetual adoration requires serious planning and coordination. The good news is that there are a number of organizations willing to help such as the Real Presence nationwide, and local diocesan organizations such as those that exist in Chicago, New Orleans, and San Antonio.

In addition my Internet based system available at www.adorationservants.org can and will ease the tasks required for startup. This effort will surely take resources and should the Knights wish to support this effort in a truly aggressive manner, I would be willing to sacrifice my personal business and help in a more formal, dedicated fashion.

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Summary

We live in times where world morals are falling apart. The family is under attack. The Church is under attack and its members suffer and are in need of more available spiritual tools and the inspiration to use them.

The Knights have been, and are now a force to be reckoned with. They are poised and have the resources, should they aggressively desire, to completely renew Catholic Culture through programs they have and by taking on the proposals above. I am glad to be a new Knight of Columbus and I look forward to helping in Carl Anderson's vision of making the Knights into a spiritual inspiration to Catholics around the world.

Detailed Proposals for Perpetual Adoration

Purpose & Background

Introduction: The Knights of Columbus are a force of accomplishment such that when they decide something has to be done, gets it done! The proposals presented here are tangible, challenging activities that are needed in every diocese in the world and the main activity, Eucharistic Adoration, has been recommended by saints and popes and over the last fourteen years has met with great success and great failure, great support and great opposition. Should the Knights decide to take these activities on in a formal, aggressive, united manner, the successes to-date will seem like only a prelude to what will come. The Knights have the resource to motivate the rest of the Catholic world.