

Healing a Divided Nation

From Knightline <knightline@kofc.org>

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Through his life and ministry, Blessed Michael McGivney exemplified how love of country and love of neighbor are “companions rooted in the Gospel,” writes Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori in his recent column for Columbia. Every Knight, the supreme chaplain explains, is called to serve his country through the Order’s principles of charity, unity and fraternity. “Patriotism is not oblivious to a nation’s shortcomings. But neither do patriots content themselves with complaining about what’s wrong. True patriotism spurs us to help our country become the best version of itself.”



Perpetual pilgrims of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage (front row) pray with hundreds of Catholics during a Corpus Christi vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on June 6. (Photo by Matthew Barrick)

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As the United States prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence next week, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori invites Americans to embrace the occasion as a moment of “grace and responsibility” in his recent column for *Columbia*. “Let us be builders of unity in the broader culture,” he writes, “by recognizing legitimate diversity where it exists and respecting the humanity of those with whom we disagree.”

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California farmworkers, or campesinos, work in a lettuce field near El Centro, outside Brawley, in March 2014. Brawley was among the Campesinos program distribution sites this fraternal year. (Photo by Sandy Huffaker / Corbis via Getty Images)

Christ Among the Campesinos

Despite California's rich agricultural abundance, the rising cost of living and other economic pressures leave many farmworkers — especially migrant and seasonal laborers — struggling to put food on their own tables. Since 2023, the California State Council's Campesinos program has organized distributions across the state to provide food, clothing and other assistance to farmworkers, supporting tens of thousands of campesinos and their families.

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Grand Knight Gordon Shellhaas of Sts. Cosmas and Damian Council 13341 in Lakewood Ranch, Fla., and Servidora Sister Maria de Talpa Vargas Espinoza unload food at St. Michael Parish's distribution center in Wauchula. (Photo by Mark Taylor)

Works of Mercy

Across North America, local councils have launched programs to welcome and assist migrant families in their communities. "They're here for a reason. They work hard and want to get a better life for their families," said Financial Secretary Wayne Turner of Our Lady of the Valley Council 10889 in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. "We're just people helping people."

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The Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome was restored in 2024, with support from the Knights of Columbus. (Photo by Tamino Petelinšek)

Restoring the Chair of St. Peter

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope, the Knights of Columbus sponsored a yearlong restoration of the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter in St. Peter's Basilica. This ambitious project renewed the splendor of the towering, gilded monument, originally crafted by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 17th century. Enshrined within the masterpiece is a revered relic — an ancient wooden chair long honored as a symbol of apostolic authority.

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Father Wiesław Lenartowicz (center), chaplain of Our Lady of Częstochowa Queen of Poland Council 14004 in Radom, celebrates Mass with fellow Polish Knights of Columbus chaplains at the tomb of St. John Vianney at the Basilica of Ars in Ars-sur-Formans, France, on April 14.

Journey to the Heart of France

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Order's presence in Poland, Knights of Columbus chaplains from across the country made a pilgrimage to sacred sites in France, entrusting their ministry to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The April pilgrimage included visits to the village of Ars-sur-Formans, home of St. John Vianney, and the Chapel of the Apparitions in Paray-le-Monial, where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received visions of the Sacred Heart 350 years ago.

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