



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP • Diocese of Duluth

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Dear Gentlemen,

I can think of a few times in human history when it was imperative that men, as men, were called to stand in the breach. Ours is the time!

As Catholic men of the Diocese of Duluth we are called to live lives of holiness, in imitation of Jesus, which translates into a life of service to God, our families, and our neighbor. Our response to the culture war is to live a life rich in the works of mercy. It is not easy to do in a world that demeans men by continually offering them pleasures, toys and license instead of offering them Jesus.

I propose that one of the ways you can stand in the breach is to join the Knights of Columbus. I joined the Knights of Columbus in imitation of my dad who was a Knight, and upon the invitation of an exemplary Knight at the parish to which I was assigned when I was a young priest. The parish had a strong and healthy council. More than the Knight's swords and regalia, which I thought were pretty cool, I was impressed by their service hours, support of their priests and the spirit with which the Knights lived the Gospel. They were men of God and men for others.

Perhaps "the throwaway culture" as Pope Francis has called it, also reflects an impoverished view of ourselves and our ability to make a difference in our world. When we belong to something bigger than ourselves the power of one is multiplied.

I came to understand that this exemplary Order of Catholic men was founded in 1882 by a parish priest, the Venerable Father Michael McGivney. Since its inception the Knights have provided Catholic men the opportunity to strengthen and live their faith, witness to the gift of human life, marriage and family, patriotism and charity in the bonds of fraternity and change our world. Knights stand in the breach.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Knights of Columbus. You can make a difference!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul D. Sirba".

Most Reverend Paul D. Sirba
Bishop of Duluth