



St. Maron Council 12640 Newsletter

September 2020



REFLECTIONS FROM POPE FRANCIS

God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving.
If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.

Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds,
there is always a space in which the good seed can grow.
You have to trust God.

Find new ways to spread the word of God to every corner of the world.

Brainy Quote

<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/pope-francis-quotes>

CHOIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Francis Younger of our Council and Parish Choir Director request volunteers to sing in the choir. Interested Knights should contact Brother Francis before or after the Sunday 10:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy.

INASMUCH BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The next date is 6 October 2020 @ 7:00 AM. This date may change depending on guidance from Operation INASMUCH and local directives.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2020

September 7	Labor Day
September 15	Family of the Month Form Due
September 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

October 2020

October 12	Columbus Day
October 15	Family of the Month Form Due
October 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due

November 2020

November 1	All Saints Day
November 2	All Souls Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 15	Family of the Month Form Due
November 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
November 26	Thanksgiving Day

DATES TO REMEMBER (Continued)

December 2020

December 8	Immaculate Conception
December 15	Family of the Month Form Due
December 25	Christmas Day
December 25	Tar Heel Knight Articles Due
December 31	Program Award Submission Due

DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ!

3/14/2020 – Governor Roy Cooper has issued an executive order banning mass gatherings of 100 people or more. Before attending any of the Degree Ceremonies listed below, please contact the host council to be sure that the event will still be held.

Further details for upcoming degree ceremonies are available on the K of C State Council Website:

Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/degrees/>

Degree Exemplifications On-Line: <https://kofcnc.org/ceremonials/upcoming-online-exemplifications/>

Fourth Degree Exemplifications: <https://kofcnc.org/4th-degree/4th-degree-exemplification/>

<u>Date</u>	<u>Start Time</u>	<u>Council – Location</u>
1 November 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
7 November 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
21 November 2020	8:00 PM	On-Line
22 November 2020	8:00 PM	On-Line
5 December 2020	3:00 PM	On-Line
12 December 2020	3:00 P M	On-Line

FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

There is a Fourth Degree Exemplifications scheduled for 21 November 2020 in Gastonia, NC. This exemplification is hosted by the Judge William Gaston Assembly 2531.

PRAYING TO SAINTS

Financial Secretary Christopher R. Cooper

Should Catholics pray to the Saints? Many Fundamentalist Christians say no. In their mind Catholics are communicating with the dead. But are Catholics communicating with the dead and thereby practicing the dark art of necromancy? Or worse yet, are Catholics deifying a Saint? These allegations are false. They are misinterpretations of passages in the Bible. So, who is a Saint? What does the Bible say on the subject of praying to Saints?

First things first, who is a Saint? According to Scott P. Richert, “Saints, broadly speaking, are those who follow Jesus Christ and live their lives according to his teaching. Catholics, however, also use the term narrowly to refer to especially holy men and women who, through extraordinary lives of virtue, have already entered Heaven.” (Richert) Saints are both in this world and the next. In the broader sense of Mr. Richert definition the terms Christian and Saint are synonymous since Christians are those individuals who follow Christ.

Another word that needs scrutiny is the verb “pray”. Pray is defined as “...often used as a function word in introducing a question, request, or plea ([pray] be careful)” or “to address God or a god with adoration, confession,

supplication, or thanksgiving.” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) These definitions illustrate two problems with the English language. Many words such as “pray” have double meanings depending on the context they are used in. In one sense to pray is a request and in another it is adoration to God. The second problem is the English language has changed over time. Outside of Shakespearian Theater not many people today use the phrase “pray be careful”. Today a person would just say, “Be careful”. A modern phrase for “praying to Saints” could be “request to Saints” or “plea to Saints”. However, to me these phrases don’t have the same ecclesiastical impact.

In their opposition to praying to Saints many Fundamentalist Christians quote the Book of Deuteronomy 18:10-12, “10. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times or and enchanter, or a witch, 11. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits or a wizard or a necromancer. 12. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord...” (The Holy Bible: King James Version, 1976) The key word in this passage is necromancer. Necromancy is the conjuration of the spirits of the dead for purposes of magically revealing the future or influencing the course of events. (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 1993) The Catholic tradition of praying for the intercessions of Saints does not fall under any of the prohibitions in this passage. An example is the last lines of *The Hail Mary*, “Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.” (Common Catholic Prayers) Catholics are petitioning St. Mary as a fellow Saint to pray for them. There is no request do reveal the future or magically influencing the course of events. Certainly, there is no evidence in this prayer of any call to deify St. Mary or assume she is a deity.

Did Christ ever pray and Saints appear with him? Yes, in the Gospel of St. Luke 9:29-31, “29. While He [Christ] was praying His face changed in appearance and His clothing became dazzling white. 30. And behold, two men were conversing with Him, Moses and Elijah, 31. who appeared in glory and spoke of His exodus that He was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.” (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) Was Christ practicing necromancy? No, God the Father chose this time to reveal His divine plan to Christ. God the Father sent two Saints, Moses and Elijah, as His messengers.

Is it permissible for Christians (Saints) to ask fellow Christians to pray for them? The answer is yes. An example from the Bible is the Epistle to the Colossian 4:3, “at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison”. (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) St. Paul is petitioning his fellow Christians to pray for him and those who are in prison with him. He does not specify only the Christians who are still on Earth or those who are in Heaven, but to all Christians to pray for him and those who are imprisoned with him.

The next argument Fundamentalist Christians reference against praying to Saints is 1 Timothy 2:5, “For there is one God: and one mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (The Holy Bible: Douay-Rheims Version, 2005) However, upon reading the preceding verses 1-4 the entire context of what St. Paul is saying comes to light especially in verse 1, “I desire therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayer, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men.” St. Paul is instructing all Christians (Saints) to pray for each other. Again, he does not specify only the Christians living in this world or those who have passed on to Heaven, but all Christians (Saints). St. Paul is instructing his fellow Christians to direct their petitions to Christ, not to circumvent our Lord and Savior. Remember it is always a good idea to read the entire passage to acquire the full meaning of what the Bible reveals to the Faithful.

In my opinion the silliest argument I have encountered from Fundamentalist Christians against praying to Saints is, “...can the saints in heaven hear every prayer of every creature all the time?” (Slick, 2012) My answer to this ridiculous argument is from the Gospel of St. Matthew 19:26, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.’” (The New American Bible: St. Joseph Edition, 1986) In this passage Christ is talking about who can be saved and God the Father’s power. The key part is “...*for God all things are possible*”. Christ proclaims the omnipotence of His Father and all things are possible for His Father. Can the Saints in Heaven hear every prayer of every creature all the time? Yes, because *for God all things are possible*. To say anything less is placing a limitation on God. To be very blunt and to the point, God puts limitations on us. We **DO NOT** put limitations on Him.

Praying to Saints is a Biblical concept. Of all the Catholic prayers to Saints I have encountered, none have called to deify any Saint or ask for inside information on future events. St. Paul instructed the followers of Christ to pray for him. He made no distinction between those followers in this world or those in Heaven. Prayers to Saints are request for their intercessions on our behalf before Christ.

Work Cited:

Common Catholic Prayers. (n.d.). Mahwah: Paulist Press.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. (1993). Springfield: Merriam-Webster, Incorporated.

Richert, S. P. (n.d.). *What Is a Saint in Roman Catholicism?* Retrieved from about.com:
http://catholicism.about.com/od/thesaints/f/What_Is_A_Saint.htm

Slick, M. (2012). *Is praying to the saints biblical?* Retrieved from Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry:
<http://carm.org/praying-saints-biblical>

The Holy Bible: Douay-Rheims Version. (2005). Fitzwilliam: Loreto Publications.

The Holy Bible: King James Version. (1976). Nashville: Regency Publishing House.

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KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Deployed military members
Christians in the Middle East
Victims of human trafficking

ARTICLES FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Any Brother Knight who wants to add his article to the Newsletter, submit the article to Financial Secretary Chris Cooper, at the next Council meeting or send it via email to COOP5614@yahoo.com.