



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MILTON COUNCIL 7027



DEACON'S TEACHING



Why Does the Church Require Celibacy for Priests?

“An unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord,” St. Paul tells the Corinthians. *“But a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided”* (1 Corinthians 7:32-34).

In light of that observation, the example of our Lord Jesus, and long historical experience, the Church has concluded that the celibate priest may be better able to devote himself single-heartedly both to God and his flock.

We should note that although the Church holds celibacy as the *disciplinary norm of practice* for priests, she does allow for some exceptions. Many ancient priests and even bishops had a wife at some point (see Timothy 3:2), including the first pope, St. Peter (Matthew 8:14 speaks of his “mother-in-law”). Today many Catholic priests of the Eastern rite are married. And even in the Roman rite a handful of married men, usually clergy converts from a non-Catholic christian tradition), have been given a special dispensation by Rome to be ordained as priests.

The Church doesn't teach as part of the Catholic faith, then, that celibacy is an inherent quality of priesthood - part of its essence. But as St. Paul observes, celibacy has distinct advantages for the man who must give himself wholly to God in ministry to his Church.

Opponents of celibacy often simply assume that such a life is utterly impossible. But St. Paul undeniably teaches the contrary (see Corinthians 7:7-38), and our Lord speaks without criticism of those who *“have renounced marriage for the sake of the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 19:12).

Celibacy is both a matter of personal choice and, on a deeper level, an acceptance of God's calling. St. Paul acknowledges the divine impetus (see 1 Corinthians 7:35, 38). If a man is called to celibacy, he will be given both the desire and the ability to carry out this way of life successfully (see Philemon 2:13).

Finally, we should note that the Catholic Church does not in any sense reject marriage or sexuality (see 1 Corinthians 7:38), as long as these remain within the proper biblical and moral guidelines. According to the Catholic faith, marriage and ordination are both sacraments, both positive and wonderful means of God's grace.



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DEACON'S TEACHING



Brother Knights,

I apologize for giving incorrect and mixed information regarding the significance of Our Lady of Fátima at our 13 September Council meeting. As I mixed stories of Our Lady of Fátima with those of Our Lady of Lourdes, I now offer separate explanations of each in the hope of clearing-up any confusion.

With sincere apologies,

Deacon Chris

A Short History of Our Lady of Fátima

On May 13, 1917, ten year old Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto were herding sheep at a location known as the Cova da Iria near their home village of Fátima, Portugal. Lúcia described seeing a woman "brighter than the sun, shedding rays of light clearer and stronger than a crystal ball filled with the most sparkling water and pierced by the burning rays of the sun." Further appearances were reported to have taken place on the thirteenth day of the month in June and July. In these, the woman exhorted the children to do penance and Acts of Reparation, and to make sacrifices to save sinners. The children subsequently wore tight cords around their waists to cause themselves pain, performed self-flagellation using stinging nettles, abstained from drinking water on hot days, and performed other works of penance. According to Lúcia's account, in the course of her appearances, the woman confided to the children three secrets, now known as the Three Secrets of Fátima.

Thousands of people flocked to Fátima and Aljustrel in the following months, drawn by reports of visions and miracles. On August 13, 1917, the provincial administrator and anticlerical Freemason, Artur Santos (no relation to Lúcia Santos), believing that the events were politically disruptive, intercepted and jailed the children before they could reach the Cova da Iria that day. Prisoners held with them in the provincial jail later testified that the children, while upset, were first consoled by the inmates, and later led them in praying the rosary. The administrator interrogated the children and tried unsuccessfully to get them to divulge the contents of the secrets. In the process, he threatened the children, saying he would boil them in a pot of oil, one by one unless they confessed. The children refused, but Lúcia told him everything short of the secrets, and offered to ask the Lady for permission to tell the Administrator the secrets. That month, instead of the usual apparition in the Cova da Iria on the 13th, the children reported that they saw the Virgin Mary on 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption, at nearby Valinhos.

(continued at next page)



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DEACON'S TEACHING

A Short History of Our Lady of Fátima (continued)

As early as July 1917 it was claimed that the Virgin Mary had promised a miracle for the last of her apparitions on October 13th, so that all would believe. What happened then became known as "Miracle of the Sun". A crowd believed to number approximately 70,000, including newspaper reporters and photographers, gathered at the Cova da Iria. The incessant rain had finally ceased and a thin layer of clouds cloaked the silver disc of the sun. Witnesses said later it could be looked upon without hurting the eyes. Lúcia, moved by what she said was an interior impulse, called out to the crowd to look at the sun. Witnesses later spoke of the sun appearing to change colors and rotate like a wheel. Not everyone saw the same things, and witnesses gave widely varying descriptions of the "sun's dance". The phenomenon is claimed to have been witnessed by most people in the crowd as well as people many miles away. While the crowd was staring at the sun, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta said later they were seeing lovely images of the Holy Family, Our Lady of Sorrows with Jesus Christ, and then Our Lady of Mount Carmel. They said they saw Saint Joseph and Jesus bless the people. The children were aged 10, 9, and 7 at the time.

In addition to the Miracle of the Sun, the seers at Fátima indicated that the lady prophesied a great sign in the night sky which would precede a second great war. On January 25, 1938, bright lights, an aurora borealis appeared all over the northern hemisphere, including in places as far south as North Africa, Bermuda and California. It was the widest occurrence of the aurora since 1709 and people in Paris and elsewhere believed a great fire was burning and fire departments were called. Lúcia, the sole surviving seer at the time, indicated that it was the sign foretold and so apprised her superior and the bishop in letters the following day. Just over a month later, Hitler seized Austria and eight months later invaded Czechoslovakia.



FIELD AGENT'S REPORT



Insurance check-up for 2012

An insurance check-up can be as important as an annual physical. Unlike many other products, you don't just need money to obtain life insurance, long-term care or disability income insurance. You also need good health, and no one knows when your health could change.

"An insurance check-up can be as important as an annual physical."

Did you take time out of your schedule last year to meet with me? If you did, thank you for seeing me and helping secure your financial future. I will be in touch with you to schedule your annual review to verify that everything is heading in the right direction. We'll make sure that if your goals and budget have changed, your plan still works for you.

If you didn't have a meeting with me last year, I hope you will answer my invitation this year. It's a wise idea to have an expert look at your finances. Schedule some time to visit with me, your professional Knights of Columbus insurance agent, and I'll provide an insurance check-up that will quickly identify any gaps in your family's life insurance program.

Did I mention my check-up is free of charge? When was the last time you received something for free that could be providing value to you and your family for generations? And I'll come to your house when it fits your schedule.

Call me today. May God Bless You and Your Family,

Jeff Fischer, FICF, LUTCF

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