

## The Knights of Columbus – Defenders of the Faith

The armor of God, found in Ephesians 6:10-18, is made up of the following six items: The belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the gospel, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit.

In his installation address, Supreme Knight Kelly consecrated his administration to St. Joseph and highlighted him as a singular model for the Knights in his roles as “guardian of the family” and “guardian of the truth.”

“The family faces an unknown and precarious future,” Kelly said.

“Catholic families are struggling to live out their faith and raise their children amid a culture that is increasingly hostile to our beliefs. Catholic husbands and fathers, especially fathers of young children, need the encouragement and support of the Knights of Columbus.

“We can inspire them with the creative courage needed to keep their families strong in the faith. So let us, like St. Joseph, embrace our role as guardians of the family.”

“As Knights, we too must serve this Truth. This is not easy in our day,” Kelly said. “Truths about marriage, about life in the womb, about the nature of the family and the meaning of freedom are often denied and even vilified. Yet, this makes our commitment to truth all the more important.”

In listing the different pieces of the armor of God, Paul says, “Above all,...[take] the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one” (Ephesians 6:16). When Satan attacks with doubts, the shield of faith turns aside the blow. When temptations come, faith keeps us steadfast in following Jesus. We are able to withstand all the devil’s fiery darts because we know whom we have believed (2 Timothy 3:12).

This faith is not something that comes from within us. It is God’s gift to us. He gives each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Then as we walk with Him, that faith grows and develops until it becomes a shield, protecting us and allowing us to live a victorious life in Christ. That can be your experience as well, as you use the shield of faith to turn aside everything Satan hurls at you.



The sword of the spirit is the only weapon of offense listed in the armor of God. All the other parts are defensive in nature. God's Word—the Bible—is described as "living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (Hebrews 4:12). Jesus used this weapon when Satan tempted Him in the wilderness. To each of Satan's efforts to lead Him into sin, Jesus replied, "it is written..." and proceeded to quote Scripture to destroy Satan's temptations. God's Word is truth (John 17:17). That is why it is so powerful. That is why it is so important that we study the Bible and become familiar with its truths and its power. David wrote, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). The sword of God's Word both protects us and destroys our enemy—the devil and his temptations.

The Knights of Columbus seek strength in solidarity, and security through unity of purpose and devotion to a holy cause: they vow to be defenders of their country, their families, and their faith. The Order has been called "the strong right arm of the Church," and has been praised by popes, presidents, and other world leaders, for support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement, and aid to those in need.

So, are you as Knights of Columbus, willing to pick up your sword and shield and be the "Defenders of the Faith"?