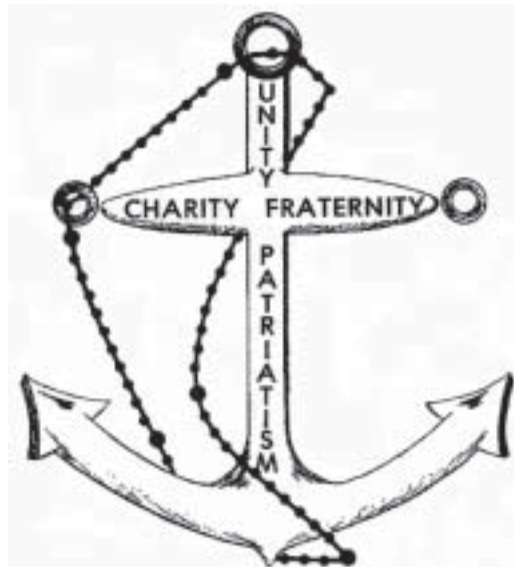


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The Meditations were composed with the assistance of Council Chaplains of Iowa.

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With Ecclesiastical approval.
1975
Reprinted 1988, 1994, 1996 & 2005



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ROSARY OF
CHRISTIAN HOPE**

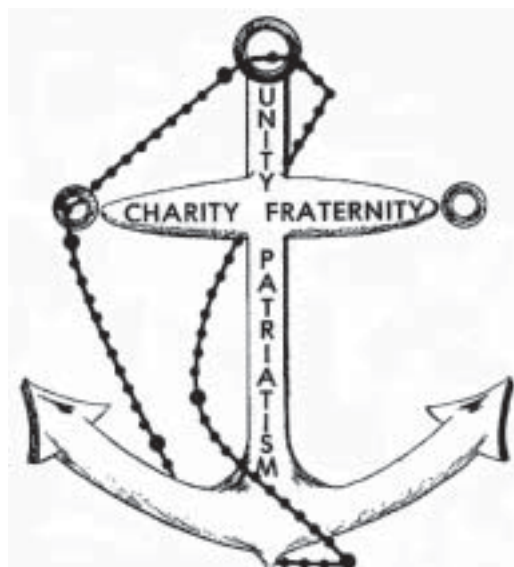
Written By:
Rev. Anthony L. Conard, State Chaplain (1971-1975)
(May be used in conjunction with the Vigil Wake Service)

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CHRISTIAN HOPE**

Written By:
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(May be used in conjunction with the Vigil Wake Service)

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ROSARY OF HOPE**

Introductory Prayer:

O Christ Jesus, Who are the way, the truth and the life, You have taught us how to live the charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism required of us as Knights of Columbus. We have, therefore, gathered in brotherly love to pray for our fellow Knight whom You have called from this world.

As you once said about the daughter of Jairus: "Stop crying for she is not dead but asleep" (Luke 8:49), so we believe of our brother. We know he lives on. We believe in the "Communion of Saints", the living unity of all who live in You in this world and in the next. So we believe our Brother _____ is still our living Brother and, just as we have gone to each other's aid in the past, lending our hands or whatever the other needed, so now we his brothers and sisters, gather around him in spirit today to lend him our lips and our tongues in prayer, since his are stilled by physical death.

"I believe in God..."

"Hail Mary..." (Three (3) times)

"Glory be to the Father..."

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"I believe in God..."

"Hail Mary..." (Three (3) times)

"Glory be to the Father..."

Father of all, be merciful to all.
Hold not this faithful servant long in thrall.
Open to him thy blessed dwelling place.
Hide not too long the glory of thy face.
Mother of pity, harken to that cry,
Cleaving to the clouds and quivering to the sky—
ORATE PRO NOBIS!

Lector:

Worthy Sir Knight _____, in the presence of your loved ones and your brothers assembled here on this solemn occasion, we honor you. Not as a pagan with a bronze plaque or a sculptured stone, but as a Christian. We honor you with this "memorial" upon which your name will be engraved. In due time it will be given into the hands of a Priest at the Altar.

It matters not whether it will serve in a chapel in the frozen north, in a tropical jungle or in another outpost of Christianity. Whatever it may be, it will be used in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and there you will be remembered. May its sacred use give honor to God in your name and redound to your eternal glory. Amen!

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Tonight (today) our hearts go out in deep sympathy to you who are left behind to mourn. Your loss is heavy and your sorrow is great. We pledge to you our continued brotherly support and we ask Almighty God in His goodness and kindness to console you.

For you who knew Sir Knight _____, may I borrow an exhortation from St. Ambrose: "We loved him in life, let us not forget him in death." Remembering in tenderness and sorrow that voice now stilled, once mingled with ours in our Assembly meetings, may I ask you to listen to the words of the poet:

Lector:

Wild the sea clamors from its echoing caves
But other voices rise above the waves;
'As now you are, O friends, so once were we;
As now we are, one day you shall be'.
And still they rise and plead and hurry by, Sobbing and
breaking in that long sad cry—
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PRAYERS USED IN THE ROSARY

Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father:

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

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Hail Mary:

full of grace! The Lord is with you; Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy May, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be:

to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

As his death reminds us of the uncertainty of life and the debt we owe our Brother, it also compels us to dwell in serious thought on that time when we, too, shall join that endless caravan of God’s servants proceeding to that undiscovered country from whose shores no traveler returns.

But, even as we dwell on these somber thoughts, the Master calls to us through His Apostle Paul, whose words of faith ring out with a spirit of power, joy and confidence: “For this corruptible body must be clothed with incorruptibility, this mortal body with immortality. When the corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and the mortal immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’” (Cor. 15:54 & 55).

It is the loving call of our risen Savior to be at peace as we bid farewell to our Brother for a time and as we prepare to join him, one day, in the land of the living—to which death and the grave are only the door.

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**FOURTH DEGREE
MEMORIAL CHALICE SERVICE**

Lector:

Friends, _____ Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus is once more called upon to bid farewell to the mortal remains of one of its members, and pay a tribute of respect to his memory whom Almighty God, in his infinite wisdom and mercy, has called to his eternal reward.

This occasion is not altogether a sad one. It is sad, indeed, to realize that death has cut short another life, the life of one of our cherished members. It is sad to realize that the ties of fraternal affection which bound him to our Assembly have been severed, and that soon this body will lie in God's own consecrated ground, there to await the day of final judgement.

In our sorrow we are consoled by the thought that his days of illness and suffering are at an end and that he, whom we knew and loved, is forever at rest from the trials of this world. His labors are finished and a faithful servant has been called to meet his Divine Master.

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OPTIONAL INTRODUCTION:

In the Holy Rosary we praise our Father for his love that has made us brothers and sisters in Christ. With Mary, through whom he poured out his divine love on all his children, we relive those sacred events of salvation which give us hope and comfort even as we are faced with our Brother's death.

As we spend these few minutes refreshing ourselves in the mysteries of Christ's love for us, we will spend the time with his Blessed Mother and ours, asking her to pray for our Brother and for us "now and at the hour of our death."

We begin by professing our faith in God, in the mysteries of salvation and in the "Communion of Saints," which is the living unity of all who live in Christ in this world and in the next.

I Believe in God the Father..

Our Father...

Hail Mary...(three (3) times)

Glory be to the Father..

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**THE FIRST MEDITATION:
THE AGONY OF JESUS IN THE GARDEN:**

As we begin to share in our Savior's prayer to his heavenly Father: "Let it be as you would have it, not I" (Matt. 26:39), we must first recognize how much we need His grace even to believe and trust, to open our hearts to Him. So we pray:

Our Father...

As the mother of Jesus supported her Son in his hours of agony, so she supports us, his members, as we are called to accept our Father's will and prepare for our own hour of death;

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

To refresh your meditation, pause a moment to listen to St. James' words: "Happy the man who holds out to the end through trial! Once he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life the Lord has promised to those who love him" (Jas. 1:12)

Our Brother's trial on this earth is over. We place him in the care of our Blessed Mother, asking her to pray for him at the throne of her Divine Son, that he may be forgiven his every weak moment in following Christ.

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

Glory be to the Father...

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful but sorrowful. Oh Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Father, we entrust our Brother to your mercy. You have loved him as we have loved him in this life. Now that he is freed from all its cares, give him happiness and peace forever.

Father, God of all consolation, be merciful also to these your children who suffer the natural pain and sorrow of separation from their loved one. Give them your light and your presence to strengthen and lift them from the darkness of this grief. Give them hope and peace in your promise of life eternal to all who believe in you, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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Amen.

**THE FIFTH MEDITATION:
THE ASSUMPTION AND
CORONATION OF MARY IN HEAVEN:**

We praise our Father who takes great delight in sharing his glory and happiness with those who respond to his divine love:

Our Father...

Listen to St. John as he tried to describe the heavenly glory Jesus has given to His Blessed Mother: "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12:1). As Mary prophesied, let us join her children of all ages who call her "Blessed: because He who is might has done great things for her" (Lk. 1:48 & 49).

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

We entrust our Brother _____ to the loving mercy of this Jesus and we beg Mary, Queen of Angels and Saints, to comfort his family as only such a mother can.

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**THE SECOND MEDITATION:
THE CRUCIFIXION
AND DEATH OF CHRIST:**

By his death and resurrection Jesus turned humankind's worst moment into a moment of triumph. He also gave us a prayer of hope on the Altar of the Cross when he prayed: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Lk. 23:46).

Our Father...

As his Mother shared in her Divine Son's agony and his glorious triumph so she wants to help each of us, her children, to live in Him and die to ourselves that we might rise with Him to a new life.

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

Mary joined her Divine Son in offering that first redeeming sacrifice of love for each one of us. Her love for us is second only to that of her Son. Let your prayer for her help be a prayer of true confidence in her motherly care:

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**THE THIRD MEDITATION:
THE RESURRECTION
OF JESUS:**

The resurrection of Jesus didn't just follow his death. It is an important part of his great act of salvation. It is also the sign that his sacrifice in behalf of all people was pleasing to God the Father, a sacrifice He invites each of us to complete in our personal life, death and resurrection in Christ.

Our Father...

Jesus promised: "Whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life" (Jn. 11:26). In behalf of our Brother and ourselves we pray to her who merited Elizabeth's words of praise: "Blest is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled" (Lk. 1:45).

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

We pray with Elizabeth: "Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb" (Lk. 1:42 & 43). We pray that she who became the mother of Christ & all his members because she believed & trusted in God, will help us believe and hope in his promise of loving mercy and a glorious resurrection with him after death.

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

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**THE FOURTH MEDITATION:
THE ASCENSION
OF JESUS INTO HEAVEN:**

As He was about to leave this earth, Jesus said to his troubled family and disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places....I am going to prepare a place for you and then I shall come back to take you with me that where I am you also may be" (Jn. 14:2-3) It is to this Father we pray:

Our Father...

Jesus has kept his promise. One by one he comes for his loved ones, escorting them through death to life eternal. We pray to her who is the first among those blessed in heaven:

Hail Mary...(five (5) times)

As we prepare and await his coming, we can know his presence in our midst, especially when we gather as brothers and sisters, with our Blessed Mother, to help one another.

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