

July 3, 2006

Dear Reverend Father,

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus, thank you for your priestly ministry and for serving as a chaplain. Your ministries of preaching, sanctifying, and shepherding are powerful means by which the people of God grow in holiness and virtue. As Knights, we especially give God thanks for your presence and guidance as we work together to assist widows, to heighten respect for all human life, to help those challenged by disabilities, to promote vocations, and to form our youth. Your pastoral duties are many, and the time you carve out to direct our efforts is appreciated.

In order to assist you and to promote the mission of the church, as state KC leaders we believe it is important to have Knights of Columbus active in every parish. This desire is rooted in the vision of our founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. When parishes cannot support their own council, we believe the local round table group can be a helpful tool for assistance. Your guidance in determining which of these means will best foster involvement is invaluable.

Unfortunately there are times when fellow Knights with good intentions may overstep their authority, fail to communicate with you or other local church leaders, or even act in ways contrary to your pastoral vision and our own stated principles as Knights of Columbus. We apologize for their imprudence and appreciate your willingness to continue to serve. As Knights we strive to collaborate with priests, offering nothing but respect, admiration, and deference. If you discover instances when these values are disregarded or your guidance goes unheeded, please contact me. Of course I would also love to hear about any and all positive comments regarding the success of your local Knights of Columbus council.

May our Blessed Mother continue to intercede on our behalf as we carry out the important work of spreading the Good News of her Son.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Gaspers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael P. Gaspers
State Deputy
Iowa Knights of Columbus
www.iowakofc.org