

Worthy Sir Knights,

Charity, the greatest of the theological virtues, calls Knights of Columbus to love God above all and neighbor as ourselves, animating every act of service as a witness to Christ's love. As our first principle, it transforms fraternal brotherhood into concrete works of mercy, echoing papal praises for our unwavering commitment to the poor, persecuted, and forgotten.

Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. Jesus makes charity the new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34).

Founded on charity, the Knights exemplify this virtue through global aid, earning repeated papal gratitude. Pope Paul VI hailed our "deeds of charity performed... for those in need," motivated by Christ's love, urging you to bring holiness to the world via justice, peace, and care for the marginalized. In 1988, Saint John Paul II praised our "staunch support of the Catholic faith and... volunteer work on behalf of charitable and benevolent causes," including aid to the Holy See and Saint Peter's restoration, as fidelity to the Church's message of love and dignity.

Amid modern crises—poverty, war, spiritual desolation—Knights must embody Isaiah's light to the nations and John's Lamb of God, extending salvation through deeds. Pope Francis urged charity as "the universal language of works," needing no translation, reawakening fraternal conscience via Social Doctrine and synodality.

In summary, charity crowns your knighthood, demanding heroic love that builds God's kingdom. Emulate past popes' commendations: serve boldly, pray fervently, and let charity radiate Christ's light. Grace and peace be yours in this mission. May God richly bless you

In Christ,

Fr. PJ Brandimarti

Pastor

Church of the Ascension

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