



The Good of the Order

Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #11981

Charity • Unity • Fraternity • Patriotism

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Treasuring Life, A Knight's Sacred Privilege

When you think of privilege, what words come to mind?

Thesaurus.com lists several synonyms. Here are twelve:

Advantage, Allowance, Authority
Benefit, Entitlement, Exemption
Freedom, Immunity, License
Opportunity, Prerogative, Right

Today, the word privileged is used to describe people who are immune and exempt from the ordinary times and trials of life. People who are entitled to benefits and have an unfair advantage over others.

In the history section of the website, Howstuffworks.com, Dr. Craig Freudenrich writes about the knighting ceremony in his article, "How Knights Work."

After describing the attributes of a knight's behavior, Dr. Freudenrich outlines the privilege of a knight:

With knighthood came several privileges. Knights obtained the title "Sir." They could own land, hire soldiers to defend it, and dispense justice over the soldiers and those living on the land. They -- and their horses -- could wear armor in battle (armor was expensive, so only knights could afford it). During feasts, banquets, and dinners, knights had places at the high table, where lords and royals ate. They could also bear arms inside a church because they were defenders of God and the church.

In times of war, knights were called to arms by their lords or by the king. They led foot soldiers and archers into battle, much like modern officers do with enlisted men. During peacetime, knights managed their estates, dispensed justice, trained for battle, and participated in tournaments.

As you can see, knights were immersed in life – not set apart from it. They defended honor. They fought battles. They were men of justice.

And that's who we are today, as members of the Knights of Columbus. We have a sacred privilege that flows from our Baptism into the intentional lives we lead as practical Catholic gentlemen.

January is Respect Life month. Even more so, it is Treasure Life month. We go beyond defending life to treasuring it by the way we live. That's what you have, my friends and Brother Knights, the sacred privilege to serve others...for **you** are the Good of the Order.

[You can read Dr. Freudenrich's full article at <https://history.howstuffworks.com/historical-figures/knight3.htm>.]

Submitted by Dave Pipitone, KC Council 11981 January 27, 2021