



The Good of the Order

Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #11981

Charity • Unity • Fraternity • Patriotism

April 2021

The Freshness of First Communions, First Rosaries, and Spring

Do you remember that special day – the First Communion of a son or daughter, a niece or nephew, or even a grandchild? Catholic parishes often schedule First Communions in Spring, especially April or May.

Girls are dressed in white; boys wear suits and ties and have fresh haircuts. It is a touching time when our loved one receives the Eucharist for the first time, in the presence of family and friends.

Our child has changed. She moved from crossing her arms across her chest to receive a blessing; he now receives the Bread of Life in his hands.

There are family celebrations, a special meal, gifts, and deep feelings of love and pride for the newest encounter with Jesus during Mass.

Our child belongs in a greater way to God's family, and God belongs to our loved one as the source of spiritual food and life.

The Knights of Columbus give brand new rosaries to the children receiving First Communion in our parish.

For many kids, this is their First Rosary. The strings of beads in these Rosaries have never been used in prayer before. Each one has sixty beads and a cross to invoke Mary's praise, prayers, and protection.

Mary's praise, prayers, and protection last a lifetime – now and at the hour of our death - for ourselves and the people we pray for.

How precious it must be to God and to Mary to hear the voices of young children praying for themselves, their parents, siblings, family members and friends, the parish, the Pope and world peace.

Gerard Manly Hopkins was a Jesuit priest and a renowned poet who lived in the late 1800s. One of his most famous poems is *God's Grandeur*, written in the year 1877.

Here is the last stanza of that poem:

*And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went;
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent world broods with warm breast and with ah! Bright wings.*

God's grandeur lives on in the freshness of Spring, of First Communions, and First Rosaries. Prayer is always fresh.

Every day, the freshness of God's grandeur lives on in what we pray for and do as Knights of Columbus. For your prayers and deeds, my friends and brother Knights, make up the Good of the Order.

Submitted by Dave Pipitone, Holy Family KC Council 11891, April 28, 2021