

LISTS

Like all good salesmen, our Grand Knight Paul McEneany, began his pitch to me about the Lecturer's position by presenting a list of qualities and attributes I exemplify. At least so went his opening. After I accepted the burden, I reflected on the qualities and attributes that our former Lecturer and our current Chaplain exemplify. How could I possibly measure up to them? And then I remembered Paul's request to bring more spirituality into our Council's meetings. Bingo! Don't spiritual men exemplify certain virtues? Googling "Virtues" produced 46,000,000 results in 0.34 seconds! ... literally "in the blink of an eye."

Seeking true inspiration, I returned to the definitive Source – my Catholic grammar school indoctrination. I can't remember which nun introduced me to The 3 Theological and 4 Cardinal Virtues.

Faith, Hope, and Charity;
Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance

At that time, I doubt that I could have spelled them; much less explained them. A couple of years later I had to memorize another list for my Confirmation class – The 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude,
Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord

What a pity that most of us were clueless about any of them – with the possible exception of "Fear of the Lord." Unfortunately this list still falls short of what it means to be a spiritual being living a life of virtue.

How about The 12 Fruits of the Spirit – what one is supposed to exemplify after being Gifted by the Holy Spirit?

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Generosity,
Gentleness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, and Chastity

A little better, but still a bit confusing because of a practical Chicken-Egg question. Namely, which is the former? Which is the latter? Do I have to become Spiritual before being Virtuous. Or, should I practice Virtue in the hope of becoming Spiritual? This latter approach is the one

recommended by the 12 Step Programs. Their programs of recovery attempt to develop the following 12 Spiritual Principles through daily practice:

Honesty, Hope, Faith, Courage, Integrity, Willingness, Humility,
Brotherly Love, Discipline, Spiritual Awareness, and Service

So, where should we to start tomorrow morning? Can't we simplify this? Here's one of my favorite formulas. How many of you were Boy Scouts? Do you remember the Boy Scout's Law?

A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous,
Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.

Bringing it closer to home, and into this room, our final source of inspiration is the Knights of Columbus website. It gives us the answer to the question: *Why join?*

Guided by the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity
members of the Knights of Columbus work to overcome the
hardships that people face in their parishes and communities.

Brother Knights, we are charged with exemplifying – and therefore, developing – the virtues of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Extending our scope beyond the boundaries of our Parish, this list of principles will include our Fourth Principle: Patriotism.

And so, Brothers, now that we are thoroughly indoctrinated with lofty ideals, I can summarize everything in a mantra that will guide every single one of your daily choices and life's decisions. And that word is:

Yes, Dear!

Can I get an "Amen?"