



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

16 Knights Inducted into NHS Sacred Heart Chapter



Newly inducted members of Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society gather with Bishop Ryan Jimenez (front, second from right), keynote speaker, Dr. Amanda Borja Hughes (front, far left), and school officials.

16 high school students were inducted into Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held this past week at Mount Carmel Cathedral. The inductees were selected by a faculty council that reviewed applications from Sophomores and upperclassmen who had maintained a grade point average of 3.0 and had demonstrated volunteerism, exemplary behavior, and leadership.

This year's inductees are Ydylle Faye C. Acosta, Alyssa Attao, Aldwin Batusin, Shirley Chao, Quincy Chinen, Louisa Han, Eric Kiser, Min Jung Kim, Giselle Ivy C. Leong, Angelo Manese, Matt Jason Buhayo Moran, Rosalia Francine A. Pangelinan, Reica Jucel A. Ramirez, Karen Sato, Nathaniel Terence Snodgrass, and Cassidy Torres.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony, 2001 AlumKnight and former member of the Sacred Heart Chapter, Dr. Amanda Borja Hughes, challenged inductees and all students to consider how they can make a difference in their world. Sharing the story of community activist, Ben Sablan, who, in the 1990s,

campaigned to have the US military clean up World War II toxic waste in Tanapag, Dr. Borja Hughes encouraged students to think of how they can have a positive impact on their communities, in their own ways.

After the ceremony, the inductees and their families were treated to light refreshments in the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

According to inductee Nathaniel Snodgrass, being inducted into the prestigious society is an honor that motivates him to do more for his school community. He said, "I welcome the new responsibility; it will help me become more mature as I serve others."

Established in 1921, the National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization that recognizes outstanding high school students, with more than one million student members who demonstrate the society's trademark values of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Mount Carmel School's Sacred Heart Chapter of the NHS was opened in 1997.

Message for Lent

by Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lent is a favourable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Lk 16:19-31). Let us find inspiration in this meaningful story, for it provides a key to understanding what we need to do in order to attain true happiness and eternal life. It exhorts us to sincere conversion.

1. The other person is a gift. The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his wounds (cf. vv. 20-21). The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful.

The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called Lazarus: a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast (cf. Homily, 8 January 2016).

Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbour or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man.

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Announcements

Senior Portraits

Seniors are scheduled to take Senior Portraits, TOMORROW, Saturday, March 11. Caps and gowns are available at Business Office. If you can't purchase a cap and gown, you may borrow one for the day of senior portraits.

Go Knights!

Come support our middle school basketball teams as they play in the CCOPSSA Championship Games on Monday, March 13, starting at 3:30 pm at Ada Gym. Students that show up for BOTH games will be given a Dress Down Pass that can be redeemed on Tuesday, March 14. And remember to wear blue!

#2ForRealz

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club presents its very first sequel, #2ForRealz. The follow-up to last year's smash hit, ForRealz, #2ForRealz runs on Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. Doors open at 6:30 pm nightly. Admission is \$10.00 and tickets may soon be purchased at the Mount Carmel School Business Office. Due to limited seating, advanced purchase of tickets is advised. Also, due to mature content and graphic language, adult discretion is advised.

College Week Presenters

Calling all AlumKnights and members of the community! Student Council is looking for people to present about their college alma maters for MCS' annual College Fair! They are also looking for people available to present about various scholarships and financial aid opportunities for prospective college students. If you are interested, please check STUCO President Zeno DLG (z.dlgjr@gmail.com OR 670-483-9381).

In the Future

Senior Portraits

TOMORROW, Saturday, March 11, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

NJHS/NEHS Induction Ceremony

Wednesday, March 15

Junior Fried Oreo Gram

Wednesday, March 15

Sophomore Hot Lunch

Thursday, March 16

Sports Calendar

CCOPSSA Middle School Basketball Championship Games

Monday, March 13, Ada Gym starting at 3:30

ESLR of the Week

#6. *Develop continually as an independent lifelong learner.*

Lent

continued from front

2. Sin blinds us. The parable is unsparing in its description of the contradictions associated with the rich man (cf. v. 19). Unlike poor Lazarus, he does not have a name; he is simply called "a rich man". His opulence was seen in his extravagant and expensive robes. Purple cloth was even more precious than silver and gold, and was thus reserved to divinities (cf. Jer 10:9) and kings (cf. Jg 8:26), while fine linen gave one an almost sacred character. The man was clearly ostentatious about his wealth, and in the habit of displaying it daily: "He feasted sumptuously every day" (v. 19). In him we can catch a dramatic glimpse of the corruption of sin, which progresses in three successive stages: love of money, vanity and pride (cf. Homily, 20 September 2013).

The Apostle Paul tells us that "the love of money is the root of all evils" (1 Tim 6:10). It is the main cause of corruption and a source of envy, strife and suspicion. Money can come to dominate us, even to the point of becoming a tyrannical idol (cf. Evangelii Gaudium, 55). Instead of being an instrument at our service for doing good and showing solidarity towards others, money can chain us and the entire world to a selfish logic that leaves no room for love and hinders peace.

The parable then shows that the rich man's greed makes him vain. His personality finds expression in appearances, in showing others what he can do. But his appearance masks an interior emptiness. His life is a prisoner to outward appearances, to the most superficial and fleeting aspects of existence (cf. *ibid.*, 62).

The lowest rung of this moral degradation is pride. The rich man dresses like a king and acts like a god, forgetting that he is merely mortal. For those corrupted by love of riches, nothing exists beyond their own ego. Those around them do not come into their line of sight. The result of attachment to money is a sort of blindness. The rich man does not see the poor man who is starving, hurting, lying at his door.

Looking at this character, we can understand why the Gospel so bluntly condemns the love of money: "No one can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or be attached to the first and despise the second. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money" (Mt 6:24).

3. The Word is a gift. The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the

rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Tim 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls "father" (Lk 16:24,27), as a sign that he belongs to God's people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: "During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony" (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life's evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them" (v. 29). Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead" (v. 31).

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

AP Gov Guest



2000 AlumKnight Representative Edmund Villagomez took some time out of his busy schedule to meet with Mount Carmel School's AP American Politics and Government class to talk about some of his bills and the bill making process.



PTO Corner

What is Parent Leadership?

Meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities. Parent Leadership is successfully achieved when parents and professionals build effective partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership in decisions being made that affect families and communities. The parents involved in these collaborations are called Parent Leaders.