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# ***2024 Leadership Seminar The Role of the Chaplain Fr. Donald Grzymiski, OFM Conv.***

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# *An Introduction*

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- Native of Baltimore
  - Member of the Conventual Franciscan Friars
  - Ministry is at Archbishop Curley H.S. in Baltimore
  - Member of the Knights since 1991; now a member of Council 2521
  - Have served in various chaplain roles, including state chaplain 2008-2014 and 2022-present.
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# ***Information on the Role of the Chaplain***

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- [www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org) and go to “For Members”:
  - Under Fraternal Operations, go to Fraternal Leader Resources:
    - Chaplain’s Handbook
    - Working with Your Pastor
  - Under Member Resources, bottom of the homepage, Chaplains:
    - Chaplain’s Handbook
    - Vocations Handbook
    - Archive of the monthly Chaplain’s Report
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# ***How the Order sees the Council Chaplain***

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- The Chaplain is to be “Fr. McGivney” for the Council.
  - The Grand Knight, along with Deputy Grand Knight and Trustees, ask a priest to serve as chaplain.
  - “Is there a need to request the chaplain’s appointment from the (Arch)Bishop?”
  - Ideally, the chaplain attends the officers’ and regular meetings, wakes, and special council events—particularly installation and memorial Masses.
  - Serves as a reference for the Admissions Committee.
  - Serves on the Vocations Committee.
  - He is to be a source of instruction and inspiration and one who can give sound advice on faith questions.
  - Provides a “Chaplain’s Message” for the council bulletin.
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# ***Associate and Assistant Chaplains***

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- The Order states only a priest may be the council chaplain.
  - Another priest who helps is an associate council chaplain.
  - A deacon who helps is an assistant to the chaplain.
  - Suggestion: if possible, have at least one associate and/or assistant!
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# ***“Encouraging” the Chaplain’s Attendance***

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- There is a time at the Council meeting for the chaplain’s message, but it can be placed anywhere in the meeting.
  - If not a regular attendee, invite the chaplain for special events, or periodically request he attend and speak on a particular topic (e.g. on the liturgical season, or on a Church teaching, and it’s ok to suggest a time limit).
  - A priest who is not a member of the Knights of Columbus can attend a meeting.
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# ***Chaplain's Message in the Newsletter***

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- Hopefully the chaplain supplies a message.
  - If not, some possible options:
  - Use whole or part from the Supreme Chaplain's message in Columbia.
  - Use whole or part of the State Chaplain's message for the month.
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# ***Order's Faith Programs***

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- Supreme Knight's Goal: "First in Faith as in Charity."
  - The State Deputy's theme, "Make A Difference in Someone's Life," invites all of us to charity that is built upon our faith.
  - COR is worth considering if not already in place.
  - Great resource for individual members and for council programs via [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)
  - Many are videos that can be shown and, if desired, then discussed.
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# Memorial Masses

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- November is a busy time of Memorial Masses.
  - Some creative ways for Masses:
    - Have with another council, or with the assembly, or with the district. A better attended Mass is surely a tribute to the deceased.
    - Arrange for a Sunday Mass intention to be for the deceased of the council, and attend that Mass as a group.
    - It will be wonderful if we have greater participation in the State Memorial and Founder's Day Masses.
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# Miscellaneous Points

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- Many priests are stretched today, so please be patient.
  - If a priest/deacon goes to another (arch)diocese he needs a letter of good standing from his home (arch)diocese/religious community. The state of Maryland includes the Archdiocese of Baltimore, all of the Archdiocese of Washington except the District, a large portion of the Diocese of Wilmington.
  - Feel free to reach out to me: [frdonaldg@gmail.com](mailto:frdonaldg@gmail.com)
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