

Ten Commandments Talk

Homily by Fr. Charles Kottas, Chaplain – Council 1045,

at the Dedication Ceremony of a Project Moses Ten Commandments monument - June 26, 2010

St. Peter Catholic Church, Council Bluffs, IA

Today's celebration of the dedication and blessing of the Project Moses Monument reminds us of the struggle that we are in to preserve our religion and to preserve our Catholic faith. We are studying the book of Maccabees. The book of Maccabees tells the story of the Jewish people's struggle to be faithful to their Jewish faith beliefs. The Maccabees are the heroes of the story who constantly fight against the Greeks attempts to destroy the Jewish faith. If you want to see how history repeats itself read the first and second book of Maccabees and you will find direct parallels with what is happening to our church and faith today.

When I think about this dedication today this dedication is a sign of our struggle to preserve and protect our religious faith and our religious beliefs. There are so many ways that our Church is constantly attacked. The banning of the ten commandments on public property is one more example of the subtle way that our faith is being removed from our life. When do we ever hear about the many, many great things that the Catholic Church does for our country and our world never!!!!

What we should do is to realize that we as members of the Catholic faith and the Knights of Columbus need to lead the struggle to preserve our Catholic faith and our Catholic beliefs. On Father's day we distributed a pamphlet that listed ten things that a Father can do to be a good Catholic Father. These ideas are not for fathers only but for all Catholic men. The first recommendation was all Catholic men, be men of prayer. Second, it recommended that all Catholic men be visible in their church. We need to encourage Catholic men to become members of the Knights of Columbus and to come to the meetings so that they can share fellowship that is so necessary for all Catholic men.

One of the most wonderful times in our church is when the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus attend mass as a group. Many times the young men of our parish have told me that they want to be a Fourth Degree Knight. When ever I hear this I realize how important our example as Knights of Columbus is to the children of our church.

Twice a month we have men's prayer group. I announce this in church that the men's prayer group meets so that everyone knows that some of the men in this parish are dedicated to being men of prayer. This example is invaluable in sending the message that men must be prayerful. The most important thing is that we realize how important it is for us to be visible examples of the Christian Catholic life.

Often people will tell me that we think that we are losing the fight to preserve our faith and our church. When I was preparing for the dedication of the Project Moses I thought for a moment of how many people will drive by this monument and how many people will walk by this monument. We will never know how many people's lives will be changed by this monument. This Project Moses monument is a great witness to our Catholic faith and our Catholic beliefs. When ever I get discouraged about the struggle to nurture and grow out faith I am reminded by one of my friends who reminds me that we will win the struggle because it is Jesus' church and Jesus' beliefs that we witness to. Please pray that Jesus continue to raise up great men and women of faith. Please pray for all Knights of Columbus that we realize the importance of our witness to our Catholic faith and our Catholic Church. God Bless all of you for coming today.

