

Letter TO: [1] Knights of Columbus Council #13022
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FROM: Michael O'Lear, 1st Degree Knight, Council #13022

RE: Actions of 2 Knights which exemplify the words I heard and spoke at my 1st Degree Invocation ceremony

I want to relate a true story of two Knights from Council #13022--Dave and Kevin--who exemplified the following emphases:

- spontaneous response to true need
- service to the poor, willingly given, in spite of personal sacrifice
- spreading our wealth to those less fortunate
- effectiveness and efficiency of service
- providing a “minor miracle” to Eric, a friend of mine [his words, not mine]
- the surprising and “strange” ways God works His grace to His people through the Knights

I have my friend of many years, Eric, who is my age (68), who lives alone, who is poor, and who is nevertheless rich in intellect and spirit. Until recently, he was also rich in health, being trim and having good muscle tone. He recently had a physical and they found cancer in his ribs and backbone. The “best case” prognosis is 3 to 5 years, unless chemotherapy does some magical things.

As a result, he needed to get out of his \$500/month apartment and move into a retirement rent assistance location which was better than half as inexpensive. He qualified for this housing because he had to quit his job and has only Social Security, VA Medicare, and a small savings (no pension) to live on.

I asked Council #13022 for 2 guys to help move Eric out of his old apartment and into his new one, since I am physically handicapped to be of much good in this task. Dave and Kevin volunteered to move him this past Saturday, to move his bed, air conditioner, TV, and table, along with a few boxes of clothes and books. It took most of all afternoon to complete the move, because things always come up to mess up the best of plans to move someone from point A to B.

During their move, the guys noticed the state of “poorness” in which Eric lived, and never said a word to him, except the natural hospitality of 2 good Samaritans helping a complete stranger move his meager things.

The next day Kevin, on his own motivation, secretly, found a lady who donated a nice recliner to Eric, to help him ease his constant back pain. Kevin and another guy then delivered the recliner, unannounced, to Eric the following day--from one stranger to another.

Needless to say, Eric was overwhelmed by all of this spontaneous Christian action, and told me recently that he has received “a minor miracle from God” with the move and the chair. He is still overwhelmed by all of this, and told me that this was a

needed sign from God that Jesus still loved him, and that his future would be OK, rather than “frightening”. He seems to be adjusting to his new lack of mobility and change in living situation with a positive attitude now, instead of in fear, paranoia, and dread. The strength to face his future positively is due, I propose, to the actions of 2 Knights who “stepped up” when they were requested to.

Speaking for both me and my friend, Eric, may God bless you two guys in a special way for the exemplary response of charity and effectiveness which your actions as Knights blessed my friend.

This first degree Knight was shown in action what words were uttered at my 1st degree ceremony. I will never forget this experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. O'Lear,
Council #13022, 1st Degree