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Archbishop MacDonald Council 6083  
Knights of Columbus  
13 Brower Drive  
Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 1Y7

Dear Brother Knights,

Just a short note as studies await as usual, but I wanted to thank you again for your continued support and let you know a little about what I have been up to.

After completing the year's studies last April, I spent a busy but very rewarding summer as a chaplain at Vernon Army Cadet Camp in Vernon, British Columbia. With over 1500 teenagers at the camp you might be able to imagine what I mean by busy! It was an incredible experience to help assist with the myriad of challenges that face the youth of today. It was also very encouraging, as there were so many cadets who helped make the camp succeed by providing leadership, supporting each other, and working as well as playing hard!

It was also during this time that I once again realized how important it is to be able to speak both french and english, especially with the goal one day of serving as a regular force chaplain in our Armed Forces. Even out in Vernon, B.C. there were about twenty or more cadets who had come all the way from Quebec City and whose primary language was french. While I could get by with the french I knew, I realized that perhaps it would be a good idea to once again begin taking courses in french and improving my fluency. Thus, after consulting with my bishop, we agreed that a transfer to Saint Paul University in Ottawa was for the best, as I could take courses in theology in both languages there. Add to this, the fact that my bishop was all too eager to have me closer by (he resides in Ottawa and can better 'keep an eye' on me here) and the transfer was put into motion. Seriously though, it was a difficult decision to leave Edmonton as I much enjoyed my time in the city and at Saint Joseph's Seminary.

Having said that, I have been enjoying the experience here at Saint Paul's as well. I arrived in Ottawa in September and immediately found that almost all of the priests here have french as their mother tongue. It was, thus, quite an 'immersion' and while a little difficult at first, it has been good and all of my courses, including the french ones, have gone very well.

This coming summer I will be working as a chaplain at one of the Canadian Forces bases across the country. We are allowed to make a wish list of where we would like to go

(though this is not necessarily where we will wind up) and as I was very fond of my time out west, Edmonton is at the top of the list. So, who knows. I may be back in your fair city before too long.

In the meantime, I would like to pass on my continued thanks to each and every one of you for your prayers and support. It is such prayers and support that allow me to continue on this journey and that buoy my spirit when, on rare occasion, the day seems long or the theology too much for one mind to handle. But even when, as is the case far more often, I find that I love what I am doing, I am always conscious that I owe all this to the support and encouragement of others such as yourselves. And, oh yeah, a little someone known as God.

Anyway, I must get back to studies, but thank you again. Best wishes to all of you in this New Year and I will keep all of you and your families in my prayers.

God Bless,

Kelly Boyden  
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