



# Knights of Columbus St. Martha Council



Volume 1, Issue 7

January 2008

## GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

"Verbum factum caro est et in habitat nobis est. (John 1:14).

December was another busy month for the Council. Thank you to all who helped out with the Breakfast with Santa, the adult and children's Christmas parties and the Christmas Meals to Go. I especially thank PGK Rick Mastronardi, Ed Callahan, PGK Frank Cicaese, PGK Mike Touhy, Tony DeCresci and our District Deputy for their leadership on these events.

On 23 December, our Council lost a good friend and a Brother Knight. Our District Warden, Sir Knight John Kearns, PGK of Epiphany Council passed away after a valiant fight against cancer. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

After a couple years of hibernation, we are re-starting our 1st Degree Team. The Council Social Night scheduled for Thursday 24 January will be instead be used as a practice session for our 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Team. I invite you to join us that night and be our test audience.

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### **Council Meetings**

**8 p.m. Thursday**

**January 10, 2008**

**February 14, 2007**

**March 13, 2008**

**GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT (cont)**

**2007 was another successful year for Council 7926. In June, Bob Morris completed his second term as Grand Knight and moved into the esteemed ranks of our Past Grand Knights. Thank you Bob for your two years of faithful service. We continued to serve God, country and Church through various acts of charity. These included fundraising for special needs persons, Birthright, Father Durkin's summer camp, and the Semper Fi Fund (for wounded Iraq and Afghanistan veterans). We hosted several breakfasts for the CCD program. We prepared meals for needy persons in our community for Thanksgiving and Christmas.**

**We welcomed new brother knights - Rich Stanton, Tom McConnell, Mike Byington, Carl Apgar, Eugene Leahy and Al Etzel. And we joined with the rest of our Order in celebrating 125 years of the Knights of Columbus.**

**In 2008, the Church and the world will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Our Blessed Mother's appearances at Lourdes. So in a special way, I ask our Blessed Mother for her maternal guidance and assistance for us during this special year. And I thank our Heavenly Father and His Son for the special blessings upon mankind that they bestowed through Mary, St. Bernadette and the miracles at Lourdes.**

**In closing, I pray that the Word may continue to make his dwelling within each of us in 2008.**

**Vivat Jesus**

**Bryan Dickerson  
Grand Knight**

## **Membership Committee Message**

According to State Deputy, we are down 5 members. However, that is really only 4 since the papers on one of our new additions last October had not been entered yet. Notwithstanding, we still have at least 8 to go to win a state award for membership for this program year, which ends the end of June, 2008. As you can see, we have a lot of work to do.

I believe that the best way to recruit new members is for one Catholic gentleman who is a member of K of C to give the most fantastic gift of membership to another Catholic gentleman. To do so, is to give membership in an organization that serves God, mankind, and our very own parish. Plus, some very wonderful friendships that he can maintain for the rest of his life.

Therefore, as the Membership Chair, I have introduced a membership contest to the council. First prize is a museum-quality replica of a Napoleon cannon with limber. The assembly is about 25" long.

This is a single first prize and requires a minimum of 5 new members from each recruiter. There are two second prizes of the cannons that are all metal and about 17" long that require the recruiting of at least 3 new members. Finally, there are five third prizes that are the Napoleon cannon alone and it is about 5" long and will require at least two new members. As an extra added attraction, I will give the first person who turns in paperwork on a new member a one point credit for the member recruited last summer.

We again need to canvas the parish for potential members. I have asked Tony to ask Father Sullivan for a Sunday in the next coming months for us to recruit potential members after each of the Masses.

### **Attendance at meetings and functions**

We had a discussion last meeting about not having enough cooks for the December Communion Breakfast. While everything eventually turned out okay, it was a very tight squeeze in the beginning since no breakfast had been started by 7:00 AM. Also, I have noticed in my tenure as a St. Martha's Knight that mostly the officers and the usual members are showing up at the meetings. I have requested a list of council members so I may call each of you personally and find out what we might do to convince you that we miss your smiling faces and willing arms with all of the work we have to do.

## **Program Message**

### **Kidney Donation Program**

We have let go the lines and pulled away from the wharf on this one. We had an activity at the last indoor flea market at St. Martha's and we were able to have 9 people commit to signing a donor card and carrying it in their wallets. However, we also met a number of people who showed us their drivers licenses that say organ donor on them. I thanked them and said that God would smile on them. I also said they are heroes. Our next opportunity is to talk to the drivers education students at Toms River South HS. I will be doing this with two other men who are active in organ donor programs, one of whom is a Knight. I am looking forward to this because it is a learning opportunity for me. Also, I will be attending two Ocean County Chapter Meetings to discuss this program and ask for opportunities to come and discuss it with other councils, and offer their members an opportunity to sign a donor card. Again, if there's anyone out there who would like to join me in these endeavors, please give me a call at 732-920-2420.

### **K of C Shield Program**

This program is to offer firemen and policemen an opportunity to provide a K of C 4-year college scholarship to a Catholic college or university should they die in service. While this is a program to gain membership, I believe it is a great program. I want to get membership and the donor program going before I start on this program. Again, your help would be appreciated. As you can see, there are plenty of programs in the K of C that benefit mankind and I am trying to help provide you with opportunities to do that.

## District Deputy Comments

Brothers,

I hope your Christmas was a joyful one, filled with family, friends and good times. Now as the New Year is approaching, it is time to get back into the action of promoting the activities and causes that we, as Knights, should be promoting.

Recently, the One Nation Under God lawsuit was retried and a decision is expected in the coming months. To that end, let's loudly and proudly, say those words when saying our Pledge of Allegiance. The small faction of the country that is trying to take that out of the pledge is a vocal group, as we should be to keep it in there. This is NOT a Catholic issue; it is a human issue.

As we all know, it was signed into law by President Eisenhower on June 14, 1954. President Eisenhower was not Catholic, but he did have a deep belief in God. There have been many references to God in our political past, both in speeches by Presidents and other persons of history. God has been ever present in our history and it is up to us, as Knights, to keep him there.

I am in the process of trying to arrange a rally in Trenton on Flag Day. The Knights were vital in adding the words "Under God" added to the pledge in 1954, and I think it is up to us to make sure it stays there.

Now we move on to local events. Our elected officials are trying to run a "Same Sex marriage" bill through as soon as the "Lame Duck" session is over. We must contact our Legislators and let them know how we feel about this. They are trying to take the Holy Sacrament of marriage and reduce it to something less than it is. They are trying to work it into law, and reduce the Sacrament of Marriage into nothing more than a simple legal ceremony that can be entered into by any 2 people, regardless of how God intended us to live. We must keep these two issues out of the courts and where they are now, in God's hands. Call and write your legislators and let them know how we feel.

John A. Gazis,  
District Deputy 31

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## Council Officers

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## **The Importance Of Seeing The Good In All**

Our perception shapes the lives we lead because the universe adjusts itself almost instantly to our expectations. When we look for negativity, we are bound to come across it in abundance. On the other hand, we create positive energy when we endeavor to see the goodness around us. As easy as it is to criticize the people and situations that frustrate or hurt us, **we do ourselves a disservice** in the process. **It is important to see the good in all as there are blessings hiding in every aspect of our outer-world reality**, and the potential for grace exists in all human beings. When our lives are flooded with challenges, grief, and pain, we may be tempted to believe that some individuals or incidents are simply bad. But if we look for the good in all, good reveals itself to us, easing our doubts and reminding us that the universe is a place of balance.

There is a perceptible energetic shift that takes place when we choose to see the good in all. The unnecessary tension that came into being when we dwelled on negativity fades away and is replaced by sympathetic tolerance. We can forgive those that have wronged us because we recognize in them traits we admire, and we may even discover that we can bring out the good in one another. Though loss still grieves us, we recognize the beginning of a new phase of existence that abounds with fresh opportunities. Each new challenge becomes another chance to prove ourselves, and we learn to show great patience in the face of difficulty. There are few pleasures greater than gazing outward and seeing beauty, wisdom, and harmony. These are the attributes of the universe that help us to cope when we encounter their opposing forces.

Since you create your reality, you make your world a better place each time you acknowledge the good in your circumstances and in the people you encounter. As you draw attention to the positive aspects of the world around you, your understanding of the affirmative nature of all existence will grow. There are few lessons you will learn in this life that will prove as helpful to your happiness and satisfaction. In appreciating the all pervasive goodness that exists in the universe, you internalize it, making it a lasting part of your life

My wife and I have a friend Dolores who only sees the good in everyone she meets. At times it drives me up a wall, because I do not see what she sees. So I can say that at times I am blinded by the darkness of our world and refuse to see all the good in a person. I am sure you have experienced the same with someone in school or perhaps a neighbor that just bugs you, yet there is good in that person!

At times our eyes form a veil over them; it could be the veil of jealousy, or a veil of powerlessness. Some of us have to be in control of everything around us or we feel incomplete, weak or just not the leader we feel we should be.

On the other side of that coin, when we are at our best we feel invincible and stronger than ever before it is then when we start to lose sight of the goodness in the world. Maybe today, this weekend we all should stop and look for the goodness in someone we really don't care for too much. See if we can find something that is good in that person then give thanks to God for whatever good that person has and pray that they receive more. While praying for that person let us also ask God to open our eyes each day to see the good in all people. Who knows you might become BFFE! Or at least for a little while.

Deacon Vincent Ricciardi, P.F.N.

## January 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>Jan 1</u> <u>New Year's Day</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8pm Council Meeting</u> <u>11527</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>8pm Assembly Meeting</u> ~ Our Lady of Lourdes	<u>8</u> 7:30 p.m. 8415 First Degree Business Meeting	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> <u>8pm COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>7926</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> 7926 <u>Breakfast</u>	<u>14</u> <u>8pm CHAPTER MEETING</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <u>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</u> 🇺🇸	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		

## February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<u>Feb 1</u>	<u>2</u> <u>Groundhog Day</u>  <u>12pm-3pm</u> <u>District 31</u> <u>Free Throw</u> <u>Tournament</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8:00pm</u> <u>MEETING -</u> <u>Our Lady</u> <u>of Lourdes</u> <u>Assembly</u>	<u>5</u> <u>7:30pm</u> <u>Council</u> <u>meeting</u> <u>8415</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>8pm Council</u> <u>Meeting</u> <u>11527</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> <u>7926</u> <u>Breakfast</u>	<u>11</u> 8 p.m. Chapter meeting	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> <u>Valentine's</u> <u>Day</u>  <u>8pm</u> <u>COUNCIL</u> <u>MEETING</u> <u>7926</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> <u>President's</u> <u>Day</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	