



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



ST. MARTHA COUNCIL 7926

Volume 1, Issue 8

February 2008

GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!" ----- Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi

On a cold, dreary February day in the south-western corner of France, a poor young girl had an extraordinary encounter with God's eternal love. On that day, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Mother of our Savior and Mother to all mankind, appeared to fourteen-year old Bernadette Soubirous.

"I SAW A LADY DRESSED IN WHITE, SHE WORE A WHITE DRESS, AN EQUALLY WHITE VEIL, A BLUE BELT AND A YELLOW ROSE ON EACH FOOT," she would repeatedly recall. Over the coming months, this Lady appeared repeatedly to Bernadette, bringing to her and the whole world, a message of faith, peace and penance.

This month we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Lourdes miraculous appearances. Indeed Lourdes itself is marking the occasion with a year-long Jubilee that started in December of last year. I ask each of us to entrust our lives to the care of our heavenly Mother, especially during this year of Jubilee. For more information visit www.lourdes-france.org

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Council Meetings

8p.m. Thursday

February 28, 2008

March 13, 2008

April 10, 2008

GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT (CONT)

Now on to Council business...

The February 14 meeting has been moved to February 28 due to it falling on Valentines Day.

I extend my thanks to the members of our Council who have participated in our recent events and programs, especially Ed Callahan for running the Free Throw Tournament; PGK Mike Touhy, PGK Rick Mastronardi and Bob Kehoe for their leadership on the monthly Communion breakfasts; our Financial Secretary PGK Bob Molzon for setting up the annual Retarded Citizens Collection and DGK Bill Wright and Chancellor Rich Stanton for covering the semi-annual State Grand Knight's Meeting while I was performing my Navy Reserve training weekend.

The coming weeks will be very busy for the Council. In addition to our regular operations, we will be running the St. Patrick's Day Dinner/Dance, and running three Communion breakfasts for the CCD program in March.

A special thanks goes out to our District Deputy PGK John Gazis for arranging for our Council to host the Our Lady of Charity traveling icon. Please join us on February 21 for a special prayer and devotional service at the Church. With Lent starting on February 6 this year, communal prayer before this Marian icon will be an excellent way to spiritually prepare for Easter.

We continue to struggle with new membership recruitment. To date we only have one new member initiated and one more candidate awaiting the First Degree. I have sought our Pastor's approval for a membership Blitz to be conducted on the weekend of April 12/13 and am awaiting his reply. If you know of any Catholic gentlemen who would be a good candidate for the Order, please invite him to join us.

In closing I would like to thank God through His Son for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon us individually and as a Council and for the many fine men in our Council that I am proud to call my Brother Knights.

**Vivat Jesus
Fraternally yours,
Bryan Dickerson
Grand Knight**

DEPUTY GRAND KNIGHT'S COMMENTS

I would like to inform you that our mission to support the K/C organ donor program is off to a flying start. For example, on December 19th I joined two other speakers supporting this program at Toms River North HS for a number of presentations to students. Our aim is an audience of juniors and seniors in the drivers education and health programs. We talked to 300 students in these combined classes in a day long presentation of several lectures.

Additionally, GK Brian Dickerson was good enough to let me have a few minutes at the Ocean County Chapter Meeting. We passed around a contact number list and received 9 responses from those present. GK Dickerson has also agreed to take me to the Chapter meeting in February where we will gather more contacts.

The purpose of the contacts is to set up potential presentations on the program or to set up a table at any functions these councils may have. For example, we had a preliminary discussion with the GK Chris Lehman of Rev. Czetkowski Council #6201, Jackson, about being part of their annual five day carnival this coming summer. GK Lehmann added that he wanted to talk to his Council about sponsoring us for this event. I will keep you informed because this will take some manpower to accomplish.

Yours in Christ,
William Wright,
Deputy Grand Knight

COUNCIL OFFICERS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Grand Knight	Bryan Dickerson	grandknight@kofc7926.org
Deputy Grand Knight	William Wright	deputygrandknight@kofc7926.org
Chancellor	Richard Stanton	chancellor@kofc7926.org
Warden	Brian Harper	warden@kofc7926.org
Financial Secretary	Robert Molzon	financialsecretary@kofc7926.org
Recorder	Theodore Kelly	recorder@kofc7926.org
Treasurer	Robert Kehoe	treasurer@kofc7926.org
Advocate	Robert Brogan	advocate@kofc7926.org
Inside Guard	Carl Apgar	insideguard@kofc7926.org
Outside Guard	Mario Pontecorvo	outsideguard@kofc7926.org
3 Yr Trustee	Robert Morris	3yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
2 Yr Trustee	Richard Mastronardi	2yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
1 Yr Trustee	Michael Tuohy	1yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
District Deputy	John A. Gazis	dd31@kofc7926.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MESSAGE

Our membership drive for Council year 2008 is moving along rapidly. DD John Gazis has brought in two new members so far. We also had one signup at our last breakfast, and we have a transfer due in very soon. This is good, but we still need to work harder because we want to attain Star Council status and that would require 9 new members, 4 new Insurance members, plus at least one each for possible attrition between now and the end of the Columbian year.

I also want to tell you that we have a strong retention program in the Council, so I hope our hard work at recruitment and retention will pay off.

William Wright, Membership Director

DISTRICT DEPUTY COMMENTS

Brothers,

I have been informed by the General Agent for our area, Dan Pollaci, that Council 7926 will have a new Insurance Agent assigned to us shortly. The paperwork is being filed with Supreme and we await his approval. It has been a few years since we have had an agent assigned to us full time.

Council 7926 will be hosting a Marian Hour of Prayer with the Icon of Our Lady of Charity on Thursday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. Please come and join us for this Hour of Prayer. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors; it would be a good way to spend a Thursday night of Lent. Louis Letizia will be playing the music for us as he does at Mass.

The Trenton Diocese Pride in our Priests dinner will be Tuesday, April 29. The date had to be moved since the original date was during the time that the Pope would be in the United States. I had suggested that we invite the Pope, but that would have been a tough to do, with the press and others that would have wanted to attend.

The Council has been working hard on their Programs and I would like to congratulate them for that. We still need to bring in new members so that the Council can attain Star Council Status, something we haven't done here at St Martha's since Anthony Grato was Grand Knight.

I went down to Washington on Tuesday, January 22, for the Right to Life Rally. It was a great day, despite the weather. Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, gave a great speech, as did all the speakers that day. Plan to attend next years march.

I still have a few copies left of the daily prayer booklet, Knights to Christ. This is a great little book for your daily prayers. Anyone wishing to purchase one can contact me. The books are \$6 each. They are a handy little book to enhance your daily prayers.

Progress is being made for the One Nation Under God rally in Trenton on June 14, Flag Day. Papers are being filed for the permits required to put an event of this nature on. When the final arrangements are completed, I will be posting them on the Council Website, www.kofc7926.org.

Check out the website frequently for pictures and stories of Council events and back issues of the Council newsletter.

Yours in Christ
John A. Gazis, PGK
District Deputy

February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Groundhog Day 12:30pm District 31 Free Throw Tournament
3	4 8pm Assembly 2143 Meeting	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9
10 7:30am Family Communion Breakfast ~ 7926	11 8pm Ocean County Chapter Meeting	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20 7:30pm Marian Hour of Prayer ~ 8160	21 7:30pm Marian Hour of Prayer ~ 7926	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 8pm Council 7926 Business Meeting	29	

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Mar 1
2 1:30pm Trenton Diocese Free Throw Tournament	3 8pm Assembly 2143 Meeting	4	5	6	7	8 1pm State Free Throw Tournament
9 7am Family Breakfast ~ 7926	10 8pm Ocean County Chapter Meeting	11 8pm First Degree @ Council 8415	12	13 8pm Council 7926 Meeting	14	15 St. Patrick's Day Parade Seaside Heights
16 Palm Sunday	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 Easter	24	25	26	27 8pm Council 7926 Social Meeting	28	29
30	31					