

Knights of Columbus

Newsletter

Council 7926

St. Martha's Church

December 2006

Grand Knight's Message

Dear Brothers,

I first want to clarify that some of this note sounds familiar; we had a little mix-up last month. Preliminary copies of November's newsletter were handed out at the November business meeting. As a result of the meeting, some changes needed to be made to the newsletter. When I made revisions and emailed them to the Deputy Grand Knight, unbeknownst to me, my email for some reason never transmitted. By the time we realized he never got the newsletter info, it was late in the month, so we decided to wait for December to do the next newsletter.

To recap some of the activities since the last newsletter, on Saturday, November 4, we had an ItalianFest dinner, which was a great success. There were more people than I can remember attending any of our dinners or parties in years. Thanks to Past Grand Knight Jerry Spanola for providing the musical entertainment and to everyone that helped with the setup, cooking, and cleanup, as well as those that attended. Everyone had a great time and raved about the food, especially the new addition of mussels with linguine and baby shrimp. The only complaints I heard were that there was too much food to fit on the plates!

Even though Veteran's Day has come and gone, I want to take the opportunity to thank the many members of our council who are veterans for their service.

We hosted a Third Degree on Friday, November 17. Thanks so much to the crew that shopped, set up, cooked, and cleaned up a delicious Italian dinner. Congratulations to our own brother, John Barrett, who made his Third Degree that night, as well as Frank Cicalese's grandson, Matt Clohosey. Matt belongs to the Spring Lake council, but we'll forgive him for that!!

We hosted a flea market on Sunday, November 19. Among the biggest sellers were the "Keep Christ in Christmas" items such as the yard signs depicting the Nativity, and the magnetic decals of the Nativity scene that can be placed on your car. If anyone is interested in the decals, please let me know.

On Thanksgiving, once again we hosted a free fellowship dinner for anyone that wanted to come. A large and grateful crowd came and we are grateful to the many people, some who are knights and some who are not, who donated food. It was a great feeling to see the enjoyment of those who received the dinners and also the joy of those that just wanted to help others less fortunate than themselves. As PGK Mastronardi said, "this is what being a knight is all about."

We had an eventful monthly breakfast Sunday, Dec. 3. Santa was present and sat for free pictures with the kids and gave them Advent themed coloring books. During the 10:30 breakfast we presented the checks from this year's collections to representatives from ARC of Ocean County, 21 Plus, and the St. Martha Learning Center. The Learning Center children and teachers made us a beautiful thank you note, which I'll have on display at the 25th Anniversary dinner.

The children's Christmas party will be held Saturday, December 16 at 1:00. If Chancellor and Youth Chairman Ed Callahan has not contacted you and you have children to bring to the party, please call him.

This year we will be starting a new outreach at Christmas. PGK Rick Mastronardi, who created the Thanksgiving dinner, had the idea of helping people for Christmas dinner as well. Since the church is not available to us on Christmas Day, we will prepare microwaveable dinners for pickup or delivery and distribute them on the morning of Christmas Eve. The dinners will be distributed between 11:30AM and 1:00 PM on Sunday, December 24. If you or someone you know needs one of these dinners, please contact either Rick or the parish office. Please include the person's name, phone #, how many family members, choice of meat or pasta, and the address if they need delivery.

As we celebrate our Council's 25th Anniversary this month, we still have the special edition 25th anniversary shirts available. Please let me know if you would like one.

Please keep in your prayers Treasurer Bob Kehoe and his family; Bob's grandmother, Florence Thorsen, recently passed away; Insurance agent Joe LoBianco, whose wife died right after Thanksgiving; Warden Warren Frey and Brother Tom Tamburo, each of whom were hospitalized this past month. Both are doing much better, but are having more tests done, and they thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, and calls. Also, Brother Joe Mangogna requests prayers for his son, who has been battling pneumonia.

If you haven't checked out our council's new website lately, please do so at www.kofc7926.org. District Deputy/PGK John Gazis has spent a lot of time building this site, and did a great job. Thank you to John. The newsletters are also posted there, so if you lose your copy or want another copy to give someone, they are available there in PDF form.

I'm now happy to report some great news on what some have dubbed "the War on Christmas." Over the last few years, the same minority forces we have battled with the "One Nation Under God" debate have tried to keep references to Christmas out of the public. Last year, many department stores took the word Christmas out of their advertising and store displays, most notable was Wal-Mart. Some stores even forbade their employees from saying Merry Christmas! Bill Donahue of the Catholic League did searches on their website for Hanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa items. The Hanukah and Kwanzaa searches led to a page with lots of items. The Christmas search led to a page that said "you will be redirected to our holiday page"!! Also, Macys, which has always been tied to Christmas through the Thanksgiving parade ushering Santa in and its prominence in "Miracle on 34th Street" stopped using the word Christmas. This year I'm happy to report there has been enough public uproar that several stores have brought the word Christmas back. Among them are Wal-Mart, Macys, Target, and Sears. For more on what is being done nationwide against Christmas, visit www.catholicleague.org and watch Father Benedict Groeschel's live show Sunday nights at 7:00 on EWTN, where he is also publicizing those that are taking stands against Christmas.

Let us all remember to keep Christ in Christmas and not to get caught up in the commercialization. I wish all of you and your families a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

God Bless you all, and for now I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Bob Morris

Congratulations to new Sir Knights William Wright and Mario Pontecorvo of Our Lady of Lourdes Assembly who made their 4th Degree last month!

Current Officer's List

Grand Knight	Robert Morris	grandknight@kofc7926.org
Deputy Grand Knight	Bryan Dickerson	deputygrandknight@kofc7926.org
Chancellor	Ed Callahan	chancellor@kofc7926.org
Financial Secretary	Robert Molzon, PGK	financialsecretary@kofc7926.org
Treasurer	Bob Kehoe	treasurer@kofc7926.org
Recorder	Ted Kelly	recorder@kofc7926.org
Advocate	Robert Brogan	advocate@kofc7926.org
Warden	Warren Frey, PGK	warden@kofc7926.org
Outside Guard	Brian Harper	outsideguard@kofc7926.org
Inside Guard	George Dormanski	insideguard@kofc7926.org
Trustee 3-Year	Richard Mastronardi, PGK	3yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
Trustee 2-Year	Frank Cicalese, PGK	2yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
Trustee 1-Year	Michael Tuohy, PGK	1yrtrustee@kofc7926.org
District Deputy	John A. Gazis, D.D. 31	dd31@kofc7926.org

Please Pray For...

Deacon Jack Haney, Brothers John Comerford, Angelo Lamalfa, Warren Frey, and Tom Tamburo, and Brother Joe Mangogna's son, the DGK's grandmother Kathryn, Brother William Wright's wife and for Brother Joe LoBianco and for the repose of his wife, the repose of Brother Bob Kehoe's grandmother Florence Thorsen and for the deceased brothers and family of Council 7926.

Christmas Dinners

PGK Rick Mastronardi is spearheading our Council's efforts to bring holiday cheer to people in our parish and community. Rick is looking for volunteers to assist with the Council's Christmas Dinners to Go on Sunday 24 December. We need people to help with the cooking and delivering meals to shut-ins. Meals will be prepared on Sunday. People may pick up meals for take out or have them delivered to them at home. Contact Rick at 732-899-4428 for more information.

Need a Prayer?

Do you or someone you know need prayers for health, personal difficulties or a deceased loved one? If yes, please submit your requests to our Grand Knight at morris@adm.njit.edu, or call him at 732-295-1103. He will then send an email to everyone on the council email list to request the prayer.

Eucharistic Ministers Needed

St. Martha's Church needs Eucharistic Ministers. For more information, please call Mary Ann Collett – Parish Pastoral Associate.

Schedule of Coming Events

- December 8th Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- December 9th Council 25th Anniversary Dinner
- December 14th Council Business Meeting
- December 16th Children's Christmas Party
- December 17th Communion Breakfast
- December 24th Christmas Eve Dinners to Go
- December 25th Christmas - Gloria in Excelsis Deo!
- January 1st Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary – Mother of God

Knights of Columbus
St. Martha Council 7926
Church of St. Martha
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