



“THE ARC”

NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. JOAN OF ARC COUNCIL
NO. 12054 OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
February - March 2023, VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3



CHARITY

UNITY

FRATERNITY

PATRIOTISM

GRAND KNIGHT’S MESSAGE:



Hello and Happy New Year Brother Knights,

We have a very special council and blessed council. We are always very busy helping our parish and community.

We are halfway through the fraternal year which ends June 30th, and we have accomplished much, like our Super Sunday Breakfasts that are so well received by our parishioners. Our membership drive in October was meaningful; our council now has three new Knights. Our goal this year is a total of six new members to achieve another Star Council Award. I want to congratulate our new members; they are Sam Grazzini, Joe Dennis, and Joe Lewis. Bless you all.

Let me talk about a new event coming up - our “Into the Breach” men’s retreat. It will be conducted by our fellow Knights and Deacons Bill Nickum and Adam Perza. As Catholic men of faith, we have a responsibility to our families to walk and talk the faith. If you come to all or just some of the four evening events, it will be well worth your time. As Catholics, it is so important to build on our faith whenever possible. The series will cover topics like fatherhood, family, brotherhood, leadership, prayer, and spiritual warfare. Please join with your brother Knights to build our faith together.

Our Lenten season is fast approaching, and we will host the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 21st. We will ask for donations to the poor box that evening. On February 24th, we will be getting back to our Friday Fellowship Dinners with a seafood dinner. In March, we will do a membership drive for our council. We are always looking for a few good men to join the council. So, if you know someone that needs fellowship and is willing to help with our charity work, please talk to them about becoming Knights.

Recently at the Knights’ mid-year meeting in Baltimore, our state council announced a new program, called “Evangelization and Faith Formation.” When Blessed Father McGivney started the Knights of Columbus, it was more faith-based. Over the years, we have been proud to work with charities throughout the world. In building and learning more about our faith, we have been on our own mostly. We will talk about this new program at our future meetings. It is suggested that those Knights who wish to work on their faith come together with other men of our parish, perhaps on an evening when there is not a Knights’ meeting or on a Saturday morning as a prayer group. This program is completely voluntary, and I think it will be well received by our council and parish. We do need leaders to organize and conduct it. So, let me know if you are interested in participating in this effort.

Thank you and God bless you and your families.

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Lough, Grand Knight

upcycle1atatime@gmail.com

“Cry the Gospel with Your Life!”

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR COUNCIL'S ADVOCATE



Brother Knights.

So here we are in the month of February 2023, our first issue of "The Arc" in the new calendar year. Hopefully, we got through Christmas, and we all had a good holiday season which officially ended in the first week of January with the Feast of the Epiphany. We lost some members last year as well as those experiencing sickness and/or operations. Our prayers go out to all those who are in need.

Now in Ordinary Time, we should be looking forward to the Lenten season, beginning February 22nd with Ash Wednesday. The Lenten season is a time when we should be reflecting on our Catholic faith and getting ready to celebrate the "New Beginning" of Easter.

During the upcoming Lenten season, we should be thinking of the men in our Parish who may want to join the Knights of Columbus and who may have been putting off becoming members. During this season many of our members have joined the Knights as part of their prayerful thoughts. So, if you are so inclined, maybe speak of the Knights to other men of the parish that you may know, of their joining the Knights as something they might consider.

Last fall, a group of us led by Deacon Bill Nickum and Deacon Adam Perza visited the St. John Paul II Shrine in Washington, DC. It was a great spiritual and thought-provoking experience. Hopefully, we can do that again with more parish members and brother Knights.

We may also want to be thinking and praying for the unborn babies and people at Choices Pregnancy Center as they try to save unborn lives.

On a lighter note, a beekeeper went to the bee store and bought a dozen bees. When he got home and counted thirteen bees in the box, he realized he had gotten a free bee (a free-bee)!! Lol.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Craig Clagett, Advocate
clagett994@aol.com

WHO ARE THE FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHTS?



In previous issues of the Arc, we briefly mentioned the first three principles of the Knights of Columbus – Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

The fourth degree is referred to as the "Patriotic Degree," reminding us of our duty to God and to our country. When the Knights were founded in 1882, on the three basic principles, many at that time feared that its members of the Catholic faith owed their entire allegiance to the Church of Rome and could not be trusted as citizens of the United States. Patriotism was added to the order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country.

"Cry the Gospel with Your Life!"

Fourth degree Knights are men who have chosen to embrace the order’s fourth principle of patriotism. They are the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active duty military and embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and a faithful citizen.

Members of this degree have the special honor of holding the title of “Sir Knight,” participating in color and honor guards and organizing programs that promote Catholic citizenship. These members become a part of a fourth degree assembly, usually representing two or more Knights of Columbus councils in a particular geographic area. A major initiative of fourth degree assemblies supports veterans’ affairs facilities and activities.

Those in this degree help Knights put their faith and their love of country into action. The fourth principal ‘Patriotism’ commits our members to the preservation of our Church, of our Order, and of the many nations around the world where Knights serve.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Dick Palazzolo
dpalaz@gmail.com

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: FRATERNITY



The third principle of our order, fraternity, is one which I hold quite dearly. As Brother Knights, we are there for each other in times of need. We are there for each other physically, mentally, and spiritually. We have formed strong bonds of brotherly friendship that will never be broken.

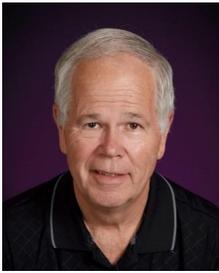
John 13:34 says, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another.” To me, this passage from John tells us that, as Knights, we have an important connection with one another, and more importantly, that we have a responsibility to look after one another. Thinking back to the unfortunate passing of my mother almost four years ago, I remember how much the support of my fellow Knights meant to me, and helped me to get through what was more than a difficult time. That sense of fraternity meant, and still means, the world to me.

A goal I have for 2023 is to attend one council and/or assembly function per month (or more often). That could entail attending meetings, helping with a Super Sunday or Fellowship dinner, or assisting at the Strawberry Festival or at SummerFest. Now that I am thinking about it more deeply, the principle of fraternity connects with the principles of unity and charity quite seamlessly. Fraternity fosters unity, which in turn enables us to engage in richer and more meaningful charitable works as a council or assembly.

Vivat Jesus!

SK Earl Foster
Foster.EARL@ccpsstaff.org

“Cry the Gospel with Your Life!”

IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, . . .

From my own personal experience, I am convinced that God communicates with every human being on an individual basis throughout their entire lives. He does so in a multitude of ways. I believe He has been doing it since He created Adam and Eve.

I believe that God uses what many people call "coincidences" to get our attention. It's like He's tapping us on our shoulders and saying, "Hey, I am here, and I am real. Now listen to Me."

If we choose to ignore Him or doubt that it's really God who is trying to talk to us, He doesn't give up. He is persistent, perhaps even relentless. In fact, if a voice inside of us keeps repeating the same message, it is probably God.

His speaking to us can come in many forms, from uncanny coincidences to a voice inside our heads, to physical signs, to near-death experiences, to small miracles, to answered or sometimes unanswered prayers, to dreams while we sleep or daydreams while we are awake.

Unfortunately, sinfulness greatly diminishes our spiritual senses or awareness. It can make it very difficult, almost impossible to recognize and pay attention to God when He's communicating with us. Confessing our sins in the sacrament of Reconciliation can restore and strengthen our spiritual senses and make us able to hear Him more readily.

I am a 72-year-old cradle Catholic, and I have never missed Mass intentionally, except when weather conditions or illness prevented me from going. Does that necessarily make me a good Catholic? No, it does not. You see there have been long periods of time in my life when I did not go to Confession. Yet in times of trouble, I have always turned to God in prayer. My loving parents instilled that in me.

In 1997, I had not been to confession for fifteen years, and for two years I had been suffering from an intolerable situation at work. I had a court case pending against my employer of twenty-two years. The case had been financially, physically, and psychologically draining me for over two years with no end in sight. What did I do? I turned to God and said, "Lord I am putting it all in your hands, and in return, I will go to daily Mass for the duration."

In the year that followed, I kept my promise, and I went to daily Mass. The celebrant of most of the Masses was a Peruvian priest named Father Richard Scott, whose homilies frequently included pleas for people to go to the sacrament of Reconciliation. As time went on, and I was at daily Mass, a voice in my head kept saying to me, "Go to Father Scott for Confession." I tried to ignore it, but the same message kept being repeated in my head at Mass day after day. After Mass on December 7, 1998, I finally made an appointment with Father Scott to hear my Confession the next day, which "coincidentally" was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. On that day, in the sacrament of Reconciliation, God changed my life!

While I was in a Catholic boys' prep school for six years, I had acquired the bad habit of saying the Lord's name in vain - like using the expletives of 'GD this' and 'JC that.' In addition, I sometimes used the F-word. I continued these sinful habits until December 8, 1998. Since

"Cry the Gospel with Your Life!"

going to Confession that day, I have never once uttered those words or phrases again. God had worked a small miracle in me. Do I think it was God who kept telling me to go to Confession? There is no doubt in my mind.

So, my brother Knights, 'if today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts!'

Vivat Jesus!

SK John Walton
Newsletter Editor
johnmwatson2@aol.com

PRAYER of SAINT JOAN OF ARC FOR HEALING

Composed by Andrea Oefinger

Holy Saint Joan, compassionate to the sick and wounded, who, while on earth, nursed so many back to health, hear me.

You, who wished to see no one injured or in discomfort, pray for me and guide me through this difficult time.

Daughter of God, wounded many times in battle, I petition you for healing (mention your request here) so that I may be better able to serve God in whatever capacity He wishes. Intercede for me.

It may not be in God's will for my body to be healed, for my sufferings may help another or my own soul. If my request is not granted, help me to remain strong, and instead be healed emotionally and spiritually. Amen.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Please pray for Brother Knights Walt Scanlan, Diluksan Ariyanayagam, Larry Christensen, Anthony Depasquale, Mike Porter, Mark Cassidy, Doug League, Jack Smithmyer and Jim Flohr, as well as Linda Nickum, Margaret Jopp, Kathy Green and Susie Crocco. Please pray for the vocation of Amanda Krow with the Little Sisters of the Poor. If you know of a brother Knight who is suffering or a dear friend or relative you would like the Knights of our council to pray for, please email his or her name, their relationship to you and the cause of their suffering to the editor of this newsletter, whose email address is at the end of Page 6.

SPECIAL NOTE: Please pray for our Brother Knights and their families in Ukraine and their fellow citizens. A Knights of Columbus council was established in Ukraine on January 28, 2015! (Visit their web site at <http://lytsarikolumba.com/>.)

TAKE A FIRST STEP TO BECOMING A KNIGHT ONLINE; IT COULD NOT BE EASIER!



To join the Knights of Columbus as an online member, go to www.kofc.org/joinus or focus the camera of your smart phone on the square QR code to the left and tap on the link that appears on your phone. Use Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** to join online for free.

"Cry the Gospel with Your Life!"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FEBRUARY 2023**

- 1st - 6:00 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth's Church; 4th Degree is honoring Father Lewis with a Chalice; Everyone Is Invited to the Pub after Mass - Food and Beverages at Your Expense.
- 2nd - Session 3 of "Into the Breach," Starting at 6:30 PM for All the Men of the Parish with Light Refreshments.
- 5th - Super Sunday Breakfast after the 7:15 & 8:30 AM Masses - Your Help Is Needed as Early as 5:30 AM.
- 9th - Session 4 of "Into the Breach," Starting at 6:30 PM for All the Men of the Parish with Light Refreshments.
- 12th - Hospitality Hosted by Our Council after the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass; Please Help!
- 15th - Council Business Meeting at 7:00 PM; Officers' Meeting at 6:30 PM.
- 19th - Hospitality Hosted by Our Council after the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass; Please Help!
- 21st - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Starting at 5:00 PM.
- 22nd - Ash Wednesday - the Start of Lent.
- 24th - Friday Fellowship Seafood Dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.
- 26th - Hospitality Hosted by Our Council after the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass; Please Help!
- 27th - Maryland March for Life in Annapolis.

MARCH 2023

- 1st - Council Business Meeting at 7:00 PM; Officers' Meeting at 6:30 PM.
- 5th - Super Sunday Breakfast after the 7:15 & 8:30 AM Masses - Your Help Is Needed as Early as 5:30 AM.
- 15th - Council Social Meeting at 7:00 PM; Pray the Rosary at 6:30 PM
- 24th - Friday Fellowship Seafood Dinner from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.
- 24th - Shadow Stations of the Cross by the Youth Ministry in St. Benedict's Church at 7:00 PM.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please email me your comments or suggestions regarding this or any future issue of the newsletter at johnmwalton2@aol.com. **Your input is always welcome!**