DECEMBER 2019 Volume 12-19 Issue 103



# The Crusader



Official Publication of the New Jersey State Council Knights of Columbus

Vincent Tavormina State Deputy



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# State Deputy's Message

Brother Knights,

As you read this, I have just returned from the State Deputy's Mid Term meeting and there are some exciting new changes that will be announced in the coming months. We are also at the start of one of the most joyous times of the year (and my favorite) – Advent and the Christmas season. Though it's been said over and over, Christmas isn't just for exchanging gifts, Christmas decorations and colorful lights. Jesus is the "Reason for the Season". And what better way can we honor and give thanks to our Lord and Saviour than to do his works?

We can do that in many ways. Through our prayers. Through our regard for our fellow man. But, as Knights, we have a unique way of doing it. There are many programs that your Council can do in December to thank God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us and to help others, maybe some less fortunate than you and me, or some who have nowhere to turn for hope.

The two that comes to mind first and foremost are the Food for Families and Coats for Kids. If you have a roof over your head, clothes on your back and plenty to eat, you, like I, are truly blessed. But, you see the papers every day and read about those that don't have those basic luxuries. What better way to kick off the season of giving than to give to those that are not as fortunate as us?

Other programs that you should consider doing this month (and this is not a complete list) are Keep Christ in Christmas card program, Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest, Christmas coloring books, RSVP program to help our Seminarians, or working with your Pastor on the many Building the Domestic Church initiative. The list goes on and on. I challenge you to pick at least one program for December and get your Council working on it. You will find everything you need to get started in the Grand Knight's Manual.

How's this for thinking outside the box? Give someone you know a Form 100 as a stocking stuffer. You never know! Talk about an inexpensive gift (in this case – no cost!) that could be worth a lifetime of service for someone.

For you Grand Knights, please watch your email, because shortly after you read this, you will be getting an e-vite to the Midterm Grand Knights meeting. Please plan on being there or send another officer from your Council. We are conducting these meetings very differently and I'm positive that you will find them unique and helpful.

In closing, I just want to again say that Jesus is the REASON FOR THE SEASON. Let's keep Christ in Christmas by saying "Merry Christmas", not Happy Holidays, wearing a button on your jacket, or by putting a Keep Christ in Christmas magnet or license plate frame on your vehicle. There are many ways to let people know we are Catholic and proud of it.

On behalf of Tamara and I, and our families, and the State Officers, we wish you and your families a very Merry, Holy, and Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, joy, love, and happiness.

Vincent Tavormina, State Deputy

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

# **SCHEDULED DEGREES**

LINK individual Degree below for details.

**COUNCIL** 

**LOCATION** 

**METUCHEN:** 

<u>1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 17<sup>th</sup></u> Council 5170 Washington

**NEWARK:** 

 $\begin{array}{llll} \underline{1^{st}-\text{Dec }4^{th}} & \text{Council }6209 \text{ **} & \text{Union City} \\ \underline{2^{nd}-\text{Dec }5^{th}} & \text{Council }7647 & \text{Cresskill} \\ \underline{1^{st}-\text{Dec }9^{th}} & \text{Council }5437 & \text{Garwood} \\ \underline{1^{st}-\text{Dec }10^{th}} & \text{Council }2188 & \text{Westwood} \\ \underline{1^{st}-\text{Dec }16^{th}} & \text{Council }3428 & \text{N. Arlington} \end{array}$ 

\*\* Degree in Spanish

DATE/DEGREE

PATERSON:

1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 11

1<sup>st</sup> – Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Council 6139 Hewitt

**TRENTON:** 

### **Degree Notes:**

- Candidates and observers should be dressed appropriately, jacket and tie.
- Candidate escorts should have all Degree paraphernalia when arriving at Degree location.
- Please remember, Degrees are a special night in a candidate's KofC life, please keep the dialogue to a minimum

Brothers.

Where are you with Membership?

As we are halfway thru the month of November, we are at 545 new members. That is a little over 25% of the 2140 of the State Quota. We have over 200 councils that have not brought in one new member. Supreme initiated the new Delta Drive which you heard about and the Grand Knights saw the presentations at the Diocesan Membership meetings. As of today, only 34 councils have ordered the kit. This is about 10%.

When you go to your meetings, do you see the same few guys. Do you wonder what will happen to your council in the future? We are not getting any younger. Who will replace us? If we do not have any new blood the councils will die. Who will run you next fund raiser, or fraternal program? We even initiated a financial incentive program. Can we make the financial incentive for this half of the year? What about the second half. It is never too late.

We have given you the tools to use. Are you using them? Have you personally asked someone to join?

These are the questions I ask you to look at and think about. Bring this topic up at your next meeting.

As we bring in every one or two new members, we lose one to death. We are getting up there in age.

Look at your council. Have you had a brother pass? Have you brought in a new member?

Again, think about this. We are here to help you. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to contact me and any member of the membership team. Our info is listed in the State Directory.

With this being the beginning of the Thanksgiving/Christmas Season, I would like to extend warm wishes from my family to yours for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Chris Duffett FDD - State Membership Director



# Upcoming Events:

# \* PLEASE NOTE – <u>ALL MONTHLY REPORTS ARE DUE</u> AT THE STATE COUNCIL OFFICE ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH

Be sure to make a note of the activities that are scheduled for the next several months. Click the specific activity [hyperlink]  $\square$  to obtain more information, details

#### December 2019

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> - First Sunday of Advent

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** 

**Dec 7**<sup>th</sup> - **District Deputy Midterm Meeting** 

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Dec 12th - Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> - National Guard Birthday

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Cresche Blessing – State House in Trenton

Dec 21<sup>st</sup> – Winter Solstice

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Holy Family

Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve

#### **JANUARY 2020**

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's Day

Jan 4<sup>th</sup> - Mid-Term GK Meeting - Metuchen / Paterson

Jan 5<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Epiphany

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - Little Christmas

Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Mid-Term GK Meeting – Camden / Trenton

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Baptism of our Lord

Jan 18<sup>th</sup> – Mid-Term GK Meeting – Newark Archdiocese

Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> - Rally for Life - Trenton

Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - March for Life in Washington, D.C.

#### **FEBRUARY 2020**

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Candlemas Day

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ Super Bowl

Feb 12<sup>th</sup> – Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> ~ President's Day

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ Polar Bear Plunge

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ George Washington's actual Birthday

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> ~ Ash Wednesday

Feb 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Leap Day

PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE CRUSADER ARE AVAILABLE BY CLICKING HERE

Please forward this Newsletter to all your council members.

### **Quarterly Calendar**



	DECEMBER 2019					
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	26	27	28
29	30	31				

371107111 2020						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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IANIJARY 2020

FEBRUARY 2020						
S	М	Т	W	Т	F	S
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9	10	11	<b>12</b>	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### Highlighted Programs of the Month

## POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

My Brothers,

On February 22, 2020, the NJKofC Polar Penguins will be taking the Plunge for Special Olympics New Jersey for the 11<sup>th</sup> time.

Our team has already received \$12,298 in contributions, mostly through the hard work of FDD David Copolla, who has raised almost \$11,000. But Dave cannot do it alone, he needs our former team members to register and ask for donations. I am asking our past team members, and some new members to join us as we endeavor to help these special people. We are also asking Councils, Assemblies and Chapters or Federations the to dig deep into your charity fund and make a donation, we cannot do it without your help.

Our team started with 3 members in 2009 and has grown to 65 members. Our funds raised, starting in 2009 were \$9,000 and has grown every year to our new team record set in 2019 of \$70,356, to bring our 10 yr total to \$366,770 We hope to do even better in 2020, but need your help.

The Knights of Columbus are proud to partner with Special Olympics New Jersey in their endeavor to assist the athletes that train all year and will compete in the Special Olympics in June.

Please help us help them. This can be done in either of 2 ways:

- 1 join the NJKofC Polar Penguins and take the plunge with us;
- 2 Choose a member of our team and make a donation on their page to assist him or her to reach their personal goal, which in turn helps the team reach our goal, this year our goal is \$75,000. We would like to surpass that number this year, as we have reached our goal every year.

Donating through the website is fast, easy and secure. If you prefer to mail a check, there are instructions on this website with a form that you can print, fill out and mail with your check to Special Olympics NJ

The NJKofC Polar Penguins would like to thank those that have donated in the past and we hope you will consider donating to our team again, as we strive to make the lives of these athletes, and their families, easier.

I, personally, would like to thank the team members that brave the chilly waters of the Atlantic Ocean every February, but there is always room for more to join us.

John A Gazis, FDD

### LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

### The Pen is Mightier than the Sword

These words by Edgar Bulwer-Lytton mean that we can cause people to change their opinions about our faith on a large scale whereas a sword can only change a person's opinion by force.

The Founding Fathers of the United States of America considered the pen to be mightier than the sword, and therefore were able to gain the freedom of America by uniting the colonists.

So, we too, as Brother Knights, must defend our faith by changing people's minds. We can do this by being attentive to the world around and pick up our pens and challenge in writing all the misconceptions about our faith.

I am asking you to join me as part of our Catholic Voice in the Media team. I ask that you be vigilant and, when necessary, pen a Letter to the Editor expressing your feelings about the topic at hand.

Most newspapers will limit you to 200 – 250 words. This means you will have to be concise in your writing. It means that your letter has a good chance of being printed unedited. It also means that it will be read.

Don't get discouraged if it is not printed. Just keep on trying!

Do not identify yourself as a member of the Knights of Columbus but if you must identify yourself, do it as a Man of Faith.

I ask that you send me a copy whether it is printed or not.

Vivat Jesus!

Ron Prykanowski, F.D.D.

Our Catholic Voice in the Media



# PROGRAM CORNER

My Fellow Brother Knights,

We are approaching the 6-month mark and the beginning of the Advent Season. This is the perfect time to address one of those mandatory programs required for the Columbian Award. **Consecration to the Holy Family** is a great way to bring our families closer to the exemplary model of love and caring set by Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Another way to show what we as Knights are all about is through our Charitable Outreach. All our programs have special needs and the FR. JOHN F. MURRAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM is no different. Father John Murray was appointed State Father Prior of the Columbian Squires in NJ in 1968. program/scholarship was established to assist Catholic students who are in good standing in the Columbian Squires or the Squire Rose Programs. I refer all Grand Knights to the Grand Knight Handbook, Section 7.11 (page 7-30 of the Handbook), which lists the requirements for this scholarship. This scholarship is open to students entering their freshman year in a Catholic High School or Catholic College. Grand Knights must receive the applications (see page 7-32 of the Handbook) of the qualified/prospective and deserving students by March 1, 2020. Please note all applicants must have a copy of their student transcripts (7th and 8th grade transcripts for students entering high school, and junior and senior transcripts for students entering college) attached to their application. All completed applications must be received by March 31, 2020 to Program Chairman PGK Steven Martin. Additionally, each council should consider a contribution to the Fr. John F. Murray Scholarship Program. Please refer to your Grand Knight Handbook for the Pledge Transmittal Form, which appears on page 7-31 of the Handbook.

Additionally, consider the following programs: Hospital **Veterans** Assistance and Visits, Christmas Food Baskets, Coats for Kids, Knights Mass celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on 12/8, Free Throw Contest, Bowling Tournament, Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, Spelling Bee, Wedding Certificates, Council Newsletter and Website Contests, New Eyes for the Needy, Parochial and CCD Teacher-of-the-Year, Chaplain-of-the-Year, Police and Fire Shield Awards, EMT-of-the-Year, and Senior Citizen-ofthe-Year. Details on these programs and more are in the GK Handbook.

Thank you for all you do for the Order. The General Program Team wishes all Brother Knights and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, and Healthy New Year!

Scott Williams, FDD - NJ State General Programs

# **PATRIOTIC CORNER**

Sir Knights and Brothers all,

Hopefully all of our Assemblies last month remembered our brothers that have gone before us and we miss dearly with a remembrance Mass.

In November we welcomed a new class of Sir Knights! Our two districts in New Jersey in November have exemplified 217 Sir Knights between the 2 Districts! I congratulate my friend, Master of the 1<sup>st</sup> NJ District Paul Pinkman on great exemplification. It was a great day to honor his members and welcome his new brothers. He and his staff did an excellent job.

I need to congratulate my staff on a very successful exemplification on November 10<sup>th.</sup> It was great day and without their help it would not have been a success. Their support makes our District the success it is!

The 2nd NJ District Awards for the Year: Color Corps Man of the Year is **John Brandon!** Sir Knight of the Year: **John DeMarco!** Congratulation to the both of you!

Our Honoree in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District was **State Deputy Vinnie Tavormina** and Lady Tamara Cassidy for all their hard work and dedication to our Order! Vinnie truly deserves this honor he is such a class gentleman!

As WE ARE the Patriotic degree of the order, we also strive to support our Armed Services personnel. There is a project called "Send a Hero Home for the Holidays". It will pick up the travel fees to send an active duty soldier E3 or below who has not been home in a while. Imagine the satisfaction by helping make a soldier get home with their loved ones for the holidays! For more details or how to contribute contact Tom Ponting at atponting@gmail.com or call 609-203-2390.

On behalf of Vice Supreme Master Andy Lipenta, my fellow Master Paul Pinkman and myself we would like to wish each of you and your family a Merry Christmas & Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year. We look forward to a great 2020! Vivat Jesus.

### Christopher A Tomasello

Master of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey District Religiously Devoted and Patriotically Proud



### SACRAMENTAL GIFTS PROGRAM

Brothers,

At the beginning of this Fraternal Year, Supreme added some new Programs, some required, some not required.

One of these Programs is the Sacramental Gifts Program. Some Councils have been doing this Program long before Supreme made it a mandatory Program in the Faith Activities category. Some have been giving mothers gifts at the Baptisms of their children, some do roses, others give the mother a small pin of a Cross with a rose on it. Work with your Pastor, asking his permission to do this as well as any recommendations he may have as to the gifts to be presented for the upcoming Sacrament, whether it be First Holy Communion, Confirmation, matrimony, even going through the RCIA program at the Parish

A popular gift for the child's First Communion has been the Communion Kit which is a "First Missile" book, a Communion pin, a scapular and rosary beads, white for girls, black for boys. These books are great keepsakes for the parents as well as educational for the children, as the book has the order of the Mass and other information the children will get use of.

Another gift is the Confirmation books, which has the ceremony in there, as well as a brief question and answer section. This book will help prepare for this important Sacrament. Both of these items are available through the "Keep Christ Before Us" Program, check it out in the Grand Knights Manual, listed under "Faith Programs".

Another "mandatory" program is the Council Retreat program, which asks each Council to host a retreat for its members, whether it is a 1 or 3 day event.

Please consider these programs when setting up your setting up your calendar.



### **CULTURE OF LIFE CORNER**

Brothers:

I hope you are all ready to celebrate the Birth of Christ this month, and the birth of every baby whose mother chose life every month!

40 Days for Life. We are having an impact, Brothers! The world-wide 40 Days for Life Observance reports that 454 babies were saved between September 25 and November 3. Thanks to all NJ Knights who participated this Fall. The Lenten Observance begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26,2020. Plan now to do as much as you did in the Fall. or more!

March for Life. The March for Life in Washington on January 24, 2020. The theme will be "Life Empowers: Pro-Life is Pro-Woman," which is a great message to combat the pro-abortion narrative that denying a woman the "right to choose" somehow subjugates her rights in our society. Let us champion this theme loudly and boldly! Further information can be found on their web site www.marchforlife.org.

If your council or parish has a bus going, be sure to submit the details to the State Council. There may be many people around the state who would like to go and would love to join you on your bus. Please fill out the form at this <u>LINK</u> by December 16 and help us spread the word. Also, don't forget to fill out the report to Supreme at this <u>LINK</u>.

Pregnancy Center Support. Your council's respect life chairman needs to visit a local Pro-Life Pregnancy Center, to discover their needs, and then develop programs with your Grand Knight to ensure that those needs are met! By coordinating your efforts with those needs, we are the most effective! Plus, if you go to <a href="Smile.Amazon.com">Smile.Amazon.com</a> and choose New Jersey Right to Life, a portion of the price for the diapers, wipes, and other supplies will go to support them!

Better yet, use that link when doing your Christmas shopping on Amazon! Any purchase counts, and you can track how much you donate!

Steven J. Richardson, FM
Culture of Life Programs Director



# **INSURANCE MATTERS**

#### My Way

I recently read an article in the paper about the greatest "contemporary" song ever written. Stairway to Heaven garnered a great deal of support, as did Bohemian Rhapsody, but so did White Christmas, and half of the Bruce Springsteen catalog of songs, (my favorite is Tenth Avenue Freeze Out). But there were so many others by Whitney Houston, the Four Seasons, the Eagles, Diana Ross, with and without the Supremes. Michael Jackson, Prince, along with songs going back to the middle of the last century, (jazz standards, big band numbers), and half the groups in the Rock and Roll hall of fame made the list.

But one song stood out to me, **My Way**, as sung by Frank Sinatra. Often imitated, (Elvis and others covered this classic), but never duplicated.

There is a line in the song that always triggers something in me. "Regrets, I've had a few, but then again, too few to mention" I've always taken that to mean that a life should be lived to it's fullest and to do everything you do to it's fullest as well. There are no half measures, no shortcuts, as they will lead to unhappiness and failure.

What often gets lost is the next line in the song, "I

did what I had to do, and saw it through without exemption". This implies to have a full and happy life, we need to finish what we start and make sure that we have done what needs be done, without exception.



When we face adversity as all do in life, will we be able to sleep

soundly? When the winds pick up and the rain/hail/snow batter us, will each of us be able to say, that if we have few regrets, if any, they may be "too few to mention", because we have done what had to be done, and we have seen to the needs of our families without exception?

During this season of Advent, when we are to make ourselves ready for the coming of the Lord, let us also take the time to sit and reflect on whether we have done what we need to do to protect our families, so that we can say we slept easily through the storms of life. And that when the end is near, and we face our final curtain, we can all be clear, we've had a life that's full, with no regrets. I hope and pray that the record of my life will show, that I took the blows and still did it my way.

Let the Knights of Columbus Insurance help you to make sure you can do it your way, and that you have done what needs be done to be sure that your family is prepared for the storms of life.

Protecting Catholic families since before Sinatra was born. That's who we are and what we do.

Charles Miraglia, General Agent

# WEBMASTER

### **Charging Into The 21<sup>st</sup> Century!**

The State Council has begun utilizing an "e-invitation" program (through greenvelope.com) to send notices and track RSVPs for meetings, state installations, seminars, and the State Convention.

With this program, which has been used for the District Deputy's Mid-Term Meeting with great results, we can track exactly who has opened their invitation / and who has not; who has responded; and what is their response. We can track dinner reservations and even, when applicable, their meal selection.

Our next roll-out will be for the Mid-Term Grand Knights' Meeting in January. Grand Knights will be given a choice of three different locations. If they are not able to attend in their own Diocese, they can opt to attend one of the other two. In addition, if a Grand Knight is unable to attend any of the three option, they can designate another officer to attend.

#### The most important thing is to reply!

On another subject: The state council conducts a website contest for local councils to enter their website for judging. Details are located under Section 6.8 of the Grand Knight Handbook. The criteria is explained and the goal is 100 points. The form is available at <a href="https://www.njkofc.org/2019-20-state-supreme-reporting-forms/council-website-contest-entry-form/">https://www.njkofc.org/2019-20-state-supreme-reporting-forms/council-website-contest-entry-form/</a>

Finally, as Chairman of the Autism Awareness and Support For Families Program (Section 7.2 of Grand Knights' Handbook), I would like to call your attention to the startling and troubling statistics: According to the Center For Disease Control (CDC.gov), in 2008 the prevalence of children diagnosed as being "on the spectrum was 1:88. In 2014 (the most recent statistics is 1:59 – the most recent study is over 5 years old!

New Jersey, with 1:34, scores the worst ratio according to Autism And Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network. That is 3% higher than other areas of the Country!

Councils looking to expand their membership should be concerned that males (our future members) are 3.7 times **more** likely than females to be born with developmental disabilities.

Reporting Form: <a href="https://www.njkofc.org/2019-20-state-supreme-reporting-forms/autism-awareness-and-support-for-families/">https://www.njkofc.org/2019-20-state-supreme-reporting-forms/autism-awareness-and-support-for-families/</a>

From my home to yours, Merry Christmas!



Vivat Jesus!!!

Bernie Ernst, FDD

NJ State Council Webmaster

### SQUIRES CORNER

# Brothers Merry Christmas & Happy & Holy New Year.

#### **Wildwood Squires:**

These are the upcoming events for Circle 558.

- Monday, December 9, business meeting
   Friday December 13, 2019 cookie bake for local charity.
   Sunday December 15, 2019 eagles tail gate party with parents and corn hole.
  - **4.** Membership drive for parents to join Knights of Columbus.

#### **Budd Lake Squires:**

These are the upcoming events for Circle 2192.

- Paragon Village Christmas Party and mass Dec 4th

  - celebrate mass with the residents of a local senior community and then serve refreshments and sing carols with them.
- 2. Selling roses after masses for the first two weekends in January to raise money for the bus trip Right to Life March.
- 3. Hold an Investiture in Jan or Feb
- **4.** Assist Knights of Columbus at their Free Throw contest in January.

#### **Sparta Roses:**

These are the upcoming events for Circle NJSR0001.

- 1. We made a donation of \$250 to purchase food gift cards to distribute to families in-need.
- 2. We operating a children's craft station, and manning a Roses' recruitment table at St. Kateri's Santa's Breakfast event on Dec 1.
- **3.** We are planning to host our annual Bake Sale fundraiser on Dec 22.

#### **Sparta Squires:**

These are the upcoming events for Circle 5177

- Chief Squire Greg Puszcz and Notary Squire Sebastian Gomez were featured on CBS this morning discussing the dangers of teen vaping.
- **2.** Circle hosted State Squires meeting with several members in attendance on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- **3.** Circle held investiture with 4 new members joining on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- **4.** We will help the Knights at the annual Brunch with Saint Nick celebration
- **5.** We will present check for \$345 to the Samaritan Inn from the proceeds of the fall flower sale for their efforts with homeless and needy families
- **6.** Our Squires will be selling Luminary kits as well as collect donations after all masses during Nov & Dec. Luminaries will be setup at Knoll Heights Senior Living, at Saint Kateri and Our Lady of the Lake parishes. Luminary night will be early December.

#### Peter D Briody, PGK

Columbian Squires/Squire Rose Program Director

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Brothers.

In putting together the Crusader every month, I come across some celebrations and holydays I had never heard of before. One of these is Candlemas Candlemas is celebrated on the **2nd** day of **February** of each year. The day is celebrated as a day of renewal, hope, and purification. It celebrates 3 occasions according to Christian belief: The Presentation of the child Jesus, Jesus' first entry into the temple and it celebrates the Virgin Mary's purification 40 days after the birth of her son, our Savior Jesus Christ (mainly in Catholic Churches)

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is an early episode in the life of Jesus that is celebrated by the Church on the holiday of Candlemas. It is described in the Gospel of Luke of the New Testament the Christian Bible. Within the account, "Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn."

As we prepare for the coming Christmas Holidays, remember to say loudly and proudly "Merry Christmas". This is the time of year to wear your Faith on your sleeve. Many times you will hear "Happy Holidays", let your response inform people you are proud of your Catholic Faith. Display your "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets and lawn signs prominently.

Remember that New Years Day is not just a day of football and beverages, it is also The Solemnity of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Start your day by celebrating Mass, thanking Mary for her life as Jesus' mom, as well as ours. It is through Our Lady that all we do is possible.

John A Gazis, FDD

Crusader Editor



# **MILESTONES**









COUNCIL	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<b>CHARTER DATE</b>	<u>YRS</u>
<u>2061</u>	Our Lady of Victory	<u>Sayreville</u>	<u>12/1/1919</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>10994</u>	St Francis of Assisi	<u>Wrightstown</u>	12/1/1992	<u>27</u>
<u>4504</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Union</u>	12/2/1957	<u>62</u>
<u>5903</u>	Prince of Peace	<b>Englishtown</b>	<u>12/2/1966</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>6735</u>	St Peters	<u>Merchantville</u>	<u>12/5/1975</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>7677</u>	St Gregory the Great	Hamilton Square	<u>12/8/1980</u>	44 39 48
<u>6320</u>	St Therese	<u>Succasunna</u>	<u>12/9/1971</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>7926</u>	St Martha	Pt Pleasant	<u>12/9/1981</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>4885</u>	Pope Pius XII	<u>Edison</u>	<u>12/12/1959</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>6522</u>	<u>Fr. Capodanno</u>	Forked River	<u>12/13/1973</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>2561</u>	<u>Caldwell</u>	<u>Caldwell</u>	<u>12/14/1924</u>	<u>46</u> <u>95</u>
<u>7020</u>	<u>Brigantine</u>	<u>Brigantine</u>	<u>12/14/1977</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>636</u>	<u>Princeton</u>	<u>Princeton</u>	<u>12/16/1901</u>	<u>118</u>
<u>6195</u>	Our Lady of Mt Carmel	<u>Nutley</u>	<u>12/17/1969</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>943</u>	St Anthony	<u>Butler</u>	<u>12/18/1904</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>5920</u>	Msgr Joseph R Brestel	<u>Hawthorne</u>	<u>12/18/1966</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>474</u>	<u>Warren</u>	<u>Phillipsburg</u>	<u>12/19/1899</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>3187</u>	Red Bank	<u>Fair Haven</u>	<u>12/19/1948</u>	<u>71</u>
<u>6196</u>	Our Lady of Perpetual Help	<u>Newark</u>	<u>12/21/1969</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>1179</u>	<u>Santa Maria</u>	Mt Holly	<u>12/23/1906</u>	<u>113</u>
<u>475</u>	Paulus Hook	Jersey City	<u>12/24/1899</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>1178</u>	Bloomfield	<u>Bloomfield</u>	<u>12/27/1906</u>	<u>113</u>

State Deputy Vincent Tavormina, along with the entire NJ State Council and the Newsletter Staff, would like to take this opportunity to wish **ALL** councils best wishes on their **Charter Anniversary**.

May your council continue to grow and do good deeds for many more years to come! Let's continue to grow our Order, expand our programs and continue to be *Patriots Protecting All God's Children!* 

The CRUSADER is the Official Monthly Publication of the New Jersey State Council, Knights of Columbus

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