



THE SHIELD



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JULY, 2014

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THE GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

By Darren Gray

Brother Knights, this is a bittersweet report as this will be my last report to you as your Grand Knight. I want to thank everyone for all of the support that you have given me over the last two years, especially my officers and the Ladies Auxiliary. Without your help, my term would have been a lot harder. Please continue to support Ronnie Thompson and all of the new officers. In looking back, I am very happy with the progress that we have made as a Council, but there is still more to be done. I will continue to work with the new officers to help in any way that I can to keep this Council moving forward. While we did not make Star Council this year, we did add some new, very active members and there is potential for more in the near future. And as you know, we have lost several Brother Knights this last year, please keep them and their families in your prayers.

CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Service for the Icon of the
Immaculate Conception - Tuesday, July 1, 2014
7:00 p.m. at St. Vincent Ferrer
Fr. John Esper presiding

BUILDING CORPORATION MEETING

Monday, July 7, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting

Monday, July 7, 2014 - 8:00 p.m.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Monday, July 21, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.

At the Council

OFFICERS MEETING

Monday, July 28, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Ron Bertolini

Brothers our membership is slowly gaining new members by the hard work of many members. If we continue to try we can meet our goal of one new member per month.

Don't be discouraged. I know the gains seem small and hard to achieve, but with the efforts of many members we can make the gains we are trying to achieve.

Thank you all for your continued efforts.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Bernard Guc**
 - 01 Gerald Green**
 - 11 Richard Salloum**
 - 12 John Connolly**
 - 13 Donald Bessler**
 - 13 R. Ploskonka, PGK, FDD**
 - 16 Warren Broglin**
 - 31 Rev. Steven Koehler**
-

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

- 01 Edward Adams**
- 03 James McCarthy**
- 03 Michael Claya**
- 04 Charles Maloney**
- 04 Edward Poplawski**
- 08 Matthew Thomas**
- 09 Regis Welsh**
- 12 Anthony Bliss**
- 15 John Claya**
- 18 Ronald Bertolini**
- 19 James Green**
- 22 Paul Palmer**
- 23 Ken Podgorski, PGK**
- 25 Rick Moreyra**
- 25 Ken witkowski**
- 26 Dr. Christopher Gorecki**
- 28 James Palmer**
- 30 Charles Hamilton**

Called to Follow Jesus

By Johan Van Parys

Every time I sit at the desk in my home office, I glance at the small crucifix lying on it — a simple wooden cross with a small metal corpus. It was given to me by one of the late abbots of the Benedictine Abbey of Mont César in Leuven, Belgium. He had received it from the late Bishop Boleslavs Sloskans, a Latvian national who had secretly been ordained a bishop in or a diocese in the former Soviet Union. When authorities found out, he was arrested and sent to a Soviet work camp. He managed to keep a small crucifix during his imprisonment. At the beginning of World War II, Bishop Sloskans found refuge at Mont Cesar, where he spent the rest of his life. The crucifix rested on his desk at Leuven until it was passed down to the abbot.

I remember the day father abbot gave it to me with great clarity. It was the day I decided not to become a priest.

I had always wanted to be a priest, thinking that I had the calling. In prayer, I heard Jesus say, "Come and follow me," which I understood to mean "become a priest." When I turned seventeen, I applied to our local seminary; thus began a circuitous trajectory in and out of seminaries until I finally decided that I must not have the calling.

That was a difficult moment. I visited the abbot who was my spiritual director and said that I was sad not to have "the calling." He said that while I may not be called to be a priest, I surely I am called to follow Christ. The latter, he continued, is much more important than the former.

He then recounted the life of Bishop Sloskans and gave me the small crucifix. He explained that what made Bishop Sloskans such a great Christian was not his calling to the priesthood, but the way he lived out his calling to follow Christ, wherever he found himself — even in prison.

At that moment realized that I had received the calling — maybe not to be a priest, but to follow

THE COUNCIL IS IN NEED

If anyone has an old, working refrigerator or dehumidifier, the Council could really use them. Maybe you have one of these items tucked away in the basement, or garage, that you are no longer using, but you don't want to throw them away. If you have one, please contact Darren Gray (248) 302-8918 and he will arrange for pickup.

GARAGE SALE

The garage sale season is in full swing. Many of you are, in fact, having your own sales. Our Council will be holding a sale in August and is in need of merchandise to sell. All of us have stuff that we no longer need or use. This is a great opportunity to reclaim some space and give new life to articles no longer needed. If you have articles to donate, please give Jim Morrison, 248-585-2324 or any of the officers, a call and we can make arrangements to meet at the Council or pick up your material. Please, no clothing or computer equipment.

Jesus. There is no higher or better calling. There is only one calling, and it is the one Jesus addresses to each of us: "Come and follow me."

The way each of us lives out this calling can be very different. For mostly it is informed by our personal strengths and talents. Yet in the end, our fundamental calling as Christians is to become more and more like Christ regardless of who we are, where we live, or what we do.

Every time I glance at the simple crucifix I think of Bishop Sloskans, and I am reminded of his commitment to Christ. His example, like that of many saints, is an inspiration to us all. Let us pray daily for the grace to be faithful to our calling as followers of Christ — no matter where life's path takes us.

Love Never Dies - Fr. Donald Willard, CSsR

The passing of a loved one into eternity is always a very difficult process for those who remain in this temporal world. We know everyone must die, but no matter how well prepared we might feel we are, we are bound to experience a sense of loss. Our hopes, dreams, expectations, anticipations, and even life as we have known it appear to cease. We will no longer enjoy the same experiences with our beloved. Our future has been changed. We will miss being in our loved one's presence and sharing our life with that person in the same manner we have grown accustomed to. Yet, it is important to remember: The very experience of not having the physical presence of our loved one makes our minds and hearts turn to the eternal Word of God.

Our faith reminds us that our hope is in Jesus Christ, the one risen from the dead. God loves us. God loves us so much that he gave his only begotten Son for us so that we might have an opportunity for salvation. That salvation is our escape from eternal death and separation from God. Instead, by the life, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have been given the grace to have eternal life in the beatific vision of the Divine.

Similar to the way in which we yearn to be in the presence of our beloved, God desires us to be eternally in his presence — we are the beloved children of God. And just as the resurrection of the one true Son of God proves God's love for his Son, that same love extends to all of God's beloved children throughout the world. The resurrection proves that love can never die; love gives life, and the love of God gives eternal life to those who accept God's gift of love and live according to the law of love written on our hearts. This month is a time to share God's love. The bonds of unity and charity that are formed as we pray for those we love — both the living and the dead — will continue to strengthen relationships that will last into eternity. As we attend the celebration of the holy Eucharist, may we be reminded that we are witnesses to the love of God and the hope that is our calling. Let us console one another with the promise of eternal life and the fact that all of the heavenly kingdom will be praying for us to join them at the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ.

We should recognize that at every Eucharist, we are in the presence of the entire heavenly realm — Mary, the angels, the saints, and all the faithful. May we hold the hope of heaven in our hearts, and may this consolation bring us a peace that the world can never disturb.

Prayer List

Gerard Beauchamp, Ettore Bignotti, Gerald Bliss, Lawrence Bliss, Connie Boguth, Bea Boutillier, Nan Brown (Lynn Figg's Aunt), Paige Chamberlain, Ray Dulecki, Barbara Fisher (Ron Thompson's Mother-in-law), Wallis Flynn (Randy's son-in-law), Linda Gattes, Charlie Hamilton, Rose Halkey, Mike Higgins (PGK), Dana Kaszubowski, Mary Kline, Cathy Krenzer, Joann Kuester, Pete Kuester, Cheryl Latson, Patty Lobos, Steve Mall, Pat Malley, Aldo Marchesi, Mimi Marchesi (Frank's Sister-in-law), Paul Marion, Sharon McCoy (Richard Witkowski's daughter), Beth Menard, Marge Moore, Ann Neil, John O'Neil, Barbara Olevenic, Nancy Oparka, Jim Palmer, Leona Peklo, Gus Peklo, Stella Ploskonka (Ron's mother), Norm Podgorski (PGK,FDD), Ralph Purdue, Bill Rearick, Joanne Rearick, Patricia A. Scheid, Patricia M. Scheid (Ernie's daughter-in-law), Wanda Schram, Betty Shaw, Marilyn Shaub, Caroline Sobas (Lynn Figg's Sister-in-law), Jess Sobas, Lori Stack, Robert Stack, Robert Stack Jr., Dennis Szlag, Ann Tupiak, Lee Ventimiglia, Matt Ventimiglia, Jerry Waligora, Tom Waligora, Regis Welsh, Marian Welsh, Jean Witkowski. And please pray for all of the men and women of our Armed Services.

Please keep the following, recently deceased in your prayers: Pete Malega and John Lamerato

NOTE: Just a reminder. Please make sure to write names clearly so that I can add them correctly to the sick and deceased list.

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS

By Jim Morrison

Sunday, July 6 and July 20 are the two K. of C. Coffee & Donut dates at St. Vincent Ferrer. Monday, July 21, is the date for the Ice Cream Social. I will be ready to serve at 5:30 p.m. till when the ice cream runs out. Bring lots of kids. Sundaes, Floats, Coolers, Cones, Peach Crisp ala mode and Banana Splits will be offered. A variety of toppings will be available for a do-it-yourself. Children twelve and under are free. Everyone else is \$3.00. There will be no extra charge for seconds or thirds.

Be Sure to attend the

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Monday, July 21, 2014

5:30 p.m. at the Council

Everyone over 12: \$3.00

Children under 12 FREE

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THE SHIELD - JULY, 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1 Happy Birthday Bernard Guc Gerald Green	2	3	4	5
6 Coffee & Donuts After 8 & 10 Mass	7 Bldg. Corp Meets 7:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11 Happy Birthday Richard Salloum	12 Happy Birthday John Connolly
13 Happy Birthday Don Bessler R. Ploskonka, PGK, FDD	14	15	16 Happy Birthday Warren Broglin	17	18	19
20 Coffee & Donuts After 8 & 10 Mass	21 Ice Cream Social 5:30 p.m. SHIELD DEADLINE	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Happy Birthday Rev. Steven Koehler		