



THE SHIELD



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Official Publication of Fr. James B. Heary, O.P. - Council 7239 Knights of Columbus

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VOLUME XVIII, NO. 6

JUNE, 2013

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THE GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

By Darren Gray

Vivat Jesus! I had the honor to present the Knight and Family of the Year awards at the MHCRT Award Luncheon. At the luncheon, Tony Bliss, PGK, was awarded MHCRT Volunteer of the Year award. Please congratulate him the next time that you see him. Mel Szlag presented the award and said some very nice things about Tony. In looking at the list of past recipients of this award, it was heart warming to see so many knights that have received this. We do make a difference in this community and it is recognized. Keep up the good work. We will be holding elections during the June meeting. While this is a mid-term election, it is still important to show your support for our current officers. I will be going to the State Convention and will hopefully have good things to bring back to the council for the June meeting.

Enjoy the summer and God Bless.

CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 and 16, 2013

After 8 & 10 o'clock Masses - St. Vincent Ferrer Hall

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OFFICERS ELECTION

Monday, June 3, 2013 - 8:00 p.m. at the Council

OFFICERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Friday, June 14, 2013 – 8:00 p.m. at the Council

SHIELD DEADLINE:

JUNE 21, 2013: scm04@wowway.biz

OFFICERS MEETING:

Monday, June 24, 2013 - 7:30 p.m. at the Council

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Ron Thompson, DGK

Brothers, We have had a 1st Degree at our House for two new members. Please welcome Duane McLaughlin and Michael Studebaker. Let's all keep up the good work of finding more men to help us with all the special things we do.

I also have to let you know that member reinstatements are a way to bring in a past brother who now wishes to be active.

Welcome back John Raona!

Please get form 100's filled out and returned to myself or another officer. When we fill out the forms important to have two brothers interview the candidate.

We generally will have a 1st degree the second Monday of the month if anyone brings in form 100's at our business meeting which is also generally the first Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m.

I personally want to thank every brother who has in some way tried to assist with membership. We all should remember recruiting new members is so very important for the council to remain active. We have generation gaps where we need to fill them in with new brother knights. Remember 18 years and older can become a member.

When you bring in a new member ask them if they want someone else to come in with them. I have a vision of our council bringing in new members of all different ages. Make this happen, We can do it!

COUNCIL CLEAN UP

Brother Knights, we are actively working on cleaning up the grounds around the council and lots of clean up inside the council. If you have ANY personal items that are being stored in the council (i.e. in the office, the attic, or garage) and you want to make sure that it doesn't get thrown away, please notify the Grand Knight, Darren Gray, as soon as possible. We will use our best judgment with regards to items in the council, but a lot of stuff will be tossed or put into the garage sale.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

By Ron Bertolini

Vivat Jesus - Brother Knights, welcome to summer. Not much happening for the Month of June, however, we do have the Officer Appreciation Dinner on Friday, June 14th. This dinner is open to everyone, not just the officers. Because this is a steak dinner though, please let Tony Bliss, Ken Podgorski, or Norm Podgorski know that you are coming so that they have enough steaks. This dinner will replace the Friday Night dinner for June and we are looking for someone to cook for the July Dinner. Please let me, or the Grand Knight, know if you are interested.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

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, 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.**

PERSONAL THANK YOU'S

Brother Knights, there are a lot of people that do things to help our council. And every single one of you is greatly appreciated. However, I would like to send a personal thank you to Blasé Raona for the fine work of cleaning/waxing the meeting room floor and the upstairs carpet. It looks so much better now. And I also want to thank Randy Carlisle for all of the hard work that he has done in cleaning up the council, especially the upstairs kitchen area.

LADIES AUXILIARY

By Janice Polan

June 13th will be our final Ladies' Meeting and is our annual potluck and Chinese Auction. The potluck will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. and each lady is asked to contribute one food item. If you did not attend our May meeting to sign up, or need a reminder, please contact Janice at 248/585-1573. The Chinese Auction will be held immediately after the dinner. Please remember to bring a small (but nice) wrapped gift to auction off. Ladies and their Knights plus officers of the Knights are invited to attend.

Congratulations to our re-elected Ladies Auxiliary officers for the 2013-14 calendar year: Janice Polan, President; Earlene Carlisle, Vice-President; Bernie Turchin, Secretary; and MaryLou Stema, Treasurer. Thank you for your service this past year, and thank you Ladies for your support and friendship. Looking forward to another successful year with a great leadership team!

Enjoy your summer - remember to support our Knights and attend their summertime activities: **Ice Cream Social, Picnic, Garage Sale and any breakfasts that will be held at St. Vincent's. Check the newsletter for event date and times.**

Happy summer birthdays previously listed in the May Shield!

Our next meeting will be on September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Hostesses will be the Ladies Auxiliary Officers.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 01 William Olszewski**
- 03 Paul Reynolds**
- 03 Gary Meerschaert**
- 10 Darren Gray**
- 11 Christopher Bliss**
- 14 Ronnie Thompson**
- 16 Rev. Robert Schaefer**
- 17 Gary Puchalski**
- 19 John Schroeder**
- 20 James Wojciehowski**
- 21 John McNulty**
- 21 Mark Smith**
- 23 Frederick Schanbeck**
- 23 Thai Hung Nguyen**
- 24 Michael Mandarin**

Buld a Strong Foundation

By Kathleen M. Basi

In the absence of clarity, the only way to hold the course is to stay in touch with the One who sees the big picture. Prayer is the foundation of a lived faith.

Sometimes I think past generations had an easier time following God. The Israelites had the finger of the Almighty carving commandments in stone. The early Church had flesh-and-blood encounters with the Son of God. We, on the other hand, have to make do by asking, "What would Jesus do?"

It seems like an easy question until you start trying to answer it. After all, Jesus never told us how to address terrorism, prenatal testing, or the hook-up culture. Even perennial problems like poverty require us to distinguish between collective (governmental) and personal responsibility. As we consider the future, how do we discern a Christian response to sticky moral quandaries?

The answer is as deceptively simple as the question. The answer is prayer. But prayer is more than a shopping list tacked to a rosary or Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Asking God for what we need is good and holy, but prayer is a two-way street; we also have to listen. Listening requires quiet, and the paradigms that govern modern life leave little room for quiet. Lack of stimulus makes us nervous "we can't exercise without an iPod. We can't eat in restaurants without a widescreen TV in every corner. Smart phones ensure that the web is a touch away at all times. In many ways, this is a blessing; however, it also means God has to shout to be heard. And although God certainly can shout, it's not his preferred mode of communication. God doesn't inscribe messages on billboards; he speaks softly to pilgrim hearts (see 1 Kings 19:12) "those who seek to hear his voice in everything they encounter, who take time to "be still and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:11). And therein lies the first challenge - to set aside the background noise that kills modern life.

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND IN DISTRESS

By Darren Gray

Don Adams (Randy's brother-in-law), Gerard Beauchamp, Lawrence Bliss, Mike Bliss, Ray Dulecki, Lorraine Dulecki, James Fisher (Ron Thompson's Father-in-law), Wallis Flynn (Randy's son-in-law), Larry Huddleston, Steve Mall, Sharon McCoy (Richard Witkowski's daughter), Roger McCoy, Frank McFall, Jerry Meicer, Charlene Pasternak, Leona Peklo, Gus Peklo, Stella Ploskonka (Ron's mother), Bill Rearick, Joanne Rearick, Joe Schanbeck, Patricia A. Scheid, Patricia M. Scheid (Ernie's daughter-in-law), Caroline Sobas (Lynn Figg's Sister-in-law), Robert Stack, Dennis Szlag, Lee Ventimiglia, Matt Ventimiglia, Regis Welsh, Marian Welsh. And please pray for all of the men and women of our Armed Services. Deceased: Rob Persinger, Bill King, Danny Marchesi, John Pollock & Janice Pasternak. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Let us please also remember those that have lost their jobs or have been hit hard by the flustering economy. Let them be touched by God's welcome hands so that they may get back on their feet and look forward to a prosperous future.

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

It may not feel like it, but the moral conundrums of generations past were as much a muddle to the people living through them as ours are now. Their problems look simple because we have the advantage of hindsight. The future will always be shrouded ~ in uncertainty. Confidence comes when we humbly admit we don't have the answers. It comes when we remove distraction and allow our hearts and minds to be molded into a clearer reflection of God.

If we reflect God, we can trust that we have direction in our stumbling - "even if we can't see the endpoint".

HUMOR!

A very old man lay dying in his bed. In death's doorway, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookie wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands' with labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven. There, spread out on newspapers on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table. The aged and withered hand, shaking, made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when he was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife. Stay out of those," she said. "They're for the funeral.

* * *

According to a news report, a certain private catholic school was recently faced with a unique problem. A number of 12-year-old girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine provided it was of a natural or neutral skin tone, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirror leaving dozens of little lip prints. Every night the maintenance man would remove them and the next day the girls would put them back. Finally the principal, Sister Mary, decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the maintenance man. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every night (you can just imagine the yawns from the little princesses). To demonstrate how difficult it had been to clean the mirrors, Sister Paschal asked the maintenance man to show the girls how much effort was required. He took out a long-handled squeegee, dipped it in the toilet, and cleaned the mirror with it. Since then, there have been no lip prints on the mirror.

* * *

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

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THE SHIELD - JUNE, 2013

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

						1 Happy Birthday! William Olszewski
2 Coffee & Doughnuts After 8-10 a.m. Mass	3 OFFICERS ELECTION Happy Birthday! Paul Reynolds Gary Meerschaert	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Happy Birthday! Darren Gray	11 Happy Birthday! Christopher Bliss	12	13	14 OFF-APP-DINNER Happy Birthday! Ronnie Thompson Judy Schanbeck	15
16 Coffee & Doughnuts After 8-10 a.m. Mass Happy Birthday! Rev. Robert Shafer	17 Happy Birthday! Gary Puchalski	18	19 Happy Birthday! John Schroeder	20 Happy Birthday! James Wojciechowski John McNulty	21 "Shield" Deadline! Happy Birthday! Mark Smith Sue Landry	22
23/30 Happy Birthday! Schanbeck, PGK - 23 Nguyen Thai Hung - 23 Jean Witkowski - 23	24 OFFICERS MEET Happy Birthday! Michael Mandarin	25	26 Happy Birthday! Paul Halkey	27	28	29