



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 XXIX, NO. 10

OCTOBER, 2014

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Ron Thompson

Calling out to all knights! We need your help for making the Fall Tootsie Roll Drive successful. It is necessary to have this 2nd drive to help out God's special people. We will be out Friday thru-Sunday Columbus weekend. If you are able to help out for this important event, your help will be greatly appreciated. The streets in Madison Heights need to be filled with the Knights wearing the yellow aprons taking donations. Not all of us can work in the streets. There will be some store locations available. Also there are other ways to help out such as counting and picking up donations from our workers. If you are able, personal donations would also help with the drive.

LADIES AUXILIARY

By Janice Polan, President

The weather is getting cooler and leaves are turning colors. Perfect season to spend some time with our Ladies Auxiliary or to join as a new member at their next meeting on Thursday, October 9th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Council. Hostesses for October are Pat Podgorski, Cindy Podgorski and Jean Witkowski. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month - wear something pink to show your support.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be holding their Bi-annual Bake Sale at St. Vincent's Church on Sunday, October 19th, after all the morning masses and during the Knights' Breakfast. Contributions of baked goods and/or monetary donations will be welcomed and appreciated.

Catherine Lesniak continues to collect the following items to donate to the John Dingell VA Hospital and a local Battered Women's Group: Hard candy, paperback books, crossword books, small-sized soaps/shampoos from hotels, pencils and paper or notebooks. Please bring your items to any of our meetings.

The 2015 Entertainment Coupon Books are still available through Janice Polan. This is one of our major fundraisers and your support would be greatly appreciated. Cost per book is \$30. Contact Janice Polan or any Ladies Auxiliary member(s) to purchase your book(s). The Coupon Books will only be available until Thanksgiving and remember, they make great Christmas, birthday or that special occasion gifts.

October is a busy month for our Knights. Be sure to check the newsletter for upcoming events and happenings.

Happy Birthday to Maggie Meister (10/10), Pat Podgorski (10/13), Mary Thompson (10/17) and Dee Figg (10/19).

Program Director Article

Brother Knights, October is upon us and that means one thing in particular: TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE!! Please come out and help the weekend of October 10-12th. We especially need the younger guys to step up and help hit the streets. Without the funds gathered during this time, we would not be able to do all of the work that we do around the Christmas Season. For other events going on, please see the dates on the front page.

CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS

Monday, October 6, 2014

**Bldg. Corp Meeting 7:00 p.m. at the Council
MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 8:00 p.m. at the Council**

**COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS - Sun., Oct. 5, 2014
after 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Mass**

**LADIES AUXILIARY REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 9, 2014**

**M. I. DRIVE - Fri., Sat., and Sun.,
Oct. 10, 11, & 12, 2014**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, October 19, 2014
after 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Mass**

**Ladies Appreciation Dinner
Mon., Oct. 20, 2014 - 5:30 p.m. at Council**

Prep Bowl: Sat., Oct. 25, 2014 at Ford Field

**OFFICERS MEETING
Mon., Oct. 27, 2014 - 7:30 p.m. at the Council**

**DRAW DOWN RAFFLE: Fri., Nov. 7, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
Father Kramer Council - Bernice and Van Dyke, Center Line, MI**

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Frank Meister	Norm Podgorki	Darren Gray

Choices Big and Small

By Kathleen M. Basi

I sat down to write this column thirty-six hours after the horrific massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Months later, this tragic episode has taken its place among myriad examples of how far life deviates from the way it's supposed to be. This event and others like it — planes turned into bombs, entertainment into carnage, education into massacre — reminds us with heart-breaking clarity that our world, for good or ill, is shaped by individual choices. Few of us will ever make a choice with such immediate and far-reaching implications as these, but we all make daily choices with consequences we can't foresee.

In this sense, we're much like Mary. Although she was given as clear an indication of God's will as anyone could hope for, exactly what would be required of her was something she couldn't possibly know. As she listened to the angel's words, surely she thought she understood just how costly a yes would be to her personally. She was engaged, and the price for unwed motherhood in the Jewish community was very steep. But the angel didn't lay out the coming years for her. She didn't know she'd have to watch her Son leave his family in pursuit of his Father's will; she didn't know that her yes meant she would someday watch her child — the child who would grow beneath her heart, nurse at her breast, and be raised to holy manhood — be crucified. Over the years, surely there were 1 moments when she questioned whether she'd entirely misunderstood God's message. And yet, in the end, it was her choice that opened the path to salvation for billions of people.

Our choices may seem petty by comparison, but that doesn't mean they're inconsequential. We choose what to watch on TV and what to eat or drink.

HUMOR

A blonde calls Delta Airlines and asks, 'Can you tell me how long it'll take to fly from San Francisco to New York City?' The agent replies, 'just a minute'. 'Thank you,' the blonde says, and hangs up.

* * *

Two Mexican detectives were investigating the murder of Juan Gonzalez. 'How was he killed?' asked one detective. 'With a golf gun,' the other detective replied. 'A golf gun! What the heck is a golf gun?' I don't know. But it sure made a hole in Juan'.

* * *

Moe: 'My wife got me to believe in religion.' Joe: 'Really?' Moe: 'Yeah. Until I married her I didn't believe in Hell'.

* * *

A boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. He was spotted, the room burst into shrills, with ladies grabbing towels running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked what's the matter haven't you ever seen a little boy before?

* * *

A girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time" she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk."

We choose what to watch on TV and what to eat or drink. We choose how to react to provocation from a coworker, family member, or child: speak or remain silent, pass by like the priests, or stop like the Good Samaritan.

These choices ripple the surface of our world and intersect with choices made by others. We never know when a choice that's unimportant to us may be the catalyst for someone else's really big choice — the choice that pushes him over the edge or nudges her away from it. That's the clearest reason I can think of to base every choice, every day, on informed faith.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Ron Bertolini

Brother Knights recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and strength of our council and the Order as a whole. Offering a man membership in the Knights of Columbus gives him the opportunity to improve his own life and his community. Becoming a Knight of Columbus can transform the life of a new or old member. As a Knight, you have the opportunity to support your parish, give back to your community and grow in your faith. We are a band of brothers, a network of men in communities around the world dedicated to doing good in the service of God and our neighbor.

Due to the absence of a DGK, there is no report. URGENT!

Please let an officer know of anyone interested in becoming our new DGK. The position was held prior by myself. It really is not too hard of a position. I'm looking to filling it soon by appointment. If I have talked to you or have not talked to you, please consider becoming our Deputy Grand Knight. Also we can use help in programs, I would also like to see some of you to become a Program Director, and or co-director. There are many programs we could support, but we need someone that has some new thoughts on how we can better get our members to feel at ease by helping us with programs they would like. Email me with your thoughts, or phone me.

Ron Thompson, Grand Knight

LADIES APPRECIATION DINNER

Once again, we will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on **Monday, October 20th** to show our appreciation for the Ladies that support our Knights. This is NOT limited to just the Ladies Auxiliary, but this is for all of the Ladies that support us (wives, daughters, girlfriends, etc.). **Ladies eat free. Guys, you have to pay.**

VESSELS OF GRACE *By Kathleen M. Basi*

Shortly after the birth of my second child, who was diagnosed with Down syndrome in the delivery room, my husband and I received a letter. It was written by a man from our parish whom we didn't know very well. In it, he shared his experience as the parent of a grown daughter with Down syndrome.

My husband and I wept as we read his heartfelt words and the contents of the spiritual bouquet he promised to offer on our behalf. It was a moment of healing for us, a true touch of grace. From then until the day he died, he met us at the door of the church every Sunday with words of encouragement and snuggles for our daughter.

He has been gone for several years, but I think of him often, because I now speak to families who have received a diagnosis of Down syndrome. I never go into a conversation without praying to be a vessel of grace for these families the way this man was for me.

In this way, his memory remains alive. That's the beauty of the communion of saints. The dead can pray for us, and we can pray for them; but it's more than that. We remember those who went before us by imitating their example of holy living. From Thomas Merton we learn to find God in the stillness within our heart. Thérèse of Lisieux taught us to view the tiniest sacrifices as opportunities to show our love for God. Blessed John Paul II showed us the sanctifying power of suffering.

But the giants, canonized or uncanonized, are not the only ones whose lives illuminate the path of holiness. The everyday saints who cross our paths often provide the most real examples to follow in daily living because their lives are just like ours. They, too, have mortgages and overflowing calendars, irritating coworkers, and children who push their buttons and break their hearts. Yet somehow they seem to possess a peace nothing can take away. Remember that woman who never let a harsh or judgmental word cross her lips . . . the grandparents who recited the rosary every day without fail and used it to pass the time on road trips . . . the uncle who was never too busy to help repair a faucet or mow the lawn? The world is full of these "little s" saints. In quiet, unobtrusive ways, they inspire us by taking the same circumstances that feel overwhelming to us and use them as stair steps to heaven. What better way to honor their memory than to imitate their example?

Prayer List

Prayer for the Sick and in Distress

Valer Alexander, Don Bessler, Gerald Bliss, Lawrence Bliss, Bea Boutillier, Nan Brown, Derek Dinkins, Ray Dulecki, Barbara Fisher, Rose Halkey, Tom Kania, Stave Mall, Sharon McCoy, Rachel McLaughlin, Duane McLaughlin, Barbara Ovenlick, Stella Ploskonka, Patricia A. Scheid, Patricia M. Scheid, Marilyn Shaub, Robert Stack, Steve Szeliga, Ann Tupiak, Lee Ventimiglia, Matt Ventimiglia, Marian Welsh, Regis Welsh, Jean Witkowski.

Please prayer for the families of the following, recently deceased: Mike McNally and Melissa Bertonlini.

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Scott Szeliga**
- 02 Donald Wesierski, PGK**
- 03 Norm Podgorski, PGK**
- 10 Timothy Oparka**
- 13 Robert Brunk**
- 15 Anthony Szeliga**
- 15 Kenneth Pasternak**
- 16 Leroy Proszkowski**
- 20 Renato Evans**
- 23 Bernard Baumgardner**
- 24 Giuseppe Palazzola**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Charles Tiffany**
- 03 Mark Tripp**
- 03 Lynn Figg**
- 11 Michael Higgins, PGK**
- 14 Edward Galczynski**
- 23 Eugene Kaczmar**
- 25 Stephen Orloski**
- 27 Aldo Marchesi**
- 29 Christopher Pasternak**
- 30 Michael McNally**

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THE SHIELD - OCTOBER, 2014

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1 Happy Birthday Scott Szeliga	2 Happy Birthday D. Wesierski, PGK	3 Happy Birthday N. Podgorski, PGK	4
5 Coffee & Donuts 8 - 10 a.m. Masses	6 Happy Birthday Mark Bliss Bldg. Corp. 7:00 pm Membership 8 pm	7	8	9 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10 Happy Birthday Tim Oparka MI DRIVE	11 MI DRIVE
12 MI DRIVE	13 Happy Birthday Robert Brunk	14	15 Happy Birthday Anthony Szeliga Kenneth Pasternak	16 Happy Birthday Leroy Proszkowski	17	18
19 Pancake Breakfast 8 & 10 a.m. Masses	20 Happy Birthday Renato Evans Ladies Ap. Dinner 5:30 pm	21	22	23 Happy Birthday B. Baumgardner	24 Happy Birthday Giuseppe Palazzola	25 PREP BOWL
26	27 Officers Meeting 7:30 p.m.	28	29	30	31	