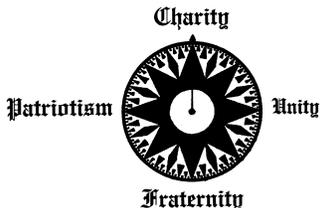


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The Compass

OCTOBER 2007 ISSUE

CHAPLAIN'S LOG

Dear Brother Knights,

Sunday, September 30, is the 29th Anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the mystery of and challenge of my priesthood.

Mystery: It is a mystery why I was called to be a priest. I am certainly no holier than many of you. I am not an intellectual giant, nor am I always selfless, compassionate, or indeed, ever insightful. But for some reason, in my own brokenness and humanity, God has called me to serve in the priesthood.

Gift: My priesthood is truly a gift. When I am celebrating Mass, it is as if there is no time. I feel liberated from myself and I feel connected to God. It is an unbelievable gift to be able to celebrate Mass and all the Sacraments; to preach is a real joy for me. Also, to touch and be touched by so many people is both humbling and truly a gift.

Challenge: Yes, my priesthood is always a challenge, urging me to reach beyond my grasp. To confront my weaknesses, to be responsible for many things that I do not feel confident about, and most of all, my priesthood demands that I be humble enough to seek out help and support from those I minister to and those I minister with.

I would like to invite any man who even suspects that God is calling to serve as a priest to please consider joining me and my brother priests on this fantastic journey of mystery, gift, and challenge.

Parents, please encourage your sons to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

So to you, young (or not so young) men, who think you are being called to the priesthood - call me! I would love to talk with you, pray with you, and share with you my joy in the priesthood.

Peace,
Fr. Michael

GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

Life is as, I'm sure you all know all too well, often a difficult adventure full of many trials and tribulations, it has its twists and turns, its highs and lows and even its ordinariness. What we do with our time is left up to us. We can do good or bad things, we can be helpful or not we can set out to accomplish great things or just muddle through. In any case it is our choice.

All too often we fail to keep to the script. We have planned the course step by step, day by day. We know what outcome we seek and we plot the course accordingly to get there. But, something happens along the way. We run into a rough spot where the set course is difficult to follow or it is simply more expedient to abandon the planned and proper path. We settle for a different course a lesser course, the easier course. How often this happens in our lives. We are forced by necessity (or so it seems at the time) to make a decision, to compromise on our ideals and true desires and take the easier route. The well-traveled path, the path of least resistance. We have strayed for whatever reason. It was too hard, it didn't feel right, and others were doing it. So, why not? Is the path of our life that difficult? Are we threatened at every turn? Are we destined to follow the crowd? To simply blend in. To not make waves? What should we do? How do we stay on the planned course?

WE must **believe** in what we are trying to do. We must be willing to stand up, to be strong, and to be unyielding in our convictions.

Jesus was a man like us. He took our human form so he could be like us, to be with us, to feel what we feel. To experience what we experience. To suffer as we suffer. And to live and to love as we do. Being like us he had human weaknesses and strengths, he had desires and needs. He was one of us, he was us. He had goals and plans. He had a script to follow. He could have taken the easy way out and quit when things got tough. He could have said, "Father I don't want to do this" but he didn't! He was tempted by the devil in a moment of weakness but he held strong to his plan. He believed in what he was doing. He knew it was right. He knew it was his responsibility. He knew he had to go through the rough times if he was to reach his goal. He kept to the script. Shouldn't we?

When someone challenges what you believe stand your ground and don't back down. Stand up for what is right. Stay on the path. You will be glad you did.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

Our second Tootsie Roll Drive will be held Friday October 5th at Sam's Club in Monroeville, 10 AM to 8 PM. Call Greg Blake at 412-824-6478 (home) or 412-609-4211 (cell) to volunteer.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND †DECEASED

†Jake Akenbrandt †Joe and Nellie Ankenbrandt, †Bob Ankenbrandt, †John Ankenbrandt, Bud Delaney, †Terri Denny, †Felicia Gurski, †Catherine LaFleur, †Lucy Odasso, Gerry Ruetz, and for all other sick and †deceased members of our K of C families.

COLUMBUS DAY DINNER

The annual Western Section **Columbus Day Dinner** will be held Oct. 14 at Giannilli's II Banquet Center on Route 30 East, Greensburg, PA (about 1/4 mile before the Mountain View Inn). The festivities begin with a social hour at 5:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. The Most Reverend Bishop Lawrence E. Brandt will be the main speaker. Tickets are \$25 per person.

RAISING FUNDS FOR SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN

Several of us, including Gregory Blake our Tootsie Roll Collection Chair, attended the Kickoff Dinner for the Bishop's Project on Thursday Sept. 6th in Beaver, PA. Almost \$20,000 was turned in that night including \$1,000 from Pius XII Council. Chairman Angelo Cupani has set a goal of \$200,000 for this campaign. Generating this kind of money takes both dedication and infectious enthusiasm. One need only to have heard the short speech given by St. Anthony School Program graduate Kristen Wagner to capture that enthusiasm. She eloquently thanked the Program for preparing her for a very useful and rewarding life and the Knights for providing the funding that enabled her to become "the best she could be."

The St. Anthony School program has received many requests to serve in other venues. Monies raised in the future might likely be targeted to bring their considerable expertise to other counties of the Diocese.

In addition to its loving care of the severely handicapped McGuire Home has used its funds to open an Employment Opportunity Center. This program has resulted in several local companies and institutions contracting with McGuire and hiring many of their clients for on-the-job training. McGuire also oversees several group homes for the older special-needs population. Just recently they started a new educational facility for pre-K through 21. That building was just dedicated Sept. 9th.

Hopefully this short treatise gives you some idea of just how much your time spent with a Tootsie Roll can or Penny Collection milk jug as well as your personal donation to the Bishop's Project means to the future of these special-needs children.

Our council, Pius XII 4925, is currently planning the Penny Drive collections to occur in October. All help is appreciated. We would like to have a captain for each parish to help schedule the volunteers. The parishes we will be covering are St. Bernadette, North American Martyrs, St. Colman, Church of the Resurrection, St. Michael, and St. Jude.

Call Don Loperfito at 412-795-4529 to volunteer for a mass at your parish.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 1 Regular Meeting
Oct 5 Tootsie Roll Drive at Sam's Club in Monroeville
Oct 5-7 Men's Retreat at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery
Oct 8 officers' meeting CANCELED
Oct 12 COAL Bonus deadline
Oct 13-14 Penny Drive at North American Martyrs
Oct 13-14 Penny Drive at St. Colman

Oct 14 Columbus Day dinner
Oct 15 Regular Meeting
Oct 26 Chapter Meeting at 7:30
Oct 27-28 Penny Drive at St. Bernadette
Oct 27-28 Penny Drive at St. Michael
Nov 1 COAL secondary bonus deadline
Nov 5 Regular Meeting
Nov 12 Officers' Meeting
Nov 18 Memorial mass at St. Bernadette, 8AM
Nov 19 Regular Meeting
Dec 1 COAL final deadline
Dec 8 Chapter Memorial Mass at Belleview Council
Dec 16 Children's Christmas Party

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Knights of Columbus Children's Christmas party will be held this year on Sunday December 16, 2007 in Beidenbach hall at St. Bernadette's in Monroeville. A small lunch, drinks and entertainment will be provided as well as a visit from a special guest. Please RSVP to Youth Director Dan Burke at dan_burke@comcast.net with your children's names and ages if you are able to attend. Additionally several volunteers are needed to assist with the purchase of gifts. Contact Dan at 412-759-0084 if you are able to help.

FREE THROW

Brother Knights!

The first annual council 4925 Knights of Columbus Basketball free throw competition will be held on Saturday December 15th 2007 in the new Lourdes Center at St. Bernadette's parish in Monroeville. This event will be advertised throughout the catholic schools in the eastern suburbs as well as the local area Monroeville schools. A large turn out is expected and the Knights are in need of your help. We need two or three individuals that would be willing to assist on the planning committee, as well as, as many individuals we can get that can will be willing to help for a couple of hours on the day of the event. To offer your assistance please contact Youth Director Dan Burke at dan_burke@comcast.net or by cell phone at 412-759-0084.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BROTHERS

OCTOBER DATES

1 Ronald R. Becker
1 Robert M. Clawson
5 Richard Raptosh
6 R. Scott Domowicz
7 Mark J. Wojton
14 Robert Harrill
15 Fred F. Mendicino
20 Robert Flammang
21 Steven Kerch
26 Raymond E. Ankenbrandt
28 Christopher P Lupone
28 Sam A. Cosentino
29 James Young
31 John A. Yanniruberto