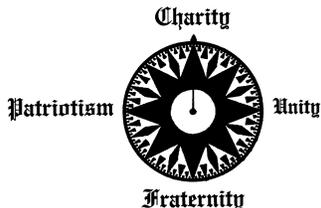


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# The Compass

**JANUARY 2008 ISSUE**

## AN EXCERPT FROM THE POPE'S HOMILY AT MIDNIGHT MASS



In the stable at Bethlehem, Heaven and Earth meet. Heaven has come down to Earth. For this reason, a light shines from the stable for all times; for this reason joy is enkindled there; for this reason song is born there. At the end of our Christmas meditation I should like to quote a remarkable passage from Saint Augustine. Interpreting the invocation in the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father who art in Heaven", he asks: what is this - Heaven? And where is Heaven? Then comes a surprising response: "... *who art in Heaven - that means: in the saints and in the just. Yes, the heavens are the highest bodies in the universe, but they are still bodies, which cannot exist except in a given location. Yet if we believe that God is located in the heavens, meaning in the highest parts of the world, then the birds would be more fortunate than we, since they would live closer to God. Yet it is not written: 'The Lord is close to those who dwell on the heights or on the mountains', but rather: 'the Lord is close to the brokenhearted' (Ps 34:18[33:19]), an expression which refers to humility. Just as the sinner is called 'Earth', so by contrast the just man can be called 'Heaven'*". Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the Holy Night, stooped down to the stable: the humility of God is Heaven. And if we approach this humility, then we touch Heaven. Then the Earth too is made new. With the humility of the shepherds, let us set out, during this Holy Night, towards the Child in the stable! Let us touch God's humility, God's heart! Then his joy will touch us and will make the world more radiant. Amen.

Read the rest of His Holiness' Homily at  
<http://www.zenit.org/rssenglish-21388>

### GRAND KNIGHT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to wish you a Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year to one and all!!

As we wind down the Christmas season and welcome in the New Year I am reminded of the importance of Faith, Family and Friends.

After all, is that not what the Christmas is all about? It is a time to be thankful for all that we are blessed to have and to have had. It is a time to be with our families, to put aside petty differences and join together as one around the dinner table (which seems to get more difficult as the family continues to grow) and celebrate the joyous coming of the promised one. That simple act of breaking bread with another seems somehow able to tear down barriers and bring people closer together. If everything in life were only that easy.

It is a time of renewal. A new beginning as the arrival of the Christ child signals hope to all the faithful. It is a time to re-examine our faith and be thankful to God for sending his beloved son to show us the way to true salvation, the way to love, the way to live our lives. What more could we ask for?

We all should be (as I'm sure you are) thankful for our friends. Yes, those whom we count on, confide in, curse and neglect, all with the same ease. Yet, with all the abuse and neglect, true friends will stick with you through the thick and the thin. They are truly a rare and treasured commodity which we should both nurture and protect.

The true meaning of Christmas was brought to me through a truly simple and unexpected act of kindness. While waiting in line to pay my toll at the Cranberry exchange a situation occurred that took me aback. A car with a young girl had missed the last toll lane and was stuck in no man's land. She needed to get into line to get off the pike. As we sat there some 20 cars back from the gate (and escape from the throngs of people racing to get home for the holiday only 3 plus days away) we watched this lone car as car after car passed her with none willing to let her in line. After all, perhaps they had places to be too and letting her in would in some way inconvenience them and slow their progress.

We were dismayed to see that the spirit of Christmas had passed these drivers by. Even on a normal day someone would step up and let them in. But not today! As we approached her we flagged her on to go in front of us. She waved a "thank you" and proceed in line. It was nothing special just something we all do on a daily basis. We watched her as she stretched across and continued digging around in her front seat (we weren't going anywhere fast so it was quite safe) we could only surmise that she lost something and was trying to find it.

Finally, we were next (behind only the girl in the car) to reach the toll plaza (a good 10 minutes after getting in line) she paid her toll waved and was on her way. We waved back and wondered what she was up to, going shopping or going home for the holidays. Yes, we felt good that we had done the right thing and were happy to be at the toll plaza. We rolled down our window and reached out to pay our toll only to hear the (less than cheery voice of the toll taker) "ticket only" (puzzled expression from us) "she paid your toll!" We were dumbfounded! It was a truly pleasant and unexpected surprise. Surely the true spirit of CHRISTmas was alive and well in this young girl. God Bless her and those like her out there.

God Bless,

Don

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND †DECEASED**

†*Jake Akenbrandt* †*Joe and Nellie Ankenbrandt*, †*Bob*, †*Jake, Marge*, and †*John Ankenbrandt*, Dan Burke, Ann Czuski, Jim Dawson, Bud Delaney, Dan & Rose Doherty, Clem Furica, †*Felicia Gurski*, †*Rev. Pat Hynes*, †*Mary Janczewski*, †*Ed Kuntz*, †*Catherine LaFleur*, †*Al Masilunis*, Frank McIntyre, †*Jim McIntyre*, Jack Miller, †*Lucy Odasso*, †*Jeff Perry*, Bob Reed, Jean Reed, Gerry Ruetz, Anna Schmidt, Jeff Seman, †*George Silva*, Kristan Lee Squires, Bill Syrek, †*Rev. Robert Werthman*, and for all other sick and †*deceased* members of our K of C families.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Jan 7 Regular Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall
- Jan 14 Officers' Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall
- Jan 21 Regular Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall
- Jan 26 Third Degree, 10AM, Our Lady of Olives, Wexford
- Feb 4 Regular Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall
- Feb 11 Officers' Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall
- Feb 18 Regular Meeting, Garden City Fire Hall

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BROTHERS**

**JANUARY DATES**

- 1 Walter Antimarino
- 5 Charles C. Passmore
- 8 Orelia S. Vecchio
- 10 Rev. Edward M. Bryce
- 12 William T. Mackey

- 12 Anthony S. Di Ninno
- 12 Joseph Yates
- 16 Paul A. Vargo
- 21 Louis Borelle, Jr.
- 21 Robert Reed
- 26 James E. Sandala
- 27 Joseph F. Markosek
- 31 Angelo V. Glorioso

**PRO-LIFE VOTERS' GUIDE**

For a pro-file voters' guide, go to [www.lifepac.net](http://www.lifepac.net).

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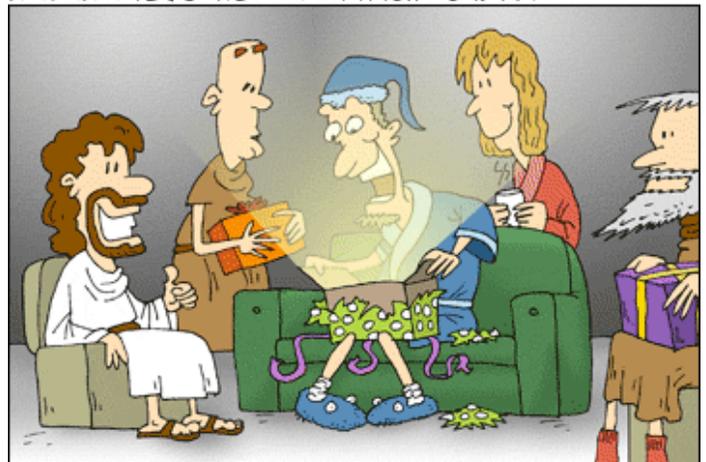


Thanks to Christopher Carver

12-24-2007

CAN YOU CHECK SANTA'S NICE LIST ... I'M PRETTY SURE I'M ON THAT ONE

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Thanks to Andrew S.

12-21-2007

ETERNAL LIFE, MY FAVORITE ... THANKS JESUS!