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PIUS XII COUNCIL 4925



Patriotism



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The Compass

NOVEMBER 2008 ISSUE

GRAND KNIGHT'S REPORT

God Bless America!!

We say it but do we really mean it? As a society are we still worthy of God's blessings? Are we the country that our founders envisioned, the one they were willing to risk everything to create and protect? America was born out of the dreams, experiences, frustrations and great intellect of our forefathers. They envisioned a nation of laws where mans rights were bestowed by the creator, the God almighty and protected by the governing document, the Constitution. It was to be the shining light of freedom, hope, justice and prosperity to the world. Freedom to worship without fear of reprisal or persecution. Hope for a better life for them and their families, (and for the generations to follow) than was available to them in their native countries. Justice for all men for they are created equal and are thus allotted the same consideration under the law. The promise of prosperity to all those willing to work hard to achieve it. America was to be a place where a man could achieve virtually anything and was only limited by his own desire or imagination. Has this vision withstood the tests of time? Have we lived up to the high ideals of these humble men? These men, so humble before God and resolute in their beliefs that they strongly considered not following through with the birth of this nation for fear that they were not worthy of such promise. They felt they were not virtuous enough. Not pure enough. Do we dare ask, are we?

Today the very fabric of the nation is being torn apart by the erosion of our freedoms, values and traditions. It has become more proper to be politically correct than to do the just and moral thing, to do what is right. The great experiment that is America is threatened with failure! What was once considered the great melting pot where diverse peoples from around the world converged seeking their chance at the American dream has changed. Instead of blending together to form the culture that is America the individual groups, peoples are pulling apart seeking to be different and unique unto themselves. They have forgotten that it is this very mixing together and working together that has been responsible for making American the power it is today.

There are still others who would call themselves Americans and patriots who are willing to reap the benefits of the society while seeking to destroy it. To them I say, **love it or leave it!** They are willing to take and take while giving little in return. They expect those who have to give to them. After all, they have more so they should pay more. This runs contrary to what America is all about. It is

about individual rights, individual freedoms and most importantly individual responsibility. Not collective rights. Not collective responsibility. We are responsible for our lives and for our government! It is up to us to uphold the principles and ideals of our forefathers and keep the dream that is America alive.

God Bless,

Don

LETTER FROM BISHOP DAVID A. ZUBIK ON CATHOLICS AND VOTING

My dear family of the Church of Pittsburgh,

There is an important matter that falls under my responsibilities as bishop which has taken front and center stage - the upcoming elections. One of the things I treasure most about you, the faithful of the Church of Pittsburgh, is the open way in which you offer suggestions to me and make requests of me. Sometimes those requests conflict. The election issue is one such example. Some of you have asked me to speak out publicly about the presidential candidates. That I cannot do. The important document written by the Bishops of our country entitled Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States (available at www.faithfulcitizenship.org) underscores the important point that the Church cannot, I repeat, cannot tell people for whom they must vote. However, the document is very clear about highlighting two things about our voting privilege: (1) the right that we have to vote as American citizens is precious. (2) the obligation that we have to bring our faith to our voting is sacred.

As we approach the coming elections, I implore you to consider both: your right to vote; and your obligation to bring your faith to the voting booth.

To assist you in both might I suggest four important steps. (1) Familiarize yourself with the issues of the campaign; (2) Learn what the teachings of the Catholic Church are regarding those issues; (3) reflect on both in a spirit of prayer, and (4) Vote.

To assist you in understanding what the teachings of the Church are regarding the various campaign issues, I would recommend that you consult with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults or the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Moreover, you might also want to secure a copy of Faithful Citizenship. Since the presidential election of 1976 and every four years, we the Bishops have offered updated versions of this important document to assist voters as they exercise their voting rights coupled with the responsibility of an understanding of the issues from the perspective of faith.

Now there is a second issue which I need to address with you as well. Over the course of the last several weeks, several people

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who are recognized as Catholic leaders in our diocese have espoused a public rationale for why they personally are choosing to vote for a particular candidate for the presidency. These reflections have appeared in either local newspapers or in national periodicals. A number of you have raised questions with me about their statements.

Over the course of the past week especially, I have reflected long and hard about how I might be able to respond to the many questions that you have placed on my desk about such statements.

I wish to clarify the confusion that has been caused by these public statements with the hope that any division that has been caused by such remarks and worse any scandal that may have resulted from such comments is addressed. It is important to say once again that no one has a right to tell anyone how to vote. Moreover those who have offered their personal interpretation of the Church's teaching do not speak for the Church and in some part do not reflect the teaching of the Church.

While Faithful Citizenship speaks about the moral choice which we each must make when we enter the voting booth, the manner in which we vote must weigh all the issues with a clear reflection on the teachings of the Church. The primary theme of Faithful Citizenship is the right to life and the dignity of every human person. As the United States Bishops made clear, this is the foundation of a moral vision for society. We cannot dismiss this foundational principle as secondary in our thinking. As the bishops insist, we cannot consider abortion or euthanasia as merely two issues among many to be weighed or dismissed with a shrug. Nor can we exclude other issues that also are pro-life: concerns about the poor and immigrants, concerns about peace and war, concerns about bigotry and prejudice, concerns about capital punishment, and other social justice issues.

Having offered these few thoughts on the upcoming electoral process, it is my sincere hope that I have clarified some of the questions which you have raised, especially in light of some well-known Catholics who advocate for your vote for a particular candidate from their own personal perspective.

As we are to prepare for this year's elections, remember to know the issues, know the Church's teachings, pray about both and vote. To do so as a woman or a man of faith highlights the right we have as American citizens and the responsibility we have as members of the Church.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh

SEALS

Volunteers are needed to distribute seals at the parishes. Please help distribute at your parish. Call Don Loperfido now at 412-795-4529 to schedule your Mass time.

MEMORIAL MASS

Come to the Council memorial mass at St. Bernadette's on Sunday November 2 at 8 AM to remember deceased Knights of Columbus and family members.

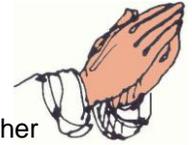
CHRISTMAS PARTIES

As is traditional, we have two parties coming up this December to celebrate the Lord's Nativity, one for children,

and one for adults. The children's party is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday December 7th at St. Bernadette Church, and the adults' party is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Sunday the 14th of December. Details will follow next month.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND +DECEASED

+Joyce Burke, Robert J. Clawson,
+Sam Colega, Lucy Flammang,
+Mary Janczewski, +Norm Kraus,
+Rev. Joseph Linck, +Delores Novak,
+Rose Rossi, +Anna Straka and for all other sick and +deceased members of our K of C families.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov 2 Council Memorial mass, 8 AM, St. Bernadette's
Nov 3 Regular meeting, Garden City Fire Hall, 8 PM
Nov 4 Election Day – **Vote Pro-Life!**
Nov 10 Officers' meeting, Garden City Fire Hall, 8 PM
Nov 17 Regular meeting, Garden City Fire Hall, 8 PM
Nov 23 3rd Degree, Bellevue Council 1400, 12 Noon
Dec 1 Regular meeting, Garden City Fire Hall, 8 PM
Dec 15 Regular meeting, Garden City Fire Hall, 8 PM
Dec 17,18,19,20 Christmas Baskets packing and delivery
Jan 24 3rd Degree, Our Lady of Olives Co. 3907, 9 AM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BROTHERS

November dates

4 Michael Ellis 7 Rev. David W. Poecking
8 Joseph P. Burke IV 13 Regis F. Wehner
16 Wayne P. Madden 17 Walter J. Janczewski
18 Donald S. Loperfido & Samuel A. Di Ninno
23 Michael C. Seman

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

Proceeds from the Tootsie Roll Drive at Shop N Save were \$194.20. Special thanks to Brother Knight **Greg Blake** for organizing this and to his team of Bill White, Ed Kuntz Jr., Ernie DeMunari, Shawn Hovan, Ray Monath, Rick Varlotto Jr, and Jim Flaherty who volunteered for this ministry to benefit those with special needs.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS AVAILABLE!!!

The cost is still only \$20 for hundreds of dollars in savings. Proceeds help our charities and our ability to have council activities. Buy them for gifts for yourself and/or sell them to friends and acquaintances. Call Tom Delaney at 412-373-0362. Christmas is coming soon!

COAL

This is a reminder to get your tickets in this month before the deadline. Our council has been lucky in the past; don't let that luck slip away this month! All stubs and monies **must** be returned by **Nov. 27th**. If you need more books, call Ray at 412-373-2564.

LOST WINNER!

Congratulations, (*or maybe not!?*), to the winner of our monthly drawing for a \$25 prize. Chuck Dwyer's name was drawn at the October 20th meeting. **BUT** Chuck was not present to claim his prize. **It pays to attend meetings!**