

### Grand Knight's article, continued

troubles compounded. I suppose that from a different perspective he now has more to be grateful for. I don't know his present situation, but in a flash he seemed to have realized that he is more than just some star stuff contemplating itself.

Three years ago **Fr. Benedict**, who was then at St. Michael's in Hot Springs, made the statement, "Spiritual suffering dwarfs physical suffering." Considering the reality of 27,000 children starving to death last night, worldwide sex slave trade, torture, genocide, disease, etc., all generating a world pain quantum on an unimaginable scale, how terribly immense spiritual suffering must be in this world.

Mark Twain once cynically said, "Christianity is a wonderful thing if only someone would try it." Hyperbole aside, point taken. Consolation can be taken, however, that the balance is tilted toward the good. Two thousand years ago, the devil came to be in a mess. Now, at any given moment in this world, there are thousands of Christians praying—so there is a prayer continuum. In desperation Ol' Lucifer's tactic is to attack the most vulnerable, the purest, and the most innocent. He would trip up those who would spiritually elevate. The lukewarm are of little concern and enslavement is his objective.

In this Holy Season, we must be wary of the hedonistic seductions that lie in wait and that compromise our duty and allegiance. The stealthy encroachment and cunning coercion of our mutual enemy bring vast desolation. But let's not underestimate the sustaining and transforming power of prayer. Participate in the cause and it is impossible not to participate in the effect.

To be sure, "To be more against the devil than for God is exceedingly dangerous" per Aldous Huxley. It is during trials that we must seek sanctity and remember there is no completion of a man without challenge. For those who come out from the darkest depths, the greater the rising, as those who return from the meanest depravity bring the greatest gift. The boundless bounty that is salvation is in charity.

Brother Knights, a bright star is beckoning against the night sky. Let us follow and serve God and inspire others to serve God. **Iturba Percefull, Grand Knight.**

### Village Assembly Schedules First Degree Exemplification

The Hot Springs Village Assembly will host a First Degree Exemplification December 3 in the basement of Sacred Heart Church. Activities will begin with a 10 a.m. mass. The Exemplification, which is scheduled to commence at noon, will be preceded by a breakfast.

Council 6419 has five candidates scheduled to attain First Degree status. They are **Robert Rowe, Joe Farrell, Steve Gallimore, Jerry Parker, and Steve Barron**. Other soon-to-be members, either through reinstatement or transfer, are **Randy Schnobelen** (our new insurance agent who's transferring from Allen, Texas) **Frank Maxwell, Salvador Oseguera, Tony Torres, and Mark Layton**. We welcome these new members, encouraging their involvement in council activities.

### Council Members Honor Country's Veterans

Several council members were on hand at 7 a.m. at Calvary Cemetery to commemorate Veterans Day with a flag-raising ceremony. Present were **Ed McManus, Dick Smith, Iturba Percefull, Dennis Wood, Tom Gilleran, Harold Hager, Joe Van Hout, Mike Tucker, Dennis Bosch, and Joe Peruk**. Prior to the raising of the flags, the men enjoyed coffee and donuts provided by Joe Petruk and Ed McManus.

### John Cacioppo Dies

**John Cacioppo**, oldest member of Council 6419, died November 18 in Hot Springs at 94. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church on November 22. John was also a member of the Hot Springs Fourth Degree Assembly. An Assembly Honor Guard served at both the November 21 rosary and visitation service and the funeral mass.

John was a dedicated member of St. Mary's and was a regular visitor to the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Michael's. Even into his last year, John at daily mass frequently assisted Msgr. Leo Riedmueller, who preceded him in death by only a few months. John's family, in lieu of flowers, requested memorial tributes either to St. Mary's or St. Michael's Convent.



### From Our Chaplain

The opening prayer for the first Sunday of Advent says this: "...increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming..." We are now beginning the annual battle between the spiritual and the material in the weeks before Christmas. It seems the material gets an earlier start each year as retailers try to maximize consumer spending. At times we are easily drawn in as we prepare for our traditions of gift giving and celebrations. While trying to avoid the excess of materialism, we see the value of generosity and fellowship in these days.

Those values, of course, reflect values of our faith. The challenge is to keep the aspect of faith in our minds and not merely repeat traditions each year. Generosity and fellowship must be tied to Jesus who comes into the world for our salvation. The prayer I mentioned speaks of increasing the will for doing good. That is a sentiment shared by many people in these days but for us it is clearly tied to the goal of heaven.

As we celebrate the beginning of Jesus' life in Advent and Christmas, we do not separate it from the ultimate end, his judgment of the world and the fulfillment of his kingdom. The child who is born is already a king who will give his life and rule over all creation. His birth into the world brings a new power and new hope. Those who bow before this king are ready to make him known, and the way we celebrate his birth is the place to start.

For many the weeks ahead are days of joy and for others stress. Our prayer is to increase the strength of will for doing good. If we clearly see the connection to Jesus, there is greater joy and far less stress. We will see in our actions a preparation for more than a party or the giving of a gift; we will develop hearts that are in fact EAGER for the coming of our Savior.

December 25 will come and we should be ready. The masses and prayers of Advent make us ready, so that in our lives the spiritual wins the battle even as we take care of the material. The closing prayer for the first Sunday of Advent says it well: "...teach us to love heaven. May its promise and hope guide our way on earth." **In Christ, Fr. Erik**

### Charity Outreach Committee Responds

During November the Charity Outreach Committee provided needed materials to two families. First, St. John's Church asked if we could provide a bed with mattress and box springs to a young couple from California who were sleeping on the floor of their small apartment. Both had recently secured jobs at local restaurants but at the time had no money to purchase anything for their apartment. Following just days after our October sale, we had no beds in our inventory. The committee decided to buy a new queen-size bed frame and a

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### Sponsors

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### December Birthdays

- 3 Fr. John Burkus
- 5 Brandon Weisenfels
- 6 Dick Antoine
- 6 Joe Salemi
- 7 Bob Ward
- 13 Mike Schnauffer, Sr.
- 14 Stretch Ecklund
- 19 Larry Whalley
- 20 Sam King
- 26 Jim DeGeorge
- 27 David Farrell

### December Calendar

- 3 First Degree Exemplification, Sacred Heart Church, Hot Springs Village, Noon (see article, p. 2)
- 7 Officers Meeting, K. C. Hall, 7 p.m.
- 8 Feast of Immaculate Conception
- 10 Fourth Degree Christmas Dinner-Dance K. C. Hall, 5 p.m. social, 6 p.m. dinner (see article, p. 1)
- 14 Council Meeting, K. C. Hall, 7:30 p.m. Rosary, 6:30 p.m.

### Pray for our Sick

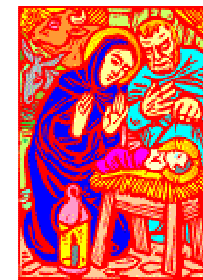
Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: **Jim Reiter, Joe Salemi, Hallie Salemi, Donna Trant, daughter of Pat Logan, Mary Anne Honeycutt, Otto Wiedower, Stretch Ecklund, George and Sue Marshall, Margaret Dierks, Ann Lee, Mary Ellen Kagel, Al Reis, Emily Kostka, and Emil Wencil**

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mattress and box springs. In addition, the couple received sheets, and other bedding, several pots and pans, and a nice set of stainless flatware, these items remaining from our recent sale. The couple were elated.

On November 16, Jackson House requested assistance for a family relocated to Hot Springs in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The lady with three small children had little money and no car but had a recent job at Oaklawn Park. A crisis developed in early November when the landlord of the lady's niece with whom she and her children were living asked that they move. The apartment was too small to accommodate all those living there. The niece also has three children. So she contacted Jackson House for assistance after she found an unfurnished mobile home with an outrageous \$400 monthly rent. The Outreach Committee had just been donated furniture and other household items from the apartment of John Cacioppo who had just died. (See article, p. 2) Most of those donations, including a sofa, two beds, and kitchen items went to this family. In addition, a single bed was purchased from the rummage sale proceeds. Now we hope to get the family relocated to Hot Springs Housing Authority, where they can enjoy a much more desirable apartment for considerably less money.

Donations to a third family, a November 29 request from Jackson House, are imminent.



May your Christmas be blessed

October Knight of the Month  
Hugh Truesdale

October Family of the Month  
Dennis and Sue Wood

September Family of the Month  
Bob and Sandy Kortenber