

Grand Knight's article, continued

Yet—like every knight who would realize the miracle within to stride beyond personal benefit, fainting not from the trials, anchoring in his sacrifice, calling unto the Father, knowing our Order is the shining flame with compassion greater than fear—you raise your eyes and raise your eyes to the victory./ **Iturba Percefull, Grand Knight**

Once Again: E-Mail Request from Dennis Bosch

Gentlemen: I have asked for council members to provide me their email addresses twice. The last time was in the November *Knight Shift*. Only one member provided me an email address. At the present time we have approximately 150 members. I have email addresses for 37 council members which is only about 25% of our membership. Please take a minute and send me your email address to: Webmaster@Hotspringsknights.org.



Fourth Degree—Footnotes

The big Fourth Degree event for December, of course, is the December 9 Christmas Dinner-Dance, details of which are in a page 1 article. Encourage your friends to come. We need a big turn-out, but at this point still have a lot of tickets to sell.

Because of the Christmas party, we will not have our usual third-Thursday meeting. Meetings will resume January 17 meeting at the K. C. Hall.

Begin thinking about the possibility of participating in a Subiaco retreat to be conducted February 1, 2, and 3 (Friday late afternoon to Sunday noon). Several from our council and assembly have attended past retreats at Subiaco and have found them greatly uplifting to their spiritual lives. It would be great to have a good representation from our council and assembly./**Newton White, Faithful Navigator**

Council Member Dies Within Hours of His Wife's Death

Bernard Etkorn, at age 95 the oldest member of Council 6419, died November 21 here in Hot Springs. Oddly, his wife **LaVerne** preceded him in death by only a few hours, her death occurring on November 20.

Their lives were celebrated jointly in a Mass of Christian Burial at St. John's Church at 10 a.m. on November 26 with **Fr. Erik Pohlmeier** the celebrant and **Fr. T. J. Hart** assisting. In his homily Fr. Erik commented that he had never seen one of them without the other. "How fitting," he added, "that even in death they would not be separated." Both Bennie and LaVerne were lifelong members of St. John's Church.

Council 6419 expresses its condolences to the Etkorns' daughters Mary and Martha and to their families. Council members were honored to serve as pallbearers. They were **George Meggers, Tom Gilleran, Joe Van Hout, Bob Kortenber, Hugh Truesdale, Dennis Bosch, Ed McManus, Jim Witovec, Dennis Wood, Jim Lockwood**, and two special friends of Council 6419, **Otto Wiedower and Joe Burba**.

Village Council Extends Invitations

Hot Springs Village Knights of Columbus Council has extended an invitation to Council 6419 to attend their December 4 meeting, which will begin with a 5 p.m. rosary to be followed by dinner (\$6.00 cost), then their meeting which will feature a speech by our own **Fr. Erik**. If you can go, please call **Jim Lockwood** at 525-7022. We must confirm a number attending by Sunday, December 2.

From Our Chaplain



Advent is a word that means "coming," and it is a season in which we wait for the coming of Christ at Christmas. The type of waiting in this season is filled with anticipation. It is evident in the faces and voices of children as they imagine a world of treasure that magically appears from the man in the sleigh. It is evident in adults as they celebrate with various business, social, and family groups, and as they also get involved in the search for the perfect gifts for loved ones. Of course through it all is the constant reminder to keep the focus on the greatest reason for anticipation, the coming of the Christ Child.

Now, as Catholics we are in a unique position because of our liturgical celebrations. When we go to the Mass, we have the Advent candles—three purple and one pink—to remind us of how this is progressing. Through readings and music we have voices like that of John the Baptist calling us to prepare the way of the Lord. But, most importantly, we should remember that the Mass itself is the greatest part of our preparation.

In the Mass we have the kind of celebration that helps us not only to remember the mysteries of the life of Jesus, but also to make them real and present as we come together in the church. This is true because, of course, the Child we celebrate is more than a distant memory. He is the living and true God, very much alive and very active in his work for our salvation. Because the Mass blurs the line between heaven and earth, we anticipate the coming of Christ even as we worship in his presence.

Yet there is still more. The mystery of Christ we celebrate in the Mass through the liturgical seasons opens the door to Christ in our daily lives. We share Christ himself through the Mass, but he then shares our lives outside the Mass as the grace we receive goes with us.

In Advent we should look especially at the grace of God in our lives as we wait. In many occasions we have personal adventures: those times the doctor's report is uncertain, as we pray for a soldier with months yet to serve, uncertainty about retiring—anytime we wait with a mixture of anticipation and hope. In those occasions we await HIS coming.

Here at the beginning of Advent we begin the prayer of anticipation, confident in the hope that is ours. Come, Lord Jesus, Come./**In Christ, Fr. Erik**



Patriotic Knights

With remembrance of our country's veterans who contributed so much to maintain our country's security, several of our knights gathered in early morning on November 12, Veterans Day, at Calvary Cemetery to raise flags. Though the forecast threatened rain, it mercifully held off, and the task was completed. But not until the men had enjoyed their traditional coffee social, with coffee supplied by **Dennis Bosch**.

Those present were **Bosch, John Macchietto, Buddy Gloor, Earl Robbins, Julian Post, Joe Dierks, Ed McManus, Joe Van Hout, Iturba Percefull, Harold Hager, and Tom Gilleran**.

Flags will be raised again on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day. Please try to make it./**Tom Gilleran**



Youth Hoop Shoot Contest Approaches

Council Youth Director **Mark Layton** is working out plans for a January basketball free-throw contest for boys and girls in four age groups. See January *Knight Shift* for final details.

Sponsors

Beverly Priest	David Farrell & Rita Farrell	Ed & Jolene Sharkey	Bob & Ethel Kness	Marge Knoth
Dennis & Chris Bosch	George & Sue Marshall	John & Denise Steinhau	Joe & Janie Dierks	Cass Bukauskas
Stretch & Carole Ecklund	Jewel & Ann Thomas	Joe & Agnes Petruk	Hugh & Pat Truesdale	Mildred Gardner
Paul & Flo Bachmann	Bob & Sandy Kortenber	Ed & Lorraine McManus	Jim & Frankie DeGeorge	Isabelle Peregrin
Raymond & Rhonda Bryne	John & Millie Connell	Gil & Karen Gibbons	Otto & Delores Wiedower	Harold Hager
Newton & Linda White	Iturba Percefull	Paul & Lee Myers	Wanda Eckhardt	Emily Kostka
Audrey McDonald	Earl & DeDe Robbins	Tom & Barbara Gilleran	Joe & Betty Harrison	Val Poe
Randy & Marty Schnoebelen	Lou & Vi Kosarek	Wally & Lucy Marroy	Gust & Mary Turek	Dennis & Sue Wood
Jim & Martha Lockwood	Ray & Rose Kukuk	Larry & Diane Nieman	Dick & Jackie Smith	

December Birthdays

- 1 Grant Shriver
- 3 Fr. John Burkus
- 5 Brandon Weisenfels
- 6 Dick Antoine
- 6 Joe Salemi
- 7 Bob Ward
- 8 Stretch Eklund
- 13 Michael Schnaufer, Sr.
- 27 David Farrell

Pray for our Sick

Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: Val Poe, Ken Schmitz, Sharon Maxwell, Sandy Kortenber, John Harris, Rita Farrell, Louis Turala, Joe Salemi, Katherine Smart, Mary Anne Honeycutt, Stretch Ecklund, Sue Marshall, Ann Lee, Mary Ellen Kagel, Al Reis, Emily Kostka, and Emil Wencil



Merry Christmas

December Calendar

- 6 Officers Meeting, K. C. Hall, 7 p.m.
- 9 Christmas Dinner-Dance, K. C. Hall Social, 5 p.m., Dinner, 6 p.m. (See Article, p. 2)
- 13 Council Meeting, K. C. Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 No Fourth Degree Meeting

Sponsorships and Ads

We presently have six available sponsorship spaces for \$10. The money goes toward the expense of publishing the monthly newsletter. Also note available ad spaces on p. 3. Those spaces are \$25 for a year. For either a sponsorship or ad, call Dennis Bosch (525-6478) or Jim Lockwood (525-7022). Thanks to Raymond and Rhonda Byrne and to Dennis and Sue Wood for their new sponsorships.

Tony Snow, President Bush's recently resigned Press Secretary, wrote the following article about his on-going fight with cancer. A 52-year-old Catholic with three young children, he reveals his strong, enduring faith:

"Blessings arrive in unexpected packages—in my case, cancer. Those of us with potentially fatal diseases—and there are millions in America today—find ourselves in the odd position of coping with our mortality while trying to fathom God's will. Although it would be the height of presumption to declare with confidence 'What It ALL Means,' Scripture provides powerful hints and consolations.

The first is that we shouldn't spend too much time trying to answer the 'why' questions: Why me? Why must people suffer? Why can't someone else get sick? We can't answer such things, and the questions themselves often are designed more to express our anguish than to solicit an answer.

I don't know why I have cancer, and I don't much care. It is what it is, a plain and indisputable fact. Yet even while staring into a mirror darkly, great and stunning truths begin to take shape. Our maladies define a central feature of our existence: We are fallen. We are imperfect. Our bodies give out.

But despite this—or because of it—God offers the possibility of salvation and grace. We don't know how the narrative of our lives will end, but we get to choose how to use the interval between now and the moment we meet our Creator face-to-face.

Second, we need to get past the anxiety. The mere thought of dying can send adrenaline flooding through your system. A dizzy, unfocused panic seizes you. Your heart thumps; your head swims. You think of nothingness and swoon. You fear partings; you worry about the impact on family and friends. You fidget and get nowhere.