



### Fourth Degree—Footnotes

What a wonderful evening we enjoyed on December 14. Approximately 91 knights, family members, and friends attended our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance. The raffle and door prizes were plentiful, thanks to **Lou and Vi Kosarek**. A special thanks also goes out to **Bill Wavering and his wife Marilyn** for the organizing and setting up for the dinner and dance as well as to all those who helped with the set up, decorating, and clean up.

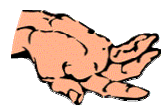
Our first meeting in 2009 will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on January 15. It will be a business meeting with **Jim Witovek** providing chili for our meal. We will at that time have our sign-up sheet for the remaining months. Just a note to consider when picking a restaurant for our social meetings, we have been told that Central Park Fusion Cuisine at 200 Park Avenue (623-0202) and Buddy's Buffet and Char-broiled Steaks (627-0193) in the Springs Hotel Lobby will give us a discount on our meal and/or buy advertising space in the church bulletin in exchange for having one of our meetings at their facility. If it is your month, you might want to call these establishments and verify this information.

A gentle reminder to Fourth Degree knights that dues have gone up to \$20 per year. Please make your checks payable to Knights of Columbus or just K of C. You may send your dues to the attention of Robert Rowe or Vicki Stanley at P. O. Box 1679, Hot Springs, 71902. You will be receiving your dues letter in the mail shortly.

The annual Walk for Life will be held on January 18 in Little Rock. (See article, p. 1)/**Newton White, F.N.**

### Knights Assist with Christmas Baskets to Needy Families

St. John's and St. Mary's Churches together, at a cost of more than \$3000, donated 172 boxes of food to needy families in Hot Springs. Each box contained a frozen chicken, milk, butter, bread, peanut butter, rice, and other staples, including several canned goods. A lot of coordination is involved in purchasing food items, boxing them, and designating specific boxes to specific families, depending on family size. **Deacon John Connell and his wife Millie** took the lead for St. John's as did **Deacon Joe Harrison and his wife Betty** for St. Mary's. Both deacons are members of Council 6419. Also contributing in a large way were council members **John Macchietto, Ed McManus, Dick Smith, and Tom Gilleran. Jim Reiter and Ray Kukuk** delivered 23 boxes to Eastwood Gardens of Hot Springs Housing Authority. Other parishioners also assisted.



### Insurance Field Agent's Notes

This month's column is for all you Baby Boomers out there. Do you know what that is sneaking up on you? **RETIREMENT!**

Ouch! I know. It's hard to believe, isn't it? Seems like just yesterday.

But it's coming and coming fast. And that's actually the good news. Let me share with you some tidbits that may be of interest.

The trend by companies to freeze or end their employee pension plans may have a big impact on baby boomers now on the cusp of retirement.

Boomers with pension plans have counted on monthly

....continued, p. 3



### From Our Chaplain

"The grace of God our Savior has appeared to all" (Tit 2:11). That was the scripture passage that formed the basis for the Christmas reflection of Pope Benedict for this year. Using a remarkable 64 different languages that included Icelandic for the first time, the message of the Savior's birth echoed across the world. In the annual greeting titled *Urbi et Orbi* (to the Church and the world), the Holy Father pointed out that the grace of God is no longer hidden.

In all its life-changing power, the grace of God appears in previously unimaginable ways. A child in a manger appears like every other child, and yet is the long-awaited Messiah that captures the hopes of countless generations. It is for this reason that Christmas stretches beyond a day into a season, and hopefully as you read this you have not yet spoken of Christmas that *was* but as Christmas that offers continued grace.

The emphasis of the Holy Father with his Christmas message is that this grace is offered to all. He speaks the message in many languages to capture the universal nature of the message. Regardless of the divisions that exist in the world for race or language or religion, the promise of the Christ Child exists for all. Those few who visited the stable in Bethlehem represent God's promise to all peoples.

Of course the reality in much of the world is anything but peace. In many places war has become the routine, and it can seem there is no hope for those caught in the cycle. Yet that reality existed even as the child came to this world and continued even as he preached his message of salvation leading to the cross. Pope Benedict knows well this reality in the lives of so many people but does not lose sight of the greater reality, and so he says, "That is why Christmas is a feast of light. Not like the full daylight which illumines everything but a glimmer beginning in the night and spreading out from a precise point in the universe from the stable of Bethlehem, where the divine Christ was born."

As I write, the very place of that event has descended into war once again, and through it all we are called to look to a greater reality past the violence. There are many reasons given for the conflicts that make the news and political realities hard to comprehend. But through the complexities that surround conflict remain basic human flaws. Even such a source as the *New York Times* recognizes the significance of human failure as it quoted from the Pope's address, "If people look only to their own interests, our world will certainly fall apart."

The words of the Holy Father speak to a certain optimism that comes with a new year. As many people look to new resolutions and try to capture a sense of hope for the future, the message of Christ's coming is of greatest importance. No resolution that seeks only self interest is worth pursuing. Instead we look to the Child in the manger as 2009 gets underway. "May his coming to us not be in vain! Let us seek Jesus, let us be drawn to his light which dispels sadness and fear from every human heart."/In Christ, Fr. Erik

### Seminarman Enrique Castro, continued from p. 1

decided that he was not meant for the priesthood. When he moved to Arkansas, he was granted a music scholarship to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. There he also studied English. He imagined that he would one day marry and have a family. But he continued to feel the call of God and finally realized that he was intended for the priesthood after all. And to that call he yielded. Council 6419 is pleased to contribute \$500 each year toward Enrique's expenses until his ordination scheduled in 2012. The council wishes him great success and God's blessings.

### Sponsors

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### January Birthdays

- 1 Charles Elias
- 1 Louis Kosarek
- 1 Joseph Mangialardi
- 3 Larry Heisserer
- 5 Larry Archer
- 6 Floyd Sherfield
- 7 Joe Dierks
- 7 Bill Thompson
- 9 Jim Lockwood
- 17 Newton White
- 19 Joe Cenac
- 21 Dick Smith
- 23 Francis Klein
- 25 Paul Bachmann
- 26 HughTruesdale
- 27 Joe Farrell
- 28 Bill Wavering
- 29 Larry Stamps

### Pray for our Sick

Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: **Ed McManus, Ethel Kness, Hallie Salemi, Val Poe, Ken Schmitz, Sharon Maxwell, John Harris, Hattie Harris, Joe Salemi, Catherine Smart, Sue Marshall, Ann Lee, Mary Ellen Kagel, and Emily Kostka,**

### January Calendar

- 1 Council and Assembly Dues Payable
- 8 Officers Meeting, K. C. Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Council Meeting, K. C. Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Fourth Degree Meeting, K. C. Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 17 Free-Throw Contest, St. John's Gym, 4:00 p.m. (see article, p. 1)
- 18 March for Life (see article, p.1)

### Insurance Field Agent's Notes, continued

retirement checks at the end of their careers, but more employers are ending their plans or halting future benefit accruals. Those at greatest risk include boomers in their late 40's and early 50's who are still at least a decade from retirement but too old to save enough to make up the difference in their pension benefits.

An August 2005 survey by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed that nearly half of companies that expect to change their pension plans in the next year are considering freezing benefits for all employees. More than a third that offered pensions have already pared back these benefits over the last three years.

"This will definitely be a problem for baby boomers," says Karen Friedman at the Pension Rights Center. "You've been at a company under the plan and *worked for years* with that expectation, and then it's **taken away**."

What better place to check out how you can secure *your and your family's* FUTURE than Father McGivney's vision for Knights!!! It's just for you and your family. Take advantage soon.

I'm at 501-204-9486. Call me. Let's talk.

**Randy Schnoebelen, FIC**  
AR Insurance Producers License #299098  
Field Agent  
*A Brother Knight Helping Protect You and Your Loved Ones*

### Sponsorships and Ads Solicited

Most of the sponsorships listed above expired at the end of December (A few were begun late in the year and need not be renewed at this time). We hope that all of the expiring sponsorships will be renewed and that some new sponsors will be added. Many have been in place for a lot of years. As you see, there are currently several spaces for new sponsorships. The income from these sponsorships helps to off-set the significant cost of printing and mailing *Knights Shift*. The annual donation for a sponsorship is \$10. The ads found on the back page may be renewed for 2009 for \$25. For new ads, please notify Jim Lockwood at 525-7022.