



# KNIGHT LETTER

January 2014

COUNCIL 816 MARY QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS

## Grand Knight's Report

Dear Brother Knights

### **Happy New Year 2014!!**

May the blessings of our Lord find each and every one of us filled with the Holy Spirit and the love of our families and friends.

As I reflect briefly on 2013, our Council certainly accomplished many milestones far beyond my dreams. We made a positive impact in our Parish Community, Community at Large. We are the arms and legs of Jesus Christ helping those who are in need, always making a positive difference in their lives!

As Grand Knight, words cannot express how very, very proud I am of our Worthy Officers, and All Brother Knights and their Families all working together as one team and guided by the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to build and strengthen the kingdom of God through our Council Activities and Events! **Thank you and God Bless You ALL**, it was a special year indeed and I look forward and welcome 2014!

[www.kofc816.org](http://www.kofc816.org)



## Grand Knight's Report Cont.

Why aren't all  
Catholic men  
Knights?  
They weren't  
asked!  
Ask a  
fellow  
Parishioner,  
You'll be surprised!

If you are receiving  
this through the mail  
and would rather  
receive it through  
email please email me  
at

[jgrasso598@aol.com](mailto:jgrasso598@aol.com)

John Grasso Grand Knight

## Grand Knight's Report Contued

I would like to add a new segment to our newsletter its call "Quote of the month" This month's quote

**Committee- a group of people who individually can do nothing but as a group decides that nothing can be done** *By Fred Allen*

John Grasso

Grand Knight #816

# The Spiritual Corner by Deacon John Kopcak PGK

## The Feast of the Epiphany

On Sunday January 5 we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. At times it is also called the Feast of the Three Kings. We all know the story. Three Kings from the Orient, Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar, studied astronomy and saw a rising star. They believed it to be the sign that a king was being born. So they followed the star and stopped off at Jerusalem where they met King Herod. They asked him if he knew where the new born king was. Herod, who was intent on killing Jesus, had his priests search scripture to find out where this king might be born. Learning that it was probably Bethlehem he told the three kings to search for Jesus and let him know where he was. Once they found Jesus they gave him the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Of course, as we all know, they journeyed home by a different route and never told Herod where Jesus was.

Of the four Gospels only the gospel of Matthew has the story of the Magi. Nowhere does it mention the names of the three kings in the Gospel nor does it refer to them as kings. They were probably pagan priests who studied the stars and believed in magic. As a matter of fact it doesn't even say how many there were. If they were following a star why did they have to stop and ask Herod if he knew where the newborn king was? If you read the gospel carefully they don't begin to follow the star until they leave Jerusalem. If all this is true than what is this story about?

It is a story about a journey. It is a story about faith. It is a story about contrasts. It is a story of good and evil. It is a story of God's plan of redemption for all mankind.

The Magi were on a journey in search of God. There were several things that helped them on their journey. First there was nature, the star which told them of the birth of Christ and later led them into His presence. They were guided by the scripture e.g. the Word of God. If you recall Herod had his scholars study scripture to find out where Christ would be born. And finally they were guided by their faith which gave them the persistence to continue on their journey. Nature, scripture and faith were all gifts given through the **GRACE OF GOD**. What about the gifts they gave to Jesus? Gold is a symbol of Christ's kingship. Frankincense or incense is a symbol of His divinity. Myrrh a bitter substance used in embalming is a symbol of his suffering and death. How different was their faith journey from ours. How many of us have our beliefs strengthened through the wonders of nature? Aren't we nourished by the Word of God? Doesn't our faith keep us on that journey toward God when things are not going well? Just as the magi gave their gifts to God aren't we expected to give to God by giving to others? Wasn't it the suffering, death and resurrection of the divine king that gives us the opportunity to be with Him?

This is also a story of contrasts. The magi were Gentiles who announced the birth of the Messiah to a Jew. The mere fact that they are gentiles tells us that all people are included in God's plan of redemption. It is a story of good and evil. The magi are on a journey to get closer to God. Herod was seeking power and moving away from God. The magi were generous. Herod was selfish, especially when it came to his power. He even wanted to destroy God. The magi by their difficult journey and the gifts they gave to Jesus put part of themselves into life and were happy. Herod took everything he could from life, gave back nothing and was unhappy.

**I THINK THERE IS A LITTLE BIT OF HEROD IN ALL OF US.** We all want to be closer to God but how often do we move further away from Him by being selfish and seeking the things of the world instead of Him? How often do we make ourselves unhappy by taking more from life than we should and giving little or nothing back?

So let us continue on our journey toward God using God's wondrous creation, our faith and His word and Sacrament to guide us on our journey. Then we will always be generous give more to life than we take and find true happiness when eventually come to God at the end of our journey.

## January Birthdays

Brothers,  
Happy Birthday!  
Louis Berardi  
George Bruder Jr. PGK  
Rev. John Cook  
Michael Donovan  
Raul Hernandez  
Steven Kalinski  
David King  
Robert McDonald PGK  
John Orlando  
Edward Rocco  
Richard Rogalski  
Edward Sullivan

## Editor's Note

It was cold and snowing . Dec. 14. 2013 did not look like a great day for the Council Christmas Party. The menu was planned, provisions bought and prepared. Brother Hagman was at the hall setting up. How could we cancel the party? But, The Good Lord took pity on us as we had all of this food and **could not** cancel the party. It was a miracle! The snow gradually changed to rain as the temperature rose. The streets turned black and cautious travel could be accomplished. At first there was a handful of guests. But then in they came (forty all told) braving the nasty weather to attend. They enjoyed Chicken in an Artichoke Sauce and baked Cauliflower prepared by Brother Rich Coscarelli. Also on the menu was Roast Beef (sliced wrong?), roasted red potatoes, mixed vegetables and a green salad prepared by yours truly and June. The Ladies brought delicious desserts and there were no leftovers! It was a wonderful evening. A good time was had by all sharing Christmas Cheer, and some good wine. Thank you all for coming. It made our day.

God Bless, Joe Lynch PGK

## Upcoming Events

**Jan 2** Officers Meeting

**Jan 9** Business Meeting

**Jan 11** Pasta Dinner

(Saturday)

**Jan 26** Monthly Breakfast

**Council Field Agent  
Michael S. Permuko  
can provide you informa-  
tion about protecting your  
assets.**

**732-996-0923 or by  
email michaelpermuko@  
kofc.org**

## Good of the Order

“As a reminder, it is the responsibility of all Brothers to inform either the Grand Knight John Grasso(732-988-0471) , or the Financial Secretary William Jenkins (732-988-3658 ) upon the learning of the death of any K of C Brothers, so proper actions can be taken. Don't assume that the GK or FS automatically know about all Brother's deaths, sometimes they need your help!”

## **Troop Morale-Soldier Boxes**

The Neptune City Knights of Columbus has partnered to send care packages to our troops overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan. These boxes are sent four (4) times a year. Please consider donating any/some of the items listed. Please keep our Armed Forces men and women in your prayers and God Bless America.

Beef Jerky/Slim Jims

Toothpaste

Small Snack Bags

Toothbrushes

Gum/candies

Hand Sanitizers

Trail Mix

Band Aids

Cookies

A complete list is at the Council Home with the Box.