



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

Knight Watch



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Grand Knight's Article



After only two-plus weeks as Grand Knight, I am finding that saying "Thank you" is and will be one of my greatest pleasures. It appears that I will frequently be asking, "Do you have his [or her] phone number?" I'll begin by saying a thank-you to **Jim Lockwood** for asking me at a Rummage Sale event a few years ago to join Knights of Columbus and then followed through until the membership was complete.

To list everything that has been going on the last few weeks would take most of this newsletter, but I'll highlight a few of the activities. With the young Columbian Squires now in full bloom, we are increasingly calling on them for help. Most recently, for example, several members were on hand to set up tables, carry dishes, etc. for the June 20 dedication and dinner celebration at the beautiful new St. Mary of the

Springs Parish Hall.. The dedication and dinner that followed were lovely events. With Bishop Anthony Taylor and another dozen priests present, I am happy to report that our council knights were prominent—from top to bottom. There was **Father Innocent Okore**, the pastor of St. Mary's, who is now relocating to serve St. Patrick's Church and St. Mary Church in North Little Rock. He has served our council as Chaplain. Also present was **Father George Sanders**, a council member who is Father Innocent's successor at St. Mary of the Springs. He will now be our chaplain and continue writing the monthly newsletter, which he has done for us even since he was Deacon George. Council members **Wally Marroy** and **Joe Giompoletti** played significant roles. Wally, dedicated member of St. Mary's, who was involved in one way or another with ever decision involving the new parish hall—from inception to completion—was Master of Ceremonies. Joey G. served on the Advisory Board for the building construction. At one point I was filled with

pride as I looked about the spacious banquet room and saw at least one knight at every table. In addition, there were knights and their wives assisting with the kitchen work and other tasks that ensured a successful, enjoyable evening for all. A special thank-you to brothers **Kevin** and **Nick Kowalkowski** (one a Squire, the other a recent Knight) who with their mom were part of the work crew.

Our annual Tootsie Roll Drive is adding a new dimension this year.



Bishop Taylor Dedicates St. Mary of the Springs Parish Hall (pictured: Fr. Erik Pohlmeier, Father Innocent Okore, Bishop Taylor, M.C. Wally Marroy, and Fr. T. J. Hart

With **David Myers** the chairman this year, the usual early October dates have been advanced to the first Friday and Saturday in September—the 5th and 6th. One location

Good-Bye and Best Wishes, Father Innocent; Welcome, Father George!

New Diocesan assignments from Bishop Anthony Taylor's office have brought a change to St. Mary of the Springs Church here in Hot Springs. The much-loved

Father Innocent Okore will now switch assignments with **Father George Sanders**, who before his Ordination to the Priesthood last summer was a deacon at

The Church of St. John the Baptist. We will miss the smiling face of Father Innocent but at the same time we welcome our dear friend Father George, who will be our new council chaplain.



Zack was the second of nine children.

At that time Stephanie and Zack were oblivious to each other's existence. But at a point during her work in Benton Schools God intervened to bring about one of those life-changing moments.

...Stephanie commented to Martha that she wished she could meet a good Catholic man. They do exist in Arkansas, but sometimes they're hard to find...unless, of course, God wants it to happen

Twenty-eight knights and their guests were present for the June 19 social gathering at K. J.'s Grill. We've been to K. J.'s several times in the past, and the food has consistently been a hit. On this occasion the prime rib orders met all expectations; the shrimp entrees fell short. The complaint: "Too dry and too tough." Something to keep in mind for future K.J.'s outings. We were happy to have Father Alan, who led our opening

and closing prayers.

Our July 17 meeting will be a business meeting in *Giampoletti Hall*, the doors opening at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30. **Jim Lockwood**, with considerable help from **Martha**, will be our chef.

On June 22, following the 3 p.m. Mass at St. John's, several knights in regalia led the Corpus Christi procession from St. John's Church through downtown Hot Springs to

St. Mary's Church, where the devotion ended with the Benediction. **Father James West** processed with the monstrance-enclosed Eucharist. Participating knights were **Mike Tucker, Mark Chunn, Bob Koch, Steve Gallimore, Tony Torres, Larry Stamps, Dennis Bosch, and Commander Zack Nehus**. Thanks to these men for representing our Assembly so well./**Don Sass, FN**



Spotlight on Zack and Stephanie Nehus



Zack is an anomaly also because he is one of the few native Arkansans in the council and even more so because he has spent his entire life in Arkansas.

Upon graduation from the local high school, Zack enrolled in the University of Arkansas, where he would earn two degrees—a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and a master's degree in Biological and Agricultural Engineering. With the study of rice being his major emphasis, he was a natural for a job with Riceland Foods in Stuttgart. Zack would live in Stuttgart and work at Riceland for ten years, from 1997 to 2007.

Unknown to Zack, there was a **Stephanie Antoine** living in another part of the state. But before she moved to Arkansas when she was in the 8th grade, she had spent her first years in Hutchinson, Kansas, where she was born in 1975 to present council member **Dick Antoine** and his wife **Becky**. The An-

toines relocated to Hot Springs, where Stephanie enrolled in Lakeside Schools. When she graduated from Lakeside High School, she entered Henderson State University in Arkadelphia and worked toward a Bachelor in Education degree. Upon completing that degree, she stayed at Henderson to pursue a Master's in Education. Those degrees cleared the way for her first professional job as Curriculum Coordinator in Benton Public Schools.

At that time she and Zack were oblivious to each other's existence. But at a point during her work in Benton Schools God intervened to bring about one of those life-changing moments. Stephanie had become friends with Zack's sister-in-law, Martha, who just happened to be Director of Food Service for Benton Schools. In at least one conversation, Stephanie commented to Martha that she wished she could meet a good Catholic man [They do exist in Arkansas, but **continued, p. 9**

For **Zack Nehus** it all began on May 1, 1972, in Paris, Arkansas, an idyllic little German farming community. He was the second youngest in a family of nine children. In the long shadow of Subiaco Academy, Paris also is the home of **Father Erik Pohlmiel**, former pastor of St. John's Church. Zack was just one grade behind Father Erik in St. Joseph Catholic school.

Zack is a rarity in Council 6419 first of all because he finds himself among a group of largely retired men. He is one of the council's few young men., though in the last two or three years the council has been fortunate to add membership to an increasing number from that age group.

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From Father George Sanders: “A Bottle of Fine Wine”



Several years ago when I was on a business trip in Southern France, I was riding with a Frenchman named Jacques Thiebaux, who wanted to make a short de-

tour on our way from Nice to Marseilles. I of course agreed, liking the idea of taking an unplanned excursion through the small villages that dotted the beautiful and rugged landscape of the Cote d'Azur on the Mediterranean Sea. After driving some narrow roads and passing a few quaint villages along the way, we turned into a small vineyard and pulled up to the barn. A large but very friendly dog, something like a sheep dog, met us as we turned off the engine and began to walk around looking for the proprietor. Shortly, a tall (at least for a Frenchman) well-tanned gentleman entered the barn. As I remember, he was around 70 years old but seemed 50ish. He remembered Jacques immediately and

gave him a warm handshake. Jacques stopped by there annually when he could. His vineyard was rather small by today's standards and you probably would not find his wine stocked in most wine stores, but Jacques was particularly fond of his grapes and would buy several bottles on each trip.

As we took some time to visit (you never do anything in a hurry in Southern France, especially if a bottle of wine is involved.) I marveled at how passionate the vintner was about his vineyard in particular but about life in general. It seemed he anticipated the sunrise each day when he would return to the rows of budding vines and finely tilled ground. As we walked around his barn, talking about the year's weather and growing season, our children and French politics, we made our way to his work bench, ever so slowly and methodically, as if tracing the steps of an ancient dance ritual. And then bringing our polite discussions to a close with “ah bon!” and with just the right pause to whet our feeling of antici-

pation as a knowing smile began to span his jovial face, he asked, “Would you like to taste a bottle before you buy?” This was the moment. He reached for a bottle from his shelf, skillfully peeled back the foil and popped the cork. He poured three generous glasses of the ruby red wine and waited anxiously for Jacques' reaction. It was as if he was vicariously enjoying the experience himself as Jacques slowly swirled the wine in his glass and plunged his nose into the aroma of the vintage before pausing the appropriate time to fully imbibe its aroma and raising the glass so delicately to his lips. Then Jacques remained expressionless momentarily as if he was thoughtfully weighing ever savor and aroma flooding his nose and mouth and

....continued, p. 8



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Grand Knight's article, concluded

David [Myers] has been granted permission to have [Tootsie Roll] collections outside the Convention Center on the weekend of the 9th Annual Bikers' Convention.

We have not only an obligation to attend Sunday Mass but also to know our Faith and to be ready to share it with others.



Sam's Club will be delayed till the first week of September. David has been aggressively laying out plans and has already been successful in getting the stores to give us three days—even the Wal-Mart on Central Avenue, which in recent years has allowed us to collect on only one day. But the really big news is that David has been granted permission to have collections outside the Convention Center on the weekend of the 9th Annual Bikers' Convention. Convention Center manager **Steve Arrison** reports that eight to ten thousand bikers are expected in the city on that weekend, and the Country-Western singer Trace Atkinson will be the evening entertainer. That's the real reason that most of collections will take place in September. Another significant detail is that **Mayor Ruth Carney** will declare that week as First Step School Week, which of course will draw attention to the primary recipient of our collections. Good work, David! It is only too clear that David is going to need LOTS of

help. So please be ready to pitch in, including rounding up people to help with the collections as well as taking on the captain's roll at the various collection sites.

How fortunate we are to have **Vincente Gonzalez** as our new Deputy. He and his lovely wife Gladys have stepped up to chair the Altar Servers' Picnic for servers at both St. John's and St. Mary's on July 21 at ARC Isle. Serving will begin around noon, but **Joe Giompoletti** and his assistants will need to be on site by 10 a.m.

It is a pleasure to announce that **José Cardenas**, a recent graduate of Hot Springs High School, is the recipient of the 2014 Council 6419 \$1000 scholarship. José, whose father died from cancer and whose mother works in St. John School's cafeteria, is himself a graduate of St. John's School. He graduated seventh in his high school class with a 3.89 GPA. He also is an All-State soccer player. José plans to attend National Park Community College his first two years before transferring. Eventually, he

hopes to earn a doctoral degree in anesthesiology. Congratulations to José and his mother. And best wishes for the next stage of his life.

Another change among our Council Appointments is that we will have three Church Directors—one for St. John's, another for St. Mary's, and a third for All Saints Church in Mount Ida. **Joe Kanopsic**, **Wally Marroy**, and new member **Ron Zlotnic** of Mount Ida will take these jobs. They will be our links between the churches for everything from work projects to special events. Please give them all the support possible.

I could go on about Programs and the knights and families that make them all come together, but the reason for our future growth will be due to all that has been put in place by outgoing Grand Knight **Newton White** and his team and all those knights and families before us./**Grand Knight, Andy**

Men of St. Mary's, Men of St. John's.....Come on Out!

Brother Knights, are you aware that **Deacon and council member Robert Wanless** leads a group of men weekly in a study of Apologetics at 6:30 a.m. each Friday in St. John's Parish Hall? Most of you are missing out on this study of what we Catholics believe (or should believe) and how to answer those questions from non-Catholics—and sometimes other Catholics—about our faith.

Why do we venerate the Blessed Mother and other saints? Why do we confess our

sins to a priest? Why do we call our priests "Father"? Do we really believe the Eucharist is the actual body and blood of Christ? And why? Why do we believe in Purgatory and what is it? Etc., Etc.

The participants in this group regularly have lively discussions. We don't stick closely to our book but often generate very interesting but appropriate topics of our own. They are always related to important points of our faith.

We need you to join us. We have not only an obligation to attend Sunday Mass but also to know our

Faith and to be ready to share it with others. These weekly sessions will enrich our personal faith and increase our understanding of what our Church believes and why. **These get-togethers are valuable not only for Catholics but also non-Catholics who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church.**

Deacon Robert always has coffee and some kind of pastry ready for us. Most of the present participants are retired, but some leave at the 7:30 meeting conclusion to their jobs. There's plenty of time for most workers to get to their jobs.

Annual Golf Tourney for St. John's School Coming Up Soon

All golfers....listen up! The 6th Annual Council Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for Magellan Golf Course in Hot Springs Village on Saturday, August 23. The profits from this tournament once again will benefit St. John's School. This fact should give us strong motivation once again to have not only a great time but most of all to help our local Catholic school. For the record, last year the tournament resulted in a \$6100 donation to the school. That was quite good, but we can do even better. Let's do it!

As of June 23, **Chairman Hans Purkott**, sometimes called Super Hans,

had collected more than \$6000 in cash donations. That figure includes insurance for two holes in one: a five-day trip for two to Myrtle Beach and a golfing trip for two to Pebble Beach. There's also insurance for the putting competition: two week-long trips to Hawaii for two.

Hans has also collected \$5000 in prizes—not yet a prize for everyone but there are still seven weeks until the tournament. As of now there's not a prize for everyone, but we have seven weeks to go. Hans' goal is to have 30

teams of four. The course cost is around \$4000, regardless of how many golfers play. The green fee is \$85.00. Tee-time is 9:30 a.m. Please remember that the beneficiary is St. John's Catholic School. Hans is hoping to net \$8000 for St. John's. With the help of a lot of golfers, the goal is attainable.

A short distance from Magellan Golf Course is Balboa Pavilion, where lunch will be served. Once again, our trusty chef **Joe Giompoletti** will be on hand with his traveling kitchen to serve up the best barbecue in the area, including ribs.

From Our Insurance Agent:

A new fraternal year has just begun. Congratulations to our newly elected Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight, as well as to all the other dedicated Brother Knights who will serve in either an elected or appointed position in the year ahead. You have my assurance that I'm eager to help.

One of our council goals surely is attainment of the Star Council Award—the most prestigious award the Order offers at the council level. I'm certainly committed to helping on the insurance side, but I'll be glad to help on the membership side as well.

If you know an **eligible Catholic man** who might be interested in joining the Order (and who among us doesn't?), he's probably just waiting to be asked. I can help you, either by approaching him myself or by "coaching" you—transferring sales skills that you can use to recruit him and other prospects. As always, I'm at your service.

Let's get an early start on attaining those goals and objectives that are so critical to the growth of your council.

Thanks to all the Brothers who helped their council to be successful

during the last fraternal year. Thanks to all the Brothers who decided to protect their families with Knights of Columbus Insurance. I appreciate your business.

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Scenes from Dedication of St. Mary's Parish Hall



Left : Fr. Erik Pohlmeier visits with Lucy Marroy and Brenda Sanders.



Right: Bishop Taylor blesses those present for the building dedication.

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Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you." Psalm 122:6





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Council Members Raise Flags for Flag Day



A smaller group than ordinary showed up at 7:00 a.m. on June 14 at Calvary Cemetery to raise the flags to commemorate Flag Day. This was the second of three flag raisings in a short time span: Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Independence Day this Friday. Present to raise flag on June 14 were **Dick Smith, Dennis Bosch, Ed King, Don Sass, Bob Koch, Harold Hager, Jim Reiter, John Steinhaus, and Andy Anderson.** Don Sass brought coffee and donuts for the social time before the flags went up. Back in 4 p.m. to take down the flags were **Newton White, Cooper White, Cooper's roommate D'Andre Knight, Bob Koch, Harold Hager, Andy Anderson, Dennis Wood, Ed King, Dick Smith, and Don Sass.**

The flag raising this Friday will be the last until Labor Day on Monday, September 1.



A Happy, Safe Independence Day Celebration for All!



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Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for the following council members, wives/ relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: Jackie Smith, Gil Gibbons, Carole Ecklund, Greg Meggers (son of George and Barbara), Betty Godbhere, Danny and Mary Morrison, Father Alan, Larry Heiserer, George Schwass, Ilse Purkott, Beverly Priest, John Andrews, Frankie DeGeorge, Hayley Gloria, Stephen Stoddard, Matthew Stoddard, Valerie Poe, Deacon Dave Briselden, Rick Sands, Conrad Stein, Laura Mazzia, Deacon John Connell, Jeanette Mace, Barbara Meggers, and Fr. Raymond Rossi

July Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 4 Greg Speas | 14 Tom Gilleran |
| 6 John Ledbetter | 14 Joe Harrison |
| 7 Leonard Didier | 15 David Johnson |
| 10 Andy Anderson | 22 Stan DeGruccio |
| 10 Robert Rowe | 24 Tommy Tobin |
| 11 Richard Boyes | 25 Ralph Berdikoski |
| 11 Joe Giompoletti | 30 Sam Selig |
| 12 Don Pullen | 31 Leonard Buchholz |
| 12 Ben Van Wagner | |

July Calendar

- 4 Flag Raising, Calvary Cemetery, 7 a.m.
- 11 Council Meeting, Giompoletti Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 Fourth Degree Meeting, Giompoletti Hall, 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)
- 21 Altar Servers' Picnic, ARC-Isle, Noon serving. For Servers from St. Mary's and St. John's (see Grand Knight's article, p. 4)



Large stained-glass window depicting Jesus' first miracle at the Wedding in Cana. It's prominent in banquet room of the new St. Mary's Parish Hall.



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Father George, continued

pausing just long enough to return the feeling of anticipation. "Amazing!" Joy then exploded between us followed by the requisite detailing of the exquisite experience in colors, flavors and comparisons.

It's been over twenty years since I drank in and savored this rich experience, but the memories of every detail and sensory pleasure have never faded. In many aspects we are like the wine bottle. As Christians our sole purpose is to contain the wine of Christ. We did not tend the vines, nor did we till the soil. We did not watch over the weather and assure the appropriate food and nourishment of the grapes. We did not harvest or ferment the grapes. All we had to do was receive the previous fruit of the vine into ourselves. In fact, we were each created distinctively by the Vintner with His own design and label. Yes, we look similar to most other bottles of wine, but we have been marked, labeled, sealed with His name. It's the seal that identifies what is in us and guarantees our authenticity. But we are not our own; we were created to be shared, to be poured out for the life of the world. Remembering the scene, I believe there is no fuller joy, either in heaven or on earth, than when the True Vintner gathers others around us, pops the cork and freely shares His real joy from within us. This is the spirit of the New Evangelism in the Catholic Church so well explained in Pope Francis' *Gaudium Evangelii*. May we more fully comprehend His great love that fills us and find divine joy as he shares us with our world. À votre santé. Cheers.

Sponsorships and Ads



As we begin the seventh month of this year, realizing that the year is unbelievably past the high-way mark, you will see at the top of page 3 of this newsletter, that a number of year-to-year ***Knight Watch*** sponsors have not renewed their \$10 sponsorship for the current year. **[Those who have renewed are indicated with an asterisk following their names.]** Mistakes are sometimes made, so if you have indeed renewed your sponsorship but do not have the [*] following your name, please notify me so that I can make the correction. Following this issue, those that remain not renewed necessarily will be dropped. Probably many of these have just not remembered to renew.

Two or three of the present ads (\$25 for year) also have not been renewed. There is also space for additional ads. If you have a business to advertise, please consider this newsletter as one inexpensive possibility for your ad.

“...and Father Erik Pohlmeier, Zack’s childhood friend was coming to St. John’s to be the new pastor and, as such, would complete with them their Pre-Cana classes. ‘It just felt weird,’ Zack said.”

“Andrew Thomas Nehus...was born October 29, 2007. Zack was 35 years old. ‘When my father was 35 years old, he had nine children,’ Zack commented, grinning. ‘I guess I’m a bit slow.’”

finding them is not always easy....unless, of course, God wants it to happen. Martha commented to Stephanie that she knew a good Catholic man, her own brother-in-law, who not only was “a good single Catholic man” but also was the right age for her. So Martha laid the ground work, and soon Zack and Stephanie met. A dating relationship began, the biggest complication being that Zack lived in Stuttgart and Stephanie lived in Benton. But, as the saying goes, love will find a way. After dating a few months they became engaged and planned to marry in Stephanie’s parents’ church—the Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Hot Springs. They began their Pre-Cana Classes with **Father Bill Thomas**, St. John’s pastor at that time. but then, as Zack puts it, something happened that to him felt weird. **Father Bill** was transferred to Russellville, and **Father Erik Pohlmeier**, Zack’s childhood friend, was coming to St. John’s to be the new pastor and, as such, would complete with them their Pre-Cana classes. “It just felt weird,” Zack says, “having my boyhood friend as my Pre-Cana instructor.” (and no doubt as his future Confessor) So Zack and Stephanie married on October 22, 2005, with Father Erik as the celebrant of the Mass.



Zack and Stephanie at Destin, Florida in early June

Keep in mind that Zack was still working for Riceland Foods in Stuttgart, while Stephanie continued as Curriculum Coordinator with Benton Schools. They established their home in Stuttgart, and Stephanie began a five-day-a-week commute to and from Benton—approximately 67 miles through the busy morning and afternoon traffic on I-30 and connecting roads. But, again, as the saying goes, “Love will find a way.” Stephanie remained with Benton Schools only until she could acquire an assistant principal position in Stuttgart. But another complication for Stephanie was that she was also working toward a doctoral degree at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

Andrew Thomas Nehus, to be called **Drew**, was born October 29, 2007. Zack was 35 years old. “When my father was 35 years old, he had nine children, Zack commented, grinning. “I guess I’m a bit slow.”

Two days after Drew’s birth, Zack terminated his employment with Riceland Foods. Stephanie wanted to continue her job in education, and Zack wanted to be the stay-at-home parent. And that arrangement worked well for them for several years. Zack comments, “I loved it.”

Their second son **James Craig (Jay)** was born June 9, 2009, just about the time that the Nehus family was preparing to move to Hot Springs. Stephanie’s father Dick had recently learned that he had cancer, and Stephanie was feeling a need to

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be close to her parents during that difficult period. With the move to Hot Springs in 2009, she became principal of Langston Elementary School, where she remained until 2012. Then she moved into the Administration Building as Director of Secondary Curriculum and Special Projects. That was a year after Zack and Stephanie were blessed with the birth of their third child and first daughter, **Julia Marie (Julia)**, who was born June 8, 2011.

Last fall, with Drew and Jay enrolled in St. John’s School, Julia was also accepted into the early education class, enabling Zack to teach at the same school.

Zack has long had an interest in the genealogy of the Nehus family. Several years ago, before Stephanie came into his life, he established contact with a distant Nehus cousin in a small town in northwest Germany. Leer, Germany, is very near the Netherlands. He and his sister had talked about one day taking a trip there together. Then good fortune made that possible when his sister’s husband, a physician, was going to the University of Heidelberg to a medical conference.

Zack and Stephanie Nehus, concluded



The well-managed Leer, Germany Cemetery, Burial Site of Nehus Family

The three of them traveled together and he and his sister went to Leer, where they met family members and had the thrill of attending Mass at the church where their great-great-grandparents had married around 1850 and where their son Abel, a great-great-grandfather was baptized. Zack has returned to Leer to visit the German extended family on two other occasions, the first being with his new bride for a delayed honeymoon during Christmas and the New Year's celebration. More recently, he and Stephanie visited again but this time on a trip that took them also to Munich and Rome, where they were part of a general audience with Pope Benedict.

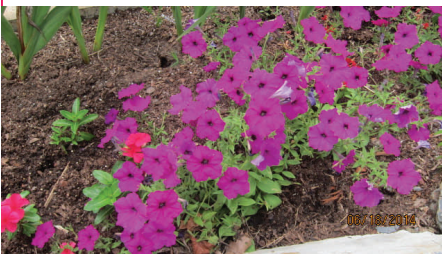
Regarding his three trips to the homeland, for Zack it has been enormously satisfying to establish a link to Nehus relatives, even though the rela-

tionship is distant. About Leer, he has an indelible memory of the cleanliness of the village and the industrious nature of the people. The local cemetery, where he saw the gravestones of his great-great-grandparents and that of their son Abel. According to Zack, "it looks like a huge bouquet of flowers." The locals take great pride in its upkeep.

Since transferring to Council 6419 at the time of the move to Hot Springs in 2010, Zack has become one of the council's most contributing members. At the first officer election following his transfer, he was elected treasurer and has maintained that position to the present. He has been more than effective in managing not only council funds but also those of the Charity Committee that come from the Rummage Sales. His heavy family involvement has stopped him

from pitching in for fund raisers, such as pancake breakfasts and fish fries. Both he and Stephanie are much involved in St. John's Church, both being lectors and Eucharistic ministers. Furthermore, Zack is in his second year on the Parish Advisory Council and currently is president. His sister-in-law was correct when she said to Stephanie, "I know a good Catholic man." Indeed, they are an outstanding Catholic family.

Spots of Color on the K.C. Grounds



Great job, Dick Smith!