



Knights *focus*

FR. EDWARD V. McCULLOUGH COUNCIL #7736
St, Jude Catholic Church
Mansfield, TX
JULY 2011

Put First Things First

By Grand Knight Bill Tillotson

In his book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey gives some great advice about how to live our lives more fully. I am not a motivational speaker nor self-help guru, but I think each of his habits have implications for us to consider as Catholic Christians in how we live our lives.

I want to focus on his Habit #3 – “Put First Things First”. In his book, he shares that we should live our lives focusing on what is most important, not what is most urgent.

What is the difference between that which is urgent and that which is important? Stuff that is urgent is stuff that has to be done right now – I’ve got to pay the mortgage by the due date – I have to finish this newsletter by its deadline (oops) – we have to net at least 11 new members by June 2012 to make Star Council again. Urgent things may very well be important, but not all urgent things are that important.

But things which are important are things that are very close to us. Our relationship with our spouse – our relationships with our children – our faith and love of God. Important things are very close to our core being. They may also be urgent, and we should make them urgent - but often they are things we think we can put off until there is more time and we aren’t as “busy” as we find ourselves right now.

Personally, it is hard for me to discern the

difference between what is important and what is simply urgent, yet not that important. The best advice I’ve been given is to take some time on a regular basis – daily, if you can – and during prayer, ask God to guide you towards focusing on that which is most important to Him. I find when I do, I have no trouble discerning who and what is important – and thus who or what I ought to spend my time on.

This topic came to mind last month in a big way for me. I’m not in the Confessional, so I won’t share the details – but through some periodic “introspection time” I force upon myself (every year around my birthday), I realized that I had been spending a LOT of time on a number of very urgent things – many of them important also, but some not so much. And there were some important things – but not really urgent – that I had been putting off working on, thus committing sins of omission towards some important people in my life. I have recommitted myself to do better and put some measures in place to try and maximize my chances of doing so.

I encourage each of you to take time to focus on that which is important. “Live each day as if you’ll die tomorrow” is a motto some use – asking God for guidance is another. Focusing on that which is important will, I believe, make us more holy and better disciples of Jesus.

Vivat Jesus!

Bill

Upcoming Events

- July 4 – Arlington Parade
- July 9/10 – Membership Blitz after all masses
- July 12 – Officer Installation
- July 18 – 4th Degree Mtg
- July 19 – Council Planning Meeting
- July 23 – Major Degree
- July 23 – Abortion Clinic
- July 26 – 1st Degree
- July 27 – Chapter Mtg
- August 2 – Religious Appreciation Banquet
- August 6 – Family Party
- August 7 – Pancake B’fast

Membership Blitz

After all masses on July 9 and 10, we will be recruiting new members. Father should announce it from the pulpit and we'll hand out fliers and sign 'em up. After all the good PR from the scholarships, this'll be like shooting fish in a barrel. Come back to the usher's closet RIGHT after Communion to get ready.

Officer Installation

Officer installation will be on July 12 in the Parish Center in lieu of our regular meeting. We will have the installation promptly at 7:00, so officers need to be there by 6:45. Dress like you're going to church. Dinner, as prepared by award winning chef Jerry Rodriguez, will be served afterwards.

Major Degree July 23

A Major Degree will be held at St. Maria Goretti in Arlington on July 23. We will meet at St. Jude at 9:00 A.M. and carpool up. If you are still a 1st Degree member, consider making your major degrees. Call or e-mail Bill for more information. Also, the ceremony has been changed somewhat by Supreme, so you 3rd and 4th Degree members ought to come see it.

Religious Appreciation Banquet

The Religious Appreciation Banquet is the evening of August 2 at St. Francis in Grapevine. Please let Bill Tillotson know if you are coming by July 12 so he can order tickets. If you do not order by July 12, you may not be able to attend.

Most of the clergy from St. Jude is attending, so let's make a good showing for ourselves.

Kudos to our Lady Knights as well who have been assembling baskets for the auction. To date, they have put together 15 baskets to be sold at the banquet. We are lucky to have such a motivated and energetic group of Lady Knights!

First Degree at St. Jude

We are hosting the first 1st Degree of the fraternal year on the evening of July 26. Same location over in the education side of the center. Have candidates there by 6:45 so we can make sure the paperwork is in order. Ask that Catholic man you know to join! We need him!

Officer Meeting July 19

Since both our regular meeting dates are taken by other events, we'll have an officers/planning meeting on July 19 in our regular room. We will be planning all the upcoming events for July and August, so plan on coming out and helping us.

Abortion Clinic Visit

July 23 is the date of our next abortion clinic visit. Meet at 8:15 A.M. by the Parish Center to carpool up. We are making a difference with prayer – please come and help.

**Have the Knights made you a better Catholic?
Pass on the gift by asking someone to join the Knights!**

First Degrees This Month

(all at 7:00 P.M. unless noted)
7/26 – St. Jude in Mansfield – 7:00 P.M.

7/29 – St. Rita in Ft. Worth

Call Speedy Gonzales at 817-680-8240 or e-mail at speedyg@hotmail.com if you have a lead on a new member

Monthly Awards

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH – Ricardo Villareal – Ricardo has only been a member for a few months, but has made a big impact in a short time. He has made his major degrees already. He was out working Special Olympics all weekend and has made several other events. If you see him, make sure and tell him thank you for doing so much.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH – Dave and Lori Tomlin – Dave worked hard throughout May to make our scholarship raffle a huge success. And Lori spearheaded all the baskets being put together for the Religious Appreciation Banquet. Thanks to the Tomlin family for all they do!



Find out everything going on with Council 7736 by going to our website:
www.kofc7736.org

Council 7736 Upcoming Events

July 4 – Fourth of July Parade in Arlington

July 9/10 – Membership Blitz after all masses

July 12 @ 7:00 P.M. – Officer Installation in Parish Center

July 18 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

July 19 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Business Meeting

July 19 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting

July 21 – Seminarian Daniel Cochran Birthday

July 23 @ 8:15 A.M. – Monthly Abortion Clinic visit to pray the Rosary

July 23 @ 9:00 A.M. – Major Degree at St. Maria Goretti in Arlington

July 26 @ 7:00 P.M. – First Degree at St. Jude

July 27 @ 7:00 P.M. – Chapter Meeting at Council 7099 St. Francis in Grapevine

August 2 @ 6:00 P.M. – Diocesan Religious Appreciation Banquet at St. Francis in Grapevine

August 6 @ 6:00 P.M. – Family Party at Schuljak house.

August 7 @ 7:00 A.M. – Pancake Breakfast

August 9 @ 7:00 P.M. – Monthly Council Meeting

August 14 @ 7:45 A.M. – Corporate Communion

August 15 @ 7:00 P.M. – 4th Degree Meeting at Council 6269

August 15 @ 7:00 P.M. – Lady Knights Meeting

August 20 @ 6:30 P.M. – BINGO in Parish Center

August 23 @ 7:00 P.M. – Council Planning Meeting

August 27/28 – St. Jude Ministry Fair after all masses

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