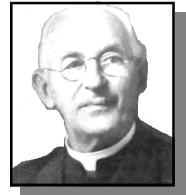




# *Knight Life*

The Official Publication of Father Rosensteel Council #2169



Vol. 79, No. 12, December 2013

Find us on Facebook at "Rosensteel Council"

Web site - [www.Knights2169.com](http://www.Knights2169.com)



## *Chaplains' Corner*

### **Expectation**

The Advent season is a time of hope and expectation as we prepare to welcome Jesus' coming.

In this season we are invited to wait and to enter a position of expectation.

When I was a boy I used to be very impatient. I wanted things right away. My dad used to say: "Wait. In life it is very important to know how to wait." As I became an adult, I started to understand what he meant.

We live in a technological culture where everything is immediate. We live in an "I want it now" world. People cannot wait; they want to immediately satisfy their desires.

Without expectation we are not allowed to taste things. If we skip a time of expectation, we lose the value of things. Without expectation there is no surprise. Without expectation there is no true joy.

It seems that after Thanksgiving we started the Christmas season. Everything around us is only about Christmas. However, we truly have not started the Christmas season. We are starting Advent. We cannot skip the precious season of Advent that prepares us for Christmas.

In Advent we need time to stop. We need to find silence in order to pray. Prayer is what allows us to expect the One that will come.

Fr. José Cortes



## **NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA!**



**Everyone is Welcome!  
Come Celebrate with your  
Rosensteel Family!**

*2 Parties—Your Choice....*

**The Columbian Room—\$40 pp**

Attire: Business Casual  
LIVE Music by ARROW!  
Contact:

**Nancy Marchone 301-288-7808**  
&

**The Emerald Room- \$20 per person,**  
Music and Libations!

Contact:  
**GK Kenny and Janis Tullis**  
240-876-7234 or  
[Janis.Tullis@yahoo.com](mailto:Janis.Tullis@yahoo.com)

## THE CLUBHOUSE PRESENTS- **ROSENSTEEL DATE NIGHT!**

Help us kick off our  
"CAPITAL" CAMPAIGN.

Find out all about it on  
**SAT. JAN. 18TH, 2014**

**Join us at the 5:30 Mass**

followed by a fabulous evening at the  
Rosensteel Council!

At 6:30 we'll feature a discounted cocktail "1/2 Hour" in the Knight's Room.

The Emerald Room opens at 7pm.—

**\$25 PER PERSON INCLUDES:**

Salad Bar, Lobster Bisque, Baked Potato Bar,  
Prime Rib, Roasted Vegetables, and Dessert!

**THE CASH BAR** features wines by the bottle,  
and specialty coffee drinks and liqueurs with  
dessert.

**MUSIC AND DANCING TOO!**

**For Info or Tickets Contact:**

Mike Miller: [msm9701@yahoo.com](mailto:msm9701@yahoo.com)  
Terrence Moore: [tpmoore@pbs.org](mailto:tpmoore@pbs.org)  
Geoff Conway— [gconway@mcoblock.com](mailto:gconway@mcoblock.com)  
Margie Cuff: 301-949-1715 or [margiecuff@gmail.com](mailto:margiecuff@gmail.com).

## **GRAND KNIGHTS STATION**

*Kenneth Tullis*

### **Last Article for 2013!**



This Fall has been filled with many merry and bountiful events, and I thank our Council members and their families for their generous support and friendship. Many people volunteered their time at the 5th Quarter Celebration, Thanksgiving Smoker, and committed time to serve those in need by the Food Drive and Thanksgiving meal at the University of Maryland. Thank you to those who assisted with LEAF Clean Up around the Council followed by excellent food from the thoughtfulness of our Warden, Terrence Moore, leading the team in the kitchen, as we also come together, enjoying good food, while watching Football games.

Though we were blessed with a few balmy days in the late Fall, Winter is upon us. I thank those who volunteer continuously, to the upkeep and maintenance of our facilities and grounds.

As we approach the holiday season, there are many upcoming events for our Council and families. As a tradition, the Squires and Roses (lead by the Warden) will adorn our Council with the scene of the Nativity and we will celebrate the Children with our annual Christmas Party. Please also remember to purchase your holiday cards and remember to donate to the Toys for Tots Drive. As a highlight for sending out year 2013 and welcoming year 2014, don't forget to RSVP to join us and celebrate the New Year Eve parties all around the Council! This will be a celebration of a life-time including all Council generations! We'll have a band in the Columbian Room, a Band at the Knights Room, and Music for the Kids in the Emerald Room! We look forward to seeing you there! You don't

*(Continued on page 2)*

## **A Gift from the Heart...**

Two beautiful Dogwood trees were recently planted by the main entrance in memory of PGK Frank Marchone and Bro. Tim Morse. The trees were donated by Bro. Jerry Cosgrove and his wife, Mary. They should be blooming beautifully this coming April!

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

### **Knight Life**

Published Monthly

Fr. Rosensteel Council #2169

9707 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

(301)588-2404 Catering (301)588-3303

Hours of Operation: Sun-Thurs. 2PM-11PM

Friday & Sat: 2PM-12AM

#### Clubhouse Managers:

John Matosian.....301-706-9373

PGK Joseph Marks.....301-370-2012

#### **Council Meets First & Third Tuesdays 7:00 PM**

#### **COUNCIL OFFICERS**

GRAND KNIGHT.....Kenneth Tullis  
(240-876-7234)

Deputy Grand Knight.....Frank Cavaliere  
(301-681-1849)

Chaplain.....Rev. Joseph Perkins  
(301-942-1020 ext.23)

Chaplain.....Rev. Jose Maria Cortes, F.S.C.B.  
(301-589-8616)

Assoc. Chaplain.....Rev. Gerard Trancone  
(301-577-3527)

Honorary Chaplain.....Rev. Brien R. McCarthy  
(202-885-3327)

Chancellor.....Allan Jimenez (301-649-7244)

Warden.....Terrence Moore (tpmoore@pbs.org)

Financial Secretary.....Rob Seubert (301-681-8181)

Treasurer.....PGK John Fox(946-2113)

Recorder.....Patrick Warner(585-8629)

Advocate.....Harry Dunkle(240-560-7707)

Lecturer.....Ralph M. Vallone(540-0724)

Inside Guard.....Mark Borkoski(589-3743)

Outside Guard.....Tim Sharpe(585-1773)

Outside Guard.....Joe Caron(219-6540)

Trustee (1 year).....PGK Michael S. Miller(681-9040)

Trustee (2 year).....PGK Thomas Kelly(240-472-2204)

Trustee (3 year).....PGK Ralph Vallone(301-946-8633)

Fraternal Insurance.....Brian Graham (962-0045)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Forest Glen Building Association

President.....Tom Griffin (949-7626)

Vice-President.....Bob Neary (202-363-6713)

Secretary.....Phil Atzert (588-2347)

Treasurer.....PGK George Carter (949-2781)

Director.....Bill Veith (942-3267)

Director.....PGK Ralph Vallone (946-8633)

Director.....GK Kenny Tullis (240-876-7234)

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Clubhouse Association

President.....PGK Mike Miller (msm9701@yahoo.com)

Vice-Pres.....John Wigmore (johnwigmore@verizon.net)

Treasurer.....PGK Tom Kelley (301.593.9284)

Secretary.....Pat Warner (301.585.8629)

Director.....DGK Frank Cavaliere (301-681-1849)

Director.....Terrence Moore (tpmoore@pbs.org)

Director.....James Stapleton (stapebrd@gmail.com)

Director.....GK Kenny Tullis (ktullis@barrie.org)

#### **KNIGHT LIFE**

The Official Publication of Father Rosensteel Council #2169

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*Please, remember in your prayers....*



#### **Those who have died:**

#### **Members who are ill:**

Jim Hempfling

PGK John Fox

Jim DeVol

#### **Friends who are ill:**

Sr. Kathleen Lanark



#### **Family of the Month**

It has become a tradition for the Grand Knight to name *The Holy Family as December's Family of the Month*. Who would argue that!? But why do they deserve it? Joseph, a Knight in the truest sense, accepts Mary (who is with child, not by him!) as his wife, trusting the will of God without hesitation. He loves them completely, without reservation, and goes to great lengths to provide for them and keep them safe. Mary, like Joseph, has such complete faith in God that she agrees to be the vessel that brings Christ into the world! The child Jesus honors his parents always. The example set by this loving family should be one to which we aspire!

#### **Knight of the Month**

Congratulations to *Terrence Moore, December's Knight of the Month!* Terrence is AWESOME! He is always willing to help, especially in the kitchen! He is a member of 2 Friday night crews, he has prepared great eats for all the football games, as well as the council cleanup and the 1st Sunday breakfasts. This in addition to heading up the Squires and Roses who have doubled their membership this year! This guy is a great example to our future Knights!

*(Continued from page 1)*

want to miss this! May the peace and joy of the season be upon you, your families, our Council, and our Nation! Have a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

#### **Deceased Members**

*Jan - Dec 2013*

Council Memorial Mass

Jan. 12th, 2014

Frank Laddbush  
Louis Masciocchi, HLM  
Timothy Murphy, HLM  
Louis Zammarella, HLM  
Walter Barry  
Mark Cunningham  
Richard O'Brien  
Alfred A. Wigmore IV  
Michael Tozzolo, HLM  
John Keefe, HLM  
Nicholas Patchan, HLM  
William Muller  
Cyril Mejac, HLM  
Stanley Pohutsky  
Andrew Michaels, HLM  
Edward Sullivan, HLM

Frank Cawley  
John Gough, HLM  
Carl Weist  
Herbert Harris  
Donald Denion, HLM  
Egdar Best, HLM  
Robert Arvedlund  
Thomas Halsup  
Edward Soban  
Alexander Tysen  
Timothy Morse, HLM  
Francis Ward, PGK, HLM  
Anthony Splendore  
Vincent Campanella  
Edward Guggenheim  
John Ebaugh, HLM  
Nelson Rekos, HLM  
William Twombly

**ROSENSTEEL RETIREE'S CLUB  
OFFICERS 2013 - 2014**

**Chaplain** .....Rev. Joseph Perkins  
301-942-1020 x23  
**President** .....Nancy Marchone  
301-288-7808  
**Vice Pres.** .....Thomas Leonard  
301-871-2995  
**Treasurer** .....John Fox PGK PFN  
301-933-7246  
**Secretary** .....Marge Fait  
301-598-7064

Do you realize how many Holy Days are in December? Obviously everyone would think about the Nativity of Jesus on Christmas Day. There is also the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (the 9th), Our Lady of Guadalupe (the 12<sup>th</sup>), St. John, the Apostle (the 27<sup>th</sup>) and The Holy Innocents (the 28<sup>th</sup>). The latter refers to King Herod's order to murder every child under 2 years of age

in Bethlehem after the Magi told him the new King of the Jews had been born.

Do you enjoy good choral singing? This is an excellent time of year for a visit to the National Shrine or St. Matthew's Cathedral to hear the wonderful organ music and the large choirs perform. St. Matthew's often sets aside particular evenings for these concerts.

Do you have a cherished holiday memory from your youth. Perhaps even something that you experienced with your own children many years ago. This is a special month offering opportunities for family gatherings and holiday celebrations. It is an opportune time for relaying a special story to your children so this family treasure will not be lost.

"Do you hear that noise", asked our Grandpa? "It's the reindeer," he said, "they are up on the roof right now. I think Santa Claus is up on our roof." My sister and my two cousins were speechless. We simply couldn't believe it. Santa was on the roof?

"Come on", Grandpa said, "let's all go outside and see him" We four children ran behind Grandpa through the house and down the stairs to the back yard. Finally, we all stood in the snow looking around for Santa. "There he goes," shouted Grandpa, "he just flew off around that building. But I see his bag laying on the snow" It was a large bag; An empty bag. And that must mean..... Yes, of course, and rushing back into the house we found Christmas presents laid out under the tree by the fireplace. And all our parents were laughing and telling us we'd missed him. He had been here and he'd even taken the cookies we'd left for him. (My 1948 Christmas Story) Do you have a story?

The Retirees Club Bowling League is about to take an intermission. The Thursday morning competition will take a short break for the holidays. The Christmas Bowler's Banquet will be on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Council immediately after the mornings bowling is completed. There is no charge for the members, but for invited guests there is a \$12.00 fee All members attending the luncheon must sign up ahead of time to allow Chef Matosian time to plan the details and amount of food that will be needed.

Don't forget that the always large and popular Christmas Party Luncheon for all members of the Retirees Club will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> and you will have to have a previously acquired ticket to attend. There will be no last minute entries. We ask that ladies who enjoy preparing their favorite Christmas cookies again favor us with samples of these delicious treats. This will be most appreciated.

In 1843 Charles Dickens published his famous and still very popular story, "A Christmas Carol". At the end of the story one of the most beloved characters, a small crippled boy named Tiny Tim, calls out to everyone at a Christmas party, "God Bless Us, Everyone".

**Merry Christmas, Everyone.**

VP Tom Leonard

**Clubhouse Report Dec 2013**

Recently, the Clubhouse president appointed a three man committee to update the clubhouse rules for Fr. Rosensteel Council. Those rules have been printed, laminated and posted on an approved site in the Knights Room for all to review.

While some updates were merely a matter of "getting current" others are to address specific concerns that as of late, have been in question. In a nutshell, the items related to smoking in the Game Room went away while the requirement that all members entering the Knight's Room, must have a current membership card in their possession, was added. We encourage all members to take a minute to read the rules and act accordingly.

Other concerns that need to be addressed in the Knight's Room is the lack of bartenders and the understanding that, unless a chair officer is in the Knights Room, the bartender has full authority to refuse service to anyone and may close the Knight's Room prior to the posted hours, at his discretion. If another brother Knight agrees to accept responsibility for the bar, then it may remain opened. Please do not go behind the bar at any time if there is a bartender on duty, without that bartender's permission. A handful of worthy brother Knight's have stepped up and accepted responsibility but we remain shorthanded and we do not want to endanger anyone.

The Clubhouse "Rosensteel Date Night" is slated for Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014. This event will kick off a 'capital' campaign to raise needed funds for improvements to the Council's facilities. We'd like to start by attending the 5:30 mass, followed at by a discount cocktail hour in the Knight's room. The Emerald Room will open at 7:00 pm where dinner will include a full Salad Bar, Lobster Bisque, Roasted Prime Rib, Baked Potato Bar, Roasted Vegetables, and Dessert. A cash bar will include wine by the bottle and after dinner liqueurs and specialty coffee. Also, music and dancing! Cost \$25 per person. We guarantee a great night! For ticket info. call or see: Terrence Moore or PGK Mike Miller.

Don't forget breakfast in the Emerald Room on Sunday, December 1, 2013 starting at 8:00 AM.

In January, we'll be bringing back Pizza Wednesday's. We'll be making gourmet pizza's with fresh dough. You'll be able to order and pick-up or just drop by the Knight's room and dine-in or place your carry-out order while enjoying your favorite beverage. Don't forget to sign the book while you're there.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.

F&R, Your Fr. Rosensteel Clubhouse Board of Directors



**They say "misery loves company"**

We say "misery loves some good eats"

- |                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Redskins vs. Giants  | Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup> - 8:30  |
| Redskins vs. Chiefs  | Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> - 1:00  |
| Redskins vs. Falcons | Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> - 1:00 |
| Redskins vs. Cowboy  | Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 1:00 |
| Redskins vs. Giants  | Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup> - 1:00 |



***Come join us every game for some cold beverages, great food, and even better company.***



**Maryknights**  
Officers 2013-2014

**Chaplain** .....Rev. Gerard Trancone  
301-577-3527 deafmindc@aol.com  
**President** .....Margie Cuff  
301-949-1715 [margiecuff@gmail.com](mailto:margiecuff@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** .....Brenda Graninger  
240-912-9950 [bgrani27@aol.com](mailto:bgrani27@aol.com)  
**Treasurer** .....Kathy Arvedlund  
301-681-7254 [kathyarvedlund@comcast.net](mailto:kathyarvedlund@comcast.net)  
**Secretary** .....Polly Seleski  
301-260-9757 [paseleski@gmail.com](mailto:paseleski@gmail.com)  
**Historian** .....Sue Wiant  
301-593-8689. [susanwiant@gmail.com](mailto:susanwiant@gmail.com)

Every year we look forward to the Charity Ball with great excitement and always a little trepidation that we won't live up to our past performance. I'm happy (and not at all surprised) to report, that this year was certainly a resounding success. The accounting is ongoing so we don't have a monetary bottom line for Shepherd's Table yet ... but in terms of fun, fraternity, and charity it certainly lived up to expectations. A huge thanks to

Helen Vallone for leading the charge and making it all happen; and to Jean and Donna Stocker for stepping into those big Arvedlund Silent Auction shoes and doing a really fantastic job. And thanks to the whole list of Maryknights and friends who helped in ways big and small. This year we had a couple of impromptu live auctions to raise money and an unexpected \$380 donated for cupcakes and dancing in recognition of Margie Cuff's half-century milestone!

We owe a special debt to other members of the Rosensteel family who step up year after year to help us on the big night. The Squires and Roses, under the watchful eye of Terrence and Cheryl Moore, and direction of Paul Neff always make the dinner portion of the evening flow smoothly. Our dinner prepared by John Matosian and Bill Veith was delicious. So ... when you see these people around that council, be sure to express your appreciation! Likewise, be sure to keep the Charity Ball advertisers and sponsors in mind throughout the year and patronize them when possible. Remember - every Wednesday evening is an opportunity to thank our Bingo advertisers :)

One last Charity Ball related comment. It was an honor and a privilege for all of us to be associated with Shepherd's Table. What a great organization and what an important mission they do every day. Our event is over, but they'll be back helping others tomorrow and the next day and the day after that. Keep them mind as you move forward into 2014. Maybe you have some clothes to donate to their clothes closet, or are available to help with dinners, or just want to make a donation. The need is great and it is ongoing.

December is here and while everyone's thoughts jump quickly to Christmas trees and presents and shopping, let's all slow down and remember the real reason for the season. Advent this year starts on December 1 so that's easy to remember. Maybe this is a good time to consider some daily meditations if you don't already. It's a gift you can give yourself!

Our next meeting will be on December 9. Our speaker will be Maggie O'Neill, the Senior Program Manager of Volunteer Services for Catholic Charities . With the New Year and its associated resolutions just around the corner, it's a particularly good time to be open to new ways of giving back for all that God has given us ... so maybe you'll hear about something new that inspires you. Family and friends are invited to join us after the meeting to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Come prepared to enjoy good food, good company and some Christmas carols.

And, of course, don't forget our usual list of cell phones, glasses, toiletries, items for the soldiers, stamps, baby blankets, etc.

**Community Activity December**  
**Nursing Home Christmas Parties**

Our two Christmas Parties will be held on December 5, 2013 at 3PM at the Althea Woodland Nursing Home, 1000 Daleview Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20901. (Down Univ. Blvd. to Buckingham, left 2 blocks , then right to Daleview, left on Daleview to end of street.)

And on December 12, 2013 at 3PM at the Springbrook Nursing & Rehab Center, 12325 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904. (The home is next door to St.. John the Baptist Church on New Hampshire Ave.)

I would like to thank my wife for baking cookies and making punch and helping at the Parties along with Paul Grake.

**We could use some help at playing Santa at these two parties.**

Joe Rogers

**Degree News**

*Haven't Taken Your 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Yet?*

Fr. Rosensteel will be holding a Second Degree on December 17. We are looking to have a very large number as we have not had a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree for some time. It will be held at the December Social Meeting and will include the usual turkey and ham giveaways. Worthy Lecturer and PGK Joe Marks will be serving his famous pulled pork and coleslaw for all who attend. Come join us and help us celebrate our Unity as Fr. Rosensteel members.

Are you a sponsor of a First Degree member that hasn't completed his journey to full Knighthood? Bring him down and watch as he takes his next step. Has it been a few years since you took your First Degree? Now, is your time!

All candidates should RSVP the Financial Secretary, PGK Rob Seubert so we can be sure we have plenty of food and beverage for afterwards. Also, all Candidates will need to report at 6:30PM on the night of the Degree. We hope you can attend.

**Mary's Widows**

November's gathering found 22 Ladies & PGK Mike Koon traveling to the Greek Village Restaurant for a delightful lunch.

On December 2nd we will have our annual Christmas Party at the Council. Come for the festivities. Everyone will be called shortly for their reservations. Arrive around 11:30 for socializing, a drink and lunch to follow.

All widows, whose husbands were active Knights are welcome to join us. So plan to meet with us Dec. 2nd !

For additional information, call  
Lois Devlin, [301-681-7448](tel:301-681-7448).  
Merry Christmas!



The Squires and Roses serve dinner at The Maryknights' Charity Ball. They also checked coats, and helped with clean up in the auction room!



### The Squires & Roses December 2013



This is the last Newsletter of 2013 and I just want thank you all: the Squires, Roses, Council Members, Maryknights and parents for another great year.

This year we:

- #Grew membership from 35 members to 64 members.
- #Held our annual events, "Night at the Ballpark" and "Carwash"
- #Helped with yard cleanup, mulch, painting, & planting at 3 needy facilities.
- #Helped serve and buss at over a dozen events., and Much more!!

I am very proud of each and every one of you. We will do much more in 2014.

Thanks to all that helped with the November events, Council Clean up, Maryknights Ball, & Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> fundraiser.

**Monthly Meeting Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 to 8:00.**  
We may set up the Nativity Scene.  
Have a great Christmas!

And as always, **BE WORTHY**



The Squires and  
Roses  
are collecting for

### TOYS FOR TOTS!

There will be a collection Barrel in the Emerald Room until Dec. 15th. Please donate new toys to this worthy cause!

Thanks!



The Bingo Teams deserve a huge thank you for their dedication to the Council.

Each week Al Wigmore III sends a report detailing the number of players, how much was paid out, how many Vegas games were sold, and anecdotes from the evening.

He has been very vocal in his praise of the Callers, the kitchen staff, the floor staff, and the Maryknights who have been helping to keep the attendance numbers up. These guys have been working hard to make this a profitable endeavor and they need our help.

To stay profitable each week we need an average of 60 people in attendance. The 3rd and 4th weeks have the lowest attendance. The winter months decline because of weather.

So please consider playing BINGO 1 or 2 Wednesdays a month to and support your Council!

There will be no Bingo on Christmas or New Year's Day.

### K of C Super Bowl FUNDRAISER!

Not only is this a great PARTY but it's also a very important FUNDRAISER for the Council!

There are still about 12 boxes available for \$110 each. If you have a box and don't remember paying, please check the reminder list posted in the Knight's Room. This effort needs to be completed-and **SOON!**

Each box includes 5 opportunities to win part of a \$5000 prize and entrance (for 2) to two of the best parties at the Council! The first dinner party is Jan. 19, 2014 in the Columbian Room at 5pm. In addition to open bar, dinner, and dancing, the Super Bowl numbers will be pulled. 2 weeks later, Sunday Feb 2, 2014 you'll join us at 5pm to feast on a fabulous spread of the best "Tailgate Food" around and to watch the Super Bowl on our big screen TV's surrounded by friends!

**Please call Bro. Stan McLeod at 301-949-3205 or find him at the council if you'd like to participate!**



### Memorial Service for Deceased Members



**Sunday Jan 12, 2014  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
8 AM Mass  
Breakfast at the Council**

### Monthly Breakfast

Sunday Dec. 1st 8:00-Noon

12 and older-\$9; 11-4yrs-\$5; under 4yr-\$2  
Fresh Fruit, Muffins, Pastries, Toast, Pancakes, French Toast, Eggs, Hash, Bacon, Sausage, Juice, & Coffee!

### Children's Christmas Party!

**Sunday  
Dec. 22  
1-4pm**



**Lunch, crafts, carols  
and a visit from  
Santa!**



**TOYS FOR TOTS!! FINAL Drop off Sunday Dec. 15th! Container located in Emerald Room Entrance**

## A Season of Hope in Dark Times

The Church experienced a rebuff recently in the culture war against religion. In spite of a letter from the U.S. Catholic bishops about dire effects of the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), the Senate voted overwhelmingly on November 7 in favor of it. The act bans workplace discrimination based on a person's self-proclaimed gender identity. The battle now moves to the House of Representatives.

This is the latest assault on religious liberty in America. *Roe v. Wade*, Obamacare, a growing number of states recognizing same-sex marriage, statutes legalizing physician-assisted suicide, and a host of other laws and regulations are creating a dark moral climate in the nation. In just the past few months, Christian photographers in New Mexico were fined for declining to photograph a commitment ceremony between lesbians; a Christian-owned bakery in Oregon was harassed out of business for not creating a wedding cake for a gay couple; bathrooms and locker rooms in California schools now can be used by any student regardless of his or her gender; and under the HHS healthcare mandate companies soon will be heavily fined if they do not provide their employees with health insurance that covers contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

At the time of Our Lord's birth, Rome sanctioned homosexuality, suicide, gay marriage, abortion, pornography, and other lustful perversions. Does the permissiveness of that ancient culture not appear familiar? Are we not recreating a pre-Christian pagan moral climate?

The movement toward an anti-Catholic, anti-Christian, secularist, anything goes society has been underway for many decades. Like a viscous fluid running downhill, the movement to replace religious constraints on behavior with an unrestrained licentiousness has been slow, but steady. Each encroachment typically has been a small change from what was previously accepted, and thus has gained continued toleration. The cumulative effect, however, is staggering. The current moral temper of the nation is far removed from that of the 1990s, farther from that of the 1970s, and farther still from that of the 1950s.

Christmas soon will be here. This marks the most-significant religious, historical and cultural event in the Western world. It is the overt celebration of the Son of God coming into the world, assuming a human form, and leading a life that would make atonement for our sins. For many years, there has been an effort to secularize this religious remembrance – to ban Nativity scenes from city halls and shopping malls, to expunge Christmas programs and carols from school plays, to replace the greeting “Merry Christmas” with “Happy Holidays,” in effect, to expel from public notice that same Christ Child who could find no place in the public inn.

This is occurring in spite of the fact that 95% of Americans say they celebrate Christmas, and 62% claim to attend religious services either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. It is probable that most of these people do not know or have forgotten the meaning of Christmas. It is more likely that they celebrate Xmas, a month-long frenzy of shopping, gift-giving and partying. We can no longer hide our religious beliefs and deemphasize their public expression? There can be no further accommodation without a total annihilation of Catholic identity, of its erasure from the memories of our young. There can be no further retreat without a total loss of religious freedom, of societal mores based on virtue and morality, and of a public recognition that we and this nation owe our existence to God.

In spite of the moral darkness of our time, there is hope. And that hope rests on Our Lord. Things can change. Many good Catholics and other Christians still live in America. The answer is to begin a counter-movement – and it must start now.

A new liturgical year began with Advent on December 1. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the Church has designated this as a period of preparation and expectant waiting for the coming of the Lord. It is a season of hope. St. Paul reminded the Ephesians that before their encounter with Christ, they were without hope. In spite of their gods, they were without God, in a dark world, facing a dismal future. Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical *Spe Salve (Saved in Hope)*, points out that with the coming of Christ, Christians “have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness...The dark door of time, the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life.”

If people really understood and acted on the meaning of Advent, the world would be a different place. Advent originally was designated as a preparatory period of mortification and fasting. The rules for observance were later relaxed, but the season remains one of penitence.

Is it difficult to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas? Can we not do something each day to ready ourselves for the coming of Christ – say the rosary daily, spend an hour each week in Eucharistic Adoration, abstain from meat on Fridays, go to Confession, attend Mass more frequently, meditate on the liturgical readings through which the penitential spirit of the season is exemplified?

If we do, the results will be profound. As Pope Benedict reminded us, “we have been given hope, trustworthy hope, by virtue of which we can face our present.” For our own sake, and the sake of the people we love, have hope and pray. When we do, the world *will* be a different place.

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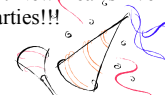

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COMING EVENTS...

**January 2014**

Jan 12th– Memorial Mass  
Jan 18th- "Date Night"  
Jan 19th– Super Bowl #'s Party

## DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1. <b>Breakfast 8am</b> Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	2. <b>Mary's Widow's 11:30</b> Bar: 5-8 D'Antuono 8-11 McNamara	3. <b>Business Mtg 7pm</b>  <b>Bar: 5-8 8-11</b>	4.  Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	5. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Caveliere	6. <b>Crew #9 Chicken Alfredo NEW! Kids Meal!</b> Bar: 5-8 Rick /Pete 8-11 Hardman	7. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 ?
8. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	9. <b>MK Mtg 7pm</b> Bar: 5-8 D'Antuono 8-11 Cassagnol	10. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11: McKinney	11.  Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 DeVol, Con- way, Carey	12. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Jimenez	13. <b>Crew #1 Spiced Shrimp</b> Bar: 5-8 Conway/ Carey/ DeVol 8-11 ?	14. Bar: 5-8 8-11 Slattery
15. <b>TOYS FOR TOTS collection</b> Bar: 5-8 ?	16. <b>Retiree's Luncheon</b> Bar 5-8 D'Antuono 8-11 McNamara	17. <b>Social Mtg</b> Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	18.  Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	19. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Tullis	20. <b>Crew #2 Stan McLeod</b> Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Moore, Langley	21. Bar: 5-8 8-11 ?
22. Children's Party 1-4pm Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Maddox, King	23. Bar: 5-8 D'Antuono 8-11 Seubert	24. <b>Council Closes at 5pm</b>	25.  <b>Council Closed</b>	26. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11 Miller	27. <b>Crew #3 Rick Horner</b> Bar: 5-8 Holmes/ McCaw 8-11	28. Bar: 5-8 8-11 Grey
29. Bar: 5-8 ? 8-11	30. Bar: 5-8 D'Antuono 8-11 McNamara.	31. <b>New Year's Eve parties!!!</b> 	 <b>No Bingo</b>			