



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

Knight Watch



VOLUME 26, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2014

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[At the Christ-
mas Party,] save
\$5 by purchas-
ing in advance
for \$25 each. If
purchasing at
the door, you
will pay \$30.
each.

Grand Knight's Article



On Thurs-
day, November
2, the Fourth
Degree set our
November
activities in
motion with a
Living Rosary
and potluck
dinner. The
traditional Rosary, scheduled each
year in close proximity to All
Soul's Day, is in remembrance of
all deceased Council/Assembly
knights, in particular those who
died in the last 12 months. Our
most recent loss of course was
Julian Post, who died in late July.
The potluck following the Rosary
was, as always, prepared and
shared by our fabulous ladies,
who never fail. Of course there
was great variety in the side
dishes and desserts to comple-
ment the chicken tenders, mashed
potatoes, and gravy provided by
the Assembly. We were blessed
to have a few of the deceased
knights' widows to share the eve-

ning with us. Each, according to tradi-
tion, received a beautiful red rose.

Early morning of November 11
Veterans Day, 16 Council members
were present to raise the flags over
Calvary Cemetery in a show of respect
and appreciation to all those men and
women who have served their country
in the military, many of them having
died in service to their country. Sev-
eral of these knights returned promptly
at 4 p.m. to lower the flags and put
them away until the next flag raising on
December 7 Pearl Harbor Day [See
separate article, p. 8] Among those
named in the Pray for the Sick listing
on p. 7 are several of our council
members who need our regular
prayers: **Deacon Lee Lechner, Jim
Reiter, Fr. Alan Rosenau, Doug
Bolwerk, Joe Palmere, and Dick
Smith**, who is receiving his second
arterial stint within a week on this day,
November 21.

Our November 13 council meeting
turned out to be essentially a social
with another of those delicious potluck
dinners with many wonderful side

dishes to accompany the council's
contribution of ham and roast.

For **Jim Lockwood** who was
honored with a special presentation,
it was an "almost secret" event but
not quite. Jim reported that three
people separately congratulated him
in advance of the evening. He didn't
even have to ask what the honor
was. He was told. Jim has been
named Fourth Degree Knight of the
Year for the Bienville Province,
which includes Arkansas, Louisiana,
Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee.
[Jim says he's considering imitating
the drivers of those big semi's, those
who announce Christmas with an
oversized wreath on the front of
their trucks. Jim says his new plaque
would look great surrounded by
Christmas greenery on the front of
his Christmas red truck. Jim might
have been kidding.]

Our council membership list
grew by three Sunday afternoon,
November 9 with the exemplifica-
tion of three new members: father
and son **Robert and Nick Drake**
continued, p. 4



Year's Fourth Degree Social Highlight this Saturday

The annual
Fourth Degree
Assembly
Christmas Din-
ner/Dance is set for this Satur-
day, December 6. With **Dennis**
and **Sue Wood** chairing
the event and a backup of sev-
eral assistants, we all can be
assured that the careful plan-
ning will ensure a great even-
ing for all of us.

Café 1217 will cater the
dinner, featuring a pork loin
entrée. Putting their sterling

reputation on the line, the
Café 1217 head chef and assis-
tants will serve an exquisite
dinner.

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chasing in advance for \$25
each. If purchasing tickets at
the door, you will pay \$30
each. Several delicious hors
d'oeuvres, compliments by
several Council/Assembly
wives, will be a special treat
during the social hour begin-
ning at 5:30 p.m.

Salt and Pepper band, led
by council member **Larry**

Womack, will provide dinner
and dance music for the third
consecutive year. This group has
always been a big hit with the
guests. In addition to the band,
the "I Can Dance" group will
give a short program immedi-
ately ahead of the band.

The architects of festive deco-
rations, besides **Sue and Dennis**,
will be **Liz and Don Sass, Carol
Koch, Carol Cook, and Evelyn
Enderlin**.

Secure your tickets, come on
out, and have fun!



Tommy is everyone's friend, and we all want to keep him intact. (So listen to your wife, Tommy!)

[Regarding their four-year Hawaii military assignment:] Barbara enjoys saying while she was home changing diapers, Tom spent his weekends scuba diving at Waikiki Beach.....Perhaps the real hardship tour was Barbara's.

[Regarding Tom's eventual military retirement in 1981:] Of course for Tom it would not be a true retirement.

On November 6 our Assembly sponsored the annual Living Rosary in recognition of All Souls Day and in remembrance of all our deceased knights. Following was our traditional potluck dinner with many fine dishes prepared by our ladies to complement the meat supplied by the Assembly. The attendance for the evening was unfortunately low, perhaps because a good number of our men were hunting and possibly also because most of the invited widows find it difficult to get out at night. Only two widows, each receiving a beautiful red rose, were present. Likewise, only two members of our Fourth Degree Honor Guard were present to introduce the decades of the Rosary.

We had a good turnout of knights at Calvary Cemetery on Veterans Day to raise flags as a tribute to all military veterans. Our next raising of the flags will be Pearl Harbor Day, December 7.

Our Fourth Degree business meeting was November 20. The meeting focused on details of the Christmas Dinner and Dance scheduled for this Saturday evening, December 6. **As in the past, this party will replace the December Assembly meeting.** Our January 15 meeting will be a business meeting.

Our December Corporate Communion for Council and Assembly members will be December 14 at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Please come join us.

Finally, knights in regalia will supply an Honor Guard for the approaching Christmas Midnight Mass. **Don Sass, Faithful Navigator.**



A joyous, blessed Christmas to all!



Spotlight on Tom and Barbara



You: "How are you, Tom?"

Tom: "Just ultra-dynamic!"

You: "I thought I had heard you are ailing."

Tom: "What did I tell you about thinking?"

You: "You're going to the Christmas party, aren't you, Tom?"

Tom: "Not necessarily so."

Tom is known for his off-the-wall expressions, which he uses again and again. They have become his trademark. His friends usually anticipate what his next response will be. They are just one of his endearing qualities. We all love Tom, for his ready humor

of course but also because he's a true Knight, always ready to work on council projects, especially the twice-a-year Charity Rummage Sales. He has driven his silver Toyota Tacoma all over Garland County to pick up donations for the Sales, and like the other drivers, he has never submitted a bill for gas.

Unfortunately, for more than a year, his serious health issues have prevented him from doing heavy lifting and, more recently, even from driving. His several surgeries have included open-heart, and several vascular stents, including in his legs. Poor blood circulation on more than one occasion brought him perilously close to losing one of his legs. The good news is that a recent stent in a leg improved circulation and saved his leg. At least for now. His problem with blood clotting also puts him at risk. So far, so good. Tommy is everyone's friend and we all want to keep him intact. (So listen to your wife, Tommy!)

That brings up his wife of 48 years. Barbara. They married on August 20, 1966, in the chapel of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. That's where Tom and Barbara Hensley, a Hot Springs native, met when Tom served in Medical Supply tracking inventory and Barbara was a medic in pediatrics and obstetrics. Tom also had a side job tending bar in the Officers Club on the base. A year after their marriage Barbara left military service to become a dental assistant in Montgomery.

Flashback to Oakland, Rhode Island, a village of about 500 souls. There Tom is born on July 14, 1941 and grows up there through high school, overcoming polio and eventually becoming a 210-pound football player and doing it well, evidenced by his All-State honor during his senior year. After high school he worked a year in nearby Burrillville at a sanitarium for sufferers of tuberculosis.

Then military service was calling. Off to Lackland AFB in San Antonio for Basic Training, where he had his first training in hospital medical supply—a job that he would perform throughout his military years. With **continued, p. 9**

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From Father George Sanders: “Talent Search”



“I wish I had your talent.” How often have we thought or actually said those words? Whether we connect this thought with the Gospel story of the Master giving

three servants three different amounts of talents (an ancient measurement of weight, specifically used in this instance to indicate a large sum of money), we do understand the common meaning of “Talents” as divine giftings of abilities or aptitudes which set the recipient apart as “talented” above the average Joe. Some examples of talented individuals are those who are artistic and who can draw or paint about anything, a running back that seems to have a knack always to find a seam through the crowd when none apparently exists or a teacher who connects with her students and sparks them to seek and long for knowledge, when others have given up on them as a hopeless dolt.

Although we may be rightly impressed by the talents in others, by looking deeper into this Biblical parable, perhaps we might even find something very important about our own giftings. In the Gospel of Matthew we note that the Master gave the servants talents “according to their own abilities,” not too much or too little. So our own talents are our unique giftings, tailored to fit each one of us. These are not random gifts from a divine lottery, so to speak, based on luck or the lack of it, but these gifts are based on our own unique makeup, strengths and abilities. Secondly, the Maser expects us to employ the talents that he has entrusted to us for a reason: the growth of his kingdom. So let us draw a couple of conclusions from this.

First, if our talents were given to us uniquely and personally, based on our God-given created abilities and according to His plan and will in our lives, then these gifts are a window into our own particular calling from God. You can be

sure that whatever God’s call is in your life, it will be congruent with your talents and in harmony with your deepest desires and hopes. Each of us is made for a purpose, a unique and particular part within the whole of His will. Finding the part that we will play in the divine symphony of life, the one that we were created for and uniquely are talented to perform, is the great adventure of life. The happiest people that I have met know the part they play and embrace who they are, seeking to be the best they can be whether that is a teacher, a homemaker, a lawyer or librarian.

Secondly, there is no hierarchy of instruments; each is integral to the symphony. Though he may not play often, **continued, p. 6**



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Grand Knight's article, concluded

and **John Joswick**. Gentlemen, we welcome you! We hope you will become regulars in our council meetings and our varied activities. There's something for everybody!

Chairman **Dennis Wood**, his wife **Sue**, and their many helpers are putting together the final touches of the annual Fourth Degree-sponsored Christmas Dinner/Dance. Do you have your tickets yet? Remember that you will save \$5 for each ticket by securing your \$25 tickets in advance. The same tickets will cost you \$30 each if you delay your purchase until your appearance at the party. **[See separate article for additional details, p. 1.]**

Our still young Columbian Squires organization, active from its beginning, is become increasingly so. Recently they manned a Right to Life booth at the County Fair, and more recently they helped with the Rummage Sale. Presently they are collecting slightly worn coats for those in the community who need warm coats. These young

men seem omnipresent when help of various kinds is needed. Let's do what we can to support them. If you know a young man—12 to 18—introduce him to Squires president **Dayton Myers** or one of his fellow Squires. These guys are our future Knights.

Together, the Knights and Squires, led by Council Deputy Grand Knight **Vincente Gonzalez** and his wife **Gladys** very soon will put together a Christmas float for the Hot Springs Christmas parade scheduled for December 8. If you attended the recent St. John School's Bazaar, you are familiar with Vincente and Gladys's work. They spearheaded the decorations for the annual event. The finished float will serve as a recruitment tool as we display what our Knights, our Squires, and council wives are all about.

The beginning of the Christmas season is upon us. When this newsletter is delivered, Thanksgiving will already be behind us. So will the November 30 first Sunday of Advent, meaning that the celebration of

Christ's birth is fast approaching, as is the celebration of New Years. It's that time of year when smiles and expressions of good will are front and center. It's also the time of year that Catholics are more likely to show that being a Catholic is a very special blessing in itself. Wouldn't it be great if we carried this special feeling throughout the year!

A final council note about Christmas is that—thanks to generous donations from a relatively small group of members—we will give away 1200 CD's at all Christmas Masses at both St. John's and St. Mary's Churches. This will be our third consecutive Christmas as well as Easter 2014 to engage in evangelism in an attempt to bring lapsed Catholics back to the Church and to bring in non-Catholics as well. This Christmas we will test the waters with a good apologetics CD instead of a book./**Andy Anderson, G.K.**

Rummage Sale Donations: Their Management and Disposition



When the Charity Committee was formed several years ago to manage the income from our twice-a-year Charity Sales and to determine how to use the income to the best advantage, the committee members decided that the chief mission would be to serve the community—more specifically, local charities—on an ecumenical basis. The money would be given to important Hot Springs charities with no regard to religion or race. The only consideration

would be need. Any recipients other than these charitable groups would be secondary to the main mission.

Our occasional donations of furniture items and other household items to individuals in need must always be subordinate to monthly donations to charities such as Jackson House and the Christian Charitable Medical Clinic. Even though limited, these donations to individuals have at times become difficult to manage. Our organization has, without intention, found its name placed onto contact sources for essentially every charitable group in town that seeks to help those individuals who have fallen into bad

times for one or more of a variety of reasons, such as a household fire with victims having no insurance to replace the lost items. Of course that mission is more than worthy and one, when feasible, we have participated in. The problem quickly escalates when such requests suddenly become a steady stream. As chairman of the Rummage Sales, I have begun to describe to individuals exactly what our Mission is and why we will be unable to give them furniture/household items or money to pay their utility bills, **continued, p. 8**



From Our Insurance Agent: Keep Christ in Christmas



At Christmas we honor the birth of Jesus Christ. At times our Savior is forgotten in the commercialization of the season and the rush to get ready for holiday festivities. Each year Knights of Columbus takes a leading role in reminding society that Christmas is first and foremost a holy day. Keeping Christ in Christmas is keeping the very heart and meaning of the Christmas celebration.



Randy Schnoebelen, FICF

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



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Father George, concluded

the cymbalist would be sorely missed if he were not there; it would be the same for the tympani or contrabassoon. The secret, of course, is learning what part you play and practicing to be the best you can be at that part. A French horn specialist would never be able to be a clarinetist, or to replace it. His unique brassy talent could never intone the rich airy voice of a clarinet. Celebrate your own talents and calling; it's the one the Master has given you and one that is necessary for the symphony to be for the symphony to be full and complete.

Lastly, it really all does count. There will come a day that the Master will come and ask you to give an account of what you have done with the talents that he has entrusted to you. Have the talents that he gave you increased, and have they been invested in His kingdom? Or have you buried your talents and felt no accountability at all for what he gave you? Have you taken the talents and used them for your own gain with no concern for the will of the Master who gave them to you?

If you are reading this, then the Master has not returned and asked for an accounting from you. That day is sure to come for all of us. And, for you, it is not too late. Offer your time, talents and treasure to God right now. If you are serious and honestly desire to find your place in His divine symphony, I can assure you that the Conductor will help you find your assigned seat and help you to play the music you were created to perform. By finding your place, you will find yourself, and if you haven't yet begun to play the song you were created to play, a great adventure awaits you as you learn who you are and how you can join in the everlasting song. Godspeed, fellow musician.



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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: Deacon Lee Lechner, Jim Reiter, Tony Shields, Doug Bolwerk, Joe Palmere, Gwen DeGruccio, Tom Gilleran, Dick Smith, Gil Gibbons, Carole Ecklund, Greg Meggers (son of George and Barbara), Mary Morrison, Father Alan, Larry Heisserer, Ilse Purkott, Beverly Priest, John Andrews, Frankie DeGeorge, 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



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December Calendar

- 6 Christmas Dinner and Dance, Giompoletti Hall, 5:30 social, dinner and dance to follow.
- 8 Hot Springs Christmas Parade [see Grand Knight's article, p. 2
- 11 Council Meeting, Giompoletti Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Corporate Communion, St. Mary's Church, 11 a.m.
- 18 No Fourth Degree meeting!

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 3 Rusty Baltz | 13 Luke Womack |
| 6 Dick Antoine | 15 Charles Failla |
| 7 Stanley Kowalkowski | 16 Salvadore Delorenzo |
| 9 Robert Ward | 19 Todd Shiver |
| 12 Sam Saddemi | 26 Jim DeGeorge |
| 13 Mike Schnauffer | |



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Rummage Sale: Management and Disposition, concluded

their rent, or cost of gasoline for travel to another city.

Those who work with me know how stingy I am with furniture and household items when our next Sale is breathing down our necks. Foremost in my mind are the monthly monetary contributions to our 10 charities and how essential it is to bring in as much money as possible. Similarly, they know that immediately after a Sale has ended, I am prone to “give away the store,” when personal requests for help come our way. Just this week (November 17-21) we have responded with a lot of items for a lady abandoned by her husband, leaving her with three small children and nothing else. The four live in one room that serves as kitchen, living area, and bedroom. All

slept on blow-up mattresses on the floor. They didn’t have even a kitchen table or chairs to sit on. So we took care of most of their essential needs and have arranged for four twin beds to come from another source in a couple of weeks. We could do those things. But as soon as I returned home from that request, there was another request of a lengthy list of desired furniture and household items, including a washer and dryer, a sofa, a vacuum cleaner, an office desk with chair, a book shelf, and other things. We simply cannot oblige. Most of the requested items we don’t have, but things like the washer and dryer—even if we had them—would by necessity have to be reserved for the next Sale. Sorry that’s the case, but it IS the case. Trying to carry out two conflicting missions becomes a delicate balancing act./**Jim Lockwood, Chairman**

Veterans Day Flag Raising



Before 7 a.m. on November 11, sixteen council members were present at Calvary Cemetery, first to enjoy coffee and donuts, compliments of **Don Sass**, then to raise 18 flags in commemoration of Veterans Day, the special day for honoring all of our country’s veterans, living and dead. Besides **Don**, those present were **Dick Smith, Ray Kukuk, Joe Dierks, Harold Hager, Dennis Bosch, Joe Giompoletti, Stan DeGruccio, Dennis Wood, Leonard Buckholz, Mike Tucker, Bob Koch, Ed King, Joe Kanopsic, Andy Anderson, and Tom Gilleran**. Most of these men returned to the cemetery at 4 p.m. to lower the flags and put them away until the next occasion for raising the flags. The next occasion for flags is coming up very soon: Pearl Harbor Day, December 7.

Council and Assembly Member George Schwass Loses Battle with Cancer

George Schwass, after a year-and-a-half fight against cancer, died Sunday at the age of 51. He became a member of Knights of Columbus only in recent years, but during that brief time he became a member of both Council 6419 and the Fourth Degree Assembly, the latter achievement only two months ago when his life was slipping away. He was a member of the last Exemplification here in Hot Springs. George was recruited to Knights by his employer **Newton White** of Instrument & Supply. His funeral service was December 4 at Caruth Hale Funeral Home with **Fr. George Sanders** officiating.

About Those CD Give-away at Christmas Masses

An order for 1200 CD's, including 200 Spanish-language CD's, "Church Beliefs" by Jesse Romero at \$2.20 each, will be ordered to distribute from Council 6419 at all Christmas Masses for both St. Mary's and St. John's Churches. Not counting postage, the cost comes to \$2640. Unfortunately, at this point we are about \$240 short. So I am appealing for more personal donations to reach the required amount. We don't have much time. To ensure that the CD's arrive in time, an order needs to be made not later than December 12.

With the real possibility of bringing lapsed Catholics back to the Church and perhaps a non-Catholic or two as well, this apologetics mission is surely more than worthwhile. (If donations should surpass the needed

amount, the surplus will be applied toward an Easter CD or book offering.) I wish all council members had the opportunity to hear the English-language CD's that are under consideration but because of having only one or two or three CD's on hand, that is impossible. Four of those titles are "Why Be Catholic?" by Patrick Madrid, "Sola Scriptura? Faith Alone?" and "The Fullness of Faith" by Stephen Ray, and "The Four Pillars of Marian Doctrine" by Mike Sweeney, a 5-time Major League all-star baseball player. All four of these are powerful for the purpose of apologetics. You may purchase these or other great CD's, DVD's, or books from lighthousecatholicmedia.com. Individually, the CD's sell for \$4.00 each, the others for varying amounts.

If you can make a donation, even a small one, please send to the council post office box 22927 c/o **Larry Stidman**, Hot Springs 71903 or directly to

me at 107 Jennison Square, Hot Springs 71913.

As you probably saw in the church bulletin from St. John's and St. Mary's, both churches are co-sponsoring an Advent speaker, **Michael Cumby**, a convert from evangelical Protestantism, who will alternately speak at both churches. An apologist, Cumby should be a perfect lead-in for the Christmas CD's. Mark your calendar for this December 14-17, Sunday-Wednesday, at 6 o'clock. And be sure to invite your lapsed Catholic and non-Catholic friends/family to join in.

Another item of apologetics information is that **Matthew Kelly**, the author of *Rediscovering Catholicism* and *Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* [Seen at Dynamiccatholic.com] will be speaking at St. **concluded, p. 10**

Tom and Barbara, continued

Basic Training behind him, Tom hopped, skipped, and jumped to a litany of military assignments: Chenoot AFB in Rantoule, Illinois, a year and a half in Fairbanks, Alaska, and to Maxwell in Alabama, where as described earlier, Tom and Barbara met and married. Three years later, Barbara became pregnant with their first child, and three months later, Tom was transferred to Vietnam. While Tom was away, Barbara lived with Tom's sister in Connecticut, and their first son Shawn was born there on January 25, 1969. It would be nine months—October 1969—before Tom would see his first son. Immediately after his return to the States, Tom received orders to report for duty in Honolulu (a real hardship tour) where the family would spend the next four years, during which two more sons would be born: Tommy on August 13, 1970, and Paul on May 23, 1972. Barbara enjoys saying that while she was home changing diapers, Tom

spent his weekends scuba diving at Waikiki Beach. This no doubt was part of his hardship tour. Between weekends Tom worked in the surgeon general's office keeping track of medical supplies. Perhaps the real hardship tour was Barbara's.

Then came the move to Kirtland A.F.B. in Albuquerque for two years, next four years at Patrick A.F.B. in Satellite Beach, Florida, and—finally—to Berkstrom in Austin. After two years there, with an option of transferring either to Washington, D. C. or Germany, Tom decided—or was it Barbara?—that it was time to retire from military service and retire to Hot Springs in June of 1981.

Of course with Tom it would not be a true retirement. Within a few months he was delivering for UPS, a job that lasted 15 years—from the spring of 1982 until June of 1997. Then he began working three days a week for Monroe Shoe Company, first driving a

forklift, then later as a Quality Control Inspector. Genuine retirement began five years later in 2002.

The one great sadness in Tom and Barbara's marriage was the 1988 death of their first son Shawn, who was killed in an automobile accident when he was only 16 years old. Son Tommy, of course, is locally well-known as a highly successful football coach at Fountain Lake High School. He has won a state championship and been a contender in other years. Youngest son Paul lives in Conway, working for Axiom in management of computer programming.

In a sense Tom has never really retired, at least not until recent health problems. His and Barbara's Hot Springs years have been a blur of activities. For many years they have been involved members of St. Mary of the Springs Church. Barbara is a Eucharistic minister and Tom is an usher at the Saturday afternoon Mass. Moreover, when the church needs volunteer help, **concluded, p. 10**

Tom and Barbara, concluded



On a cold February property clean-up day in the woods, Tom sweeps debris from Bill Thompson's trailer.

many years with the police department, retiring from that only a

Tom is one of the chief go-to guys for moving furniture for special occasions and, along with Barbara, helping plan and carry out church picnics and other social events. Apart from church activity, Barbara worked

couple of years ago. And there are Tom's Knights of Columbus activities. He joined Knights of Columbus on May 1, 1960, while still in Rhode Island. But he was inactive throughout his military career, re-activating his membership here in Hot Springs Council 6419 in 1997. And, as described earlier, he has performed many roles. About the only thing taking precedence over Tom's Council activities are Tommy's Friday night football games in the fall and other family events, particularly those involving grandchildren. And when Tom goes, so does Barbara.

Here's to Tom and Barbara for the next twenty-five years of so. Great friends, great contributors!

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About Those Christmas CD's, concluded

Joseph's Church in Conway in March. [Date not known by me.] Tickets are selling for \$39, but for those interested in apologetics, the cost is worth it. You perhaps remember that our first council book offering at Christmas Masses was *Rediscovering Catholicism*.**Jim Lockwood**



A Blessed Christmas to All!