



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

# Knight Watch



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“Surely through recent years we all have noticed the pristine condition of our council property, including the well-manicured grass, the plantings along George Marshall Way, the flower beds by the Cross and next to *Giompoletti Hall*, the cleanness of the interior of *Giompoletti Hall*, the presence of needed supplies for the bar, the kitchen, and the restrooms.”

## Grand Knight’s Article



Council 6419 and the Centennial Fourth Degree Assembly plunged into October at a run. The Assembly set the pace with an October 4 Exemplification in St. Mary of the Springs Parish Hall that brought 16 new members into membership. [See **Fourth Degree article, p. 2**] The Hot Springs Assembly hosted the event, which was the first for our own **Newton White** in his new role as State Master and also the first for our own **Father George Sanders** in his new office as State Friar. The event, including the banquet catered by Chris Westbrook and the Hog Trough Catering Service, was an outstanding success. It was also a learning experience for most of us involved. I’m so sorry that one of our new Assembly members,

**Doug Bolwerk**, has been quite ill following a stroke. His struggle continues, and we all should be offering ongoing prayers for Doug’s recovery. His hospitalization began near the time of the Exemplification. Only this week he has been moved from St. Vincent’s to the nursing home on Golf Links Road, where he is receiving therapy.

We officially have a major change in council offices. Replacing **Zack Nehus** in the Treasurer’s role is **Larry Stidham**, a CPA, presently doing accounting work for Wilson Home Improvement Center here in Hot Springs. Clearly, Larry has a knowledge of finance, and we welcome him (and thank him!) for agreeing to take on this responsibility. He is also among the new Assembly members exemplified October 4. His son **Landon** is an active member of our Squires group.

I would like to thank the many people—members, wives, and other friends of our council—who played a part in the recently ended fall Charity Rummage Sale, which once again met all expectations in assuring the funds

necessary to disburse impressive monthly financial assistance to nine local charities. I pay homage especially to the ever-faithful ladies for their remarkable contributions to this sale. To borrow the tribute that **Chairman Jim** never tires of proclaiming: “Without the ladies, we would have to close the doors.” He insists that is no exaggeration. Thank you, ladies.

Surely through recent years we all have noted the pristine condition of our council property, including the well-manicured grass, the plantings along George Marshall Way, the flower beds by the Cross and next to *Giompoletti Hall*, the cleanness of the interior of *Giompoletti Hall* (meeting room, kitchen, and restrooms), the presence of needed supplies for the bar, the kitchen, and the restrooms. Surely most of us are keenly aware that the person most responsible for maintaining this order is **Richard Smith**. Of course he has had support from others, **continued, p. 4**

## Rummage Sale Results Please

The merchandise was abundant, the workers were ready, the weather cooperated, and the net result was more than satisfying. The tally as of October 27 is \$26,298.85—our second best result ever.

From this total the council will receive \$3000 plus 5 percent of the income above \$20,000. Presently the Charity Committee is disbursing \$3500 each month to nine charities in Hot Springs—**Jackson House, the Food Bank, Charitable Christian**

**Medical Clinic, The Caring Place** (day care for victims of Alzheimer’s), **Safe Haven** (shelter for homeless women), **Samaritan Ministries** (shelter for homeless men), **the Crisis Pregnancy Center, residents of Hot Springs Housing Authority** (diapers and toiletries), and **The Branch**, residential living for recovering men with drug and/or alcohol addiction. In addition, an additional \$1000 contribution is given to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** from each of our two

annual sales for its work with the poor of Hot Springs.

The success of any sale always depends upon the volunteer assistance from a multitude of people—those who work faithfully throughout the collecting and organization routine and those who come for all or part of the actual sales. The sale just ended was no different. Gratitude and appreciation go to **Sue and Dennis Wood, Liz and Don Sass, Mildred and Joe Giompoletti, Carol and Bob Koch, continued, p. 4**



On Saturday, October 4, the Hot Springs Centennial Assembly hosted an Exemplification for 20 candidates in the beautiful new parish hall of St. Mary of the Springs Church. Of those candidates, one came from Little Rock, one from Jacksonville, one from Fairfield Bay, and one from Conway. The remaining 16 come from the Hot Springs Assembly, which locally is likely the largest class of new members ever. Congratulations to these new members and also to those who worked hard to enlist these new members. Our new local members are **Dr. Joseph Cenac, Joe Dierks, Simon Jordan, Vincente Gonzalez, George Schwass, Ed King, Hans Purkott, Ron Zlotnik, Ben Van Wagner, Larry Stidman, Don Sluyter, Doug Bolwerk, Doug Hall, David**

**Myers, Greg Speas, and Thomas Pitts.** The Exemplification was in honor of **Father George Sanders**, who has agreed to be the State Friar of the Fourth Degree. **Vice Supreme Master Bob Peters** was the Master of Ceremonies at the Banquet.

The October 16 dinner meeting with wives at Back Porch Grill had a smaller than ordinary attendance, but those present were treated to great food. Twenty-three were present, including two of our new members. Our next meeting will be November 20 in *Giampoletti Hall*. For dinner we will have Big Turkey Subs. Social hour will begin at 5:30

But our first November event will be a Living Rosary/Potluck Dinner in recognition of All Soul's Day. On

Thursday evening, November 6, beginning at 6:30, we will honor our deceased brother knights, especially those who have died during the past year. Following the Living Rosary we will enjoy a potluck dinner with the Assembly providing the meat. We request that each family present bring a side dish to share.

Chairman **Dennis Wood**, with his wife **Sue**, continues with preliminary planning of the Christmas Dinner/Dance, which is just a bit more than a month away. Café 1217 will put its great reputation on the line when they serve us a pork loin dinner. Ticket cost will be \$25.00 in advance or \$30 at the door.

Remember the raising of the flags at Calvary Cemetery on **Tuesday, November 11** in commemoration of Veterans Day./**Don Sass, Faithful Navigator**

“But our first November event will be a Living Rosary/Potluck Dinner in recognition of All Souls Day and our deceased knights.”



## Spotlight on Larry and Dianne Nieman



one year.

Spending their lives through university graduation in St. Louis, **Larry and Nieman** took a circuitous route to arrive eventually just one state below in Hot Springs. After a year in New Orleans and 20 years in Dallas, they moved to Hot Springs in 1999 when Larry's professional life took a radically different turn. From 1983 until 1999 he had been the Executive Vice President of Solomon Associates, a consulting firm working with oil refineries around the world.

But when the firm sold out, he put his consulting life aside and began a search for interesting locations and equally interesting new challenges in the job market, where he and Diane could turn their lives to another direction—not only geographically but also professionally. At 55, Larry was certainly not ready to retire. So he considered several possibilities

and finally decided to venture into the world of glass. In Hot Springs he purchased SPA Glass that focused on automobile glass replacement and Arkansas Glass, which deals with commercial and residential glass. SPA Glass in time became a franchise of Glass Doctor and of course carries that name. Larry and Dianne's son Larry, Jr., after working with his father in Arkansas Glass bought out the Glass Doctor operation.

His professional life began in his home state when he worked as Senior Technologist for Shell Oil Company in St. Louis. Next, for one year he was Engineering Manager with Good Hope Refining in New Orleans. Then began the Texas years when he was employed by Turner, Mason and Solomon, a Dallas company for which he was a consultant to oil and petrochemical companies around the world. In 1983 he co-founded Solomon

“As a sophomore Larry was a fraternity brother of Bill Fischer, who arranged a date for Larry with his freshman sister Dianne.”

Larry and Dianne were born in St. Louis and received their education there in Catholic schools, including for Larry four years in a high school seminary under the Redemptorist Fathers. His university training was under the Jesuits at St. Louis University. So was Dianne's. As a sophomore, Larry was a fraternity brother of Bill Fischer, who arranged a date for Larry with his freshman sister Dianne Fischer. Their relationship grew from there, and on August 5, 1967, Larry and Dianne Fishcher married. Larry left the Jesuits with majors in chemistry and physics and minors in philosophy and theology. With her bachelor's degree in mathematics, Dianne taught high school math

**continued, p. 6**

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## From Father George Sanders: “Free As a Bird”



Love: What a profound reality that regrettably exists today largely in the shallows of our modern-day existence. Back in the day (a phrase used only by those possessing the true gravity of maturity), love was the theme and inspiration of every other song on the radio (The “Three Dog Night” song “Just an Old Fashioned Love Song” now floods my mind, dancing with my thoughts, and like the last song of the prom when memories are so richly laden with feelings and dreams of youthful love...you don’t want the music to ever stop.) So where did all the love songs go?

Within the 60’s and 70’s we began a social revolution, perhaps more accurately termed a devolution in many respects. Sensing the inebriation of a new-found freedom from moral norms and the advent of a sexual liberation,

we failed to sense that freedom from “An Old Fashioned Love Song” could never liberate our souls to become a Free Bird. But free we became. As Lynyrd Skynyrd glorified our sexual liberation by intoning the natural beauty of one-night stands, free of commitments, we learned that love was to be freely, fully and intimately experienced with no expectations of permanence.

Think with me now. We essentially traded in the old fashioned idea of romantic love, when a man and woman through fate or divine intervention find their soul mate, the person that is so complementary to their own personality, wishes and dreams that the object of our amorous affection completes and complements who we are within ourselves. Because of this heart-felt attraction, a gravity between souls, we never want to imagine life without them and find ourselves inextricably drawn together, desiring to walk hand-in-hand though life. In this trade of values, we gave up the idea of “permanence” for “freedom from per-

manence” and commitment in relationships. Now my modern soul was a Free Bird, but the price may have been too high. Have you ever made a trade and soon afterward wished you had your stuff back? I have. Sometimes what appears to be a good thing may in the end rob you of something infinitely better. So, in the name of freedom, when we separated sex from love in our oral thinking, did we make a good trade? Hardly. Is it any surprise that divorce rates are greater than one out of every two marriages. Incidentally the institution of marriage has also faded as quickly as “An Old Fashioned Love Song” from our modern consciousness. Modern couples see marriage as archaic and often puzzle why anyone would

.....concluded, p. 5



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## Grand Knight's article, concluded

"Not one of us is indispensable, but Dick comes mighty close to that mark. Thank you, Dick, again and again for all that you have done for us and all that you are doing for us."

especially from **Don Sass** and **Joe Giompoletti**, but day in and day out, Dick has been the man. No one has greater pride in the K. C. property than Dick Smith. **But now Dick is sick.** He has had a few health issues along the way, but the one weighing on him now is his struggle to snap back following his recent hospitalization with pneumonia. He'll get there, but it will take time to get back his sapped energy and his breathing capacity. Please keep Dick in your prayers! Not one of us is indispensable, but Dick comes mighty close to that mark. **Thank you, Dick, again and again for all that you have done for us and all that you are doing for us. Take care of yourself!**

The Columbian Squires of Hot Springs are growing in number. Under the leadership of **Dayton**

**Meyer**, two new members have recently been added. The group has adult guidance from **Vincente Gonzalez, Dayton's father David, and Father James West.** These Squires are not afraid of work. They are there to come to the assistance of our council, our Fourth Degree Assembly, our churches, and our community. They need encouragement and support from all of us as, in the one year of their local existence, they have become an important addition to the scene.

Very soon now—just a few days—we will be involved in the dedication of the **Julian Post Playground**, at St. John's School. One of our longtime council members, Julian died unexpectedly in late July. The upcoming tribute will recognize and honor Julian's years of volunteer supervision of playground activities at the school. Our council is providing appropriate

playground signs, including a bronze plaque bearing Julian's name, to be put in place on the playground.. Thanks to **Stan DeGruccio**, who explored sources and costs for the signs, and to Joe Kanopsic, who has arranged for a pecan tree to plant in Julian's memory. Watch for the date of the dedication to be announced soon.

Finally—and very importantly—a First Degree Exemplification is scheduled in *Giompoletti Hall* on **Sunday, November 9**, at 3 p.m. If you are a sponsor of one or more of the candidates, it is important that you be present to show support. Approved candidates are **Jack Benson, Johnny Blakely, and John Joswith.** We would like a good council attendance to show the importance of this occasion as well as showing sup-

## Rummage Sale, concluded

**Carol Cook, Carol Andrews, Janet Kanopsic, Judy Kirton, Sue Stephens, Gil Gibbons, Karen Gibbons, Dawn Thompson, Rosie Meyer, Chris and Dennis Bosch, Dick Smith, Evelyn and Paul Enderlin, Susan Harper, Barbara and Phil Genauldi, Bonnie Nied, Alecia Stecks, Debbie Wood (Dennis and Sue's daughter-in-law), John Steinhaus, Martha Lockwood, Stan DeGruccio, Luis Rivera, Harold Hager, Leonard Buchholz, Sandy and Bob Kortenber, Phyllis and Rusty Baltz, Audrey McDonald, Tony Shields, Ed King, Tom Gilleran, Trevor Mill-sap, Jim Elder, Jody Dvorak, and Larry Nieman.**

Much appreciation to **John Steinhaus**, council member and

owner of ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning, who came on two occasions to clean several rugs and upholstered chairs. And of course we're always indebted to **Joe Giompoletti**, the man of many contributions but in this case is applauded for his several food preparations for the work crew. Ribs, pulled pork, burgers...whatever the entrée of the day...we were always in for a special treat. And, thank you, **Phil Genauldi**, Joe's new chef-in-training, who assisted Joe in the kitchen. (The only grumbling that I overheard during the entire Sale was from Joe's regular customers when Joe was absent the second weekend of the Sale, thus leaving their palates unsatisfied and their stomachs empty. Finally, thanks to those ladies who brought cookies, candies, etc. to sell in *Spirit Hall*. Coffee and sweets are a big hit with some of the Sale patrons.

With Holy Week and Easter the first week of April, we have most of April from which to choose for our spring Sale. Though subject to change, the likely dates are **Friday and Saturday, April 17-18 and 24-25.** That will allow us the two weeks following Easter to move into *Giompoletti Hall*, clean, organize, and price.

It probably will not be surprising to learn that collections for the spring sale are underway. The first large pick up of donations was this past Monday, a collection that among a lot of other things included a large Bassett lighted china cabinet in excellent condition. On Thursday we collected a vintage bedroom set and on Saturday a good-looking large sectional sofa. Those three collections translate to a great beginning for spring collections. Keep 'em coming! **Jim Lockwood**

"With Holy Week and Easter the first week of April, we have most of April from which to choose for our spring Sale. Though subject to change, the likely dates are Friday and Saturday, April 17-18 and 24-25."

## Does This Amaze You?

Converts to the Catholic Church from other faiths it seems almost always are more fascinated with details of other people's conversions than lifelong Catholics are. An opinion. Not always true of course but often true.

Stephen and Janet Ray, now strong Catholic apologists, are from an evangelical Baptist background in which they were strongly anti-Catholic, taught against the Church, and won converts from the Church. Not in their wildest dreams could

they ever have imagined being Catholic. But the Spirit works in remarkable ways, and becoming Catholic is exactly what they eventually did, as reported in Stephen's book **Crossing the Tiber**, published by Ignatius Press. He and his wife had, in spite of themselves, become attracted to the Church and had investigated its claims thoroughly. But they had never been inside a Catholic Church. Then they attended their first Mass. Here are excerpts from their reaction, taken from page 50 of the

paperback edition: "The people around us were raising their hands to the Lord Jesus, singing out loud in obvious worship to the Creator of the universe, singing out loud with adoration. These were supposed to be pagans and statue worshipers, idolaters, and the 'unsaved.' Janet and I were angry about all the lies we had been fed [from their Baptist upbringing] but at the same time overjoyed to find a Church to match what we had read about. I must admit that Janet and **continued, p. 8**



### From Our Insurance Agent:

I want to bring to your attention, as a valued member of Knights of Columbus, that November is Long-term Care Awareness Month. During the next few weeks it will be appropriate for you to take a moment, first, to honor someone you know who has put aside his own career and personal life to provide care for a family member and, second, to reflect on what will happen to those you love if you ever need special care over a number of years.

I have worked with far too many clients who have asked for my help only after they were faced with the prospect of needing long-term care. Although each person's situation was

unique, each shared something in common. First, all were successful financially and, second, everyone who developed dementia or a chronic illness had been absolutely convinced—beyond any doubt—that it would never happen to him.

Unfortunately, these individuals never realized that their on-going care would quickly become all-consuming to those they loved and that the strain over providing never-ending care would in time make them sick as well. In addition, no one understood that there were financial consequences. Paying for care placed their families in a precarious financial condition.

The only way to prevent this happening to your family is to create a

plan, the goal being to keep you safe at home, while preserving the emotional, physical, and financial well-being of those you love.

I want to extend an offer to meet with you to discuss, not the risk of needing care, but rather how severe the consequences of providing care would have on those you love if you ever did need such care. I too share some ideas about putting together a plan that mitigates those consequences.

A brother Knight helping you protect you and your loved ones!

**Randy Schnoebelen, FICF**  
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## Father George: "Free Bird," concluded

want to limit their options in life by being legally and unnecessarily bound to someone with whom they could eventually fall out of love.

I don't know about you, but I believe that our trade of "committed love" for "free love" was not such a good deal. Our society traded the desire for a soul mate for the freedom to have a succession of one-night stands; committed love for relationships with no permanence, a full and free-giving of ourselves to our spouse for the rest of our lives to meaningless sex with our present partner (or flavor of the day), as long as "it is good for me." Sexual revolution or devolution....you decide. To my way of thinking, the Free Bird isn't so truly free.

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



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**Larry and Dianne Nieman, continued**

Associates, Inc., a Dallas company for which he was Executive Vice President until the company sold in 1999 and his Hot Springs venture began.

The Niemans are parents of three children: Larry, Jr. born in 1968, Suzanne Marie in 1970, and Craig Martin in 1974. The three children have given Larry and Dianne nine grandchildren. With good reason the Niemans are very proud of their children and their families. Each of the three children has two degrees. In addition to their bachelor's degrees, both Larry and Craig have MBA's, and Suzanne has a second bachelor's in dietetics as well as having published her first children's book *The Night Before Christmas in Ski Country*. Both grand-daughters are currently at the top of their classes, the grandsons are heavily into Scouting, and grandson Erik, in spite of his cystic fibrosis, is a strong competitive swimmer, potentially a future Olympic swimmer.

Beyond his various employments, Larry filled his spare time with an array of community and church commitments. During his boys' growing up years, he was much connected to Scouting activities from Cubs and Webelos to advanced Scouting culminating with the rank of Eagle (achieved by Larry and Craig). In Dallas he was Scoutmaster of St. Patrick's Troop and was a Merit Badge counselor. Even in Hot Springs he has lent his experience to the District Scouting Committee.

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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: Doug Bolwerk, Gwen DeGruccio, Tom Gilleran, Dick Smith, Gil Gibbons, Carole Ecklund, Greg Meggers (son of George and Barbara), Danny and Mary Morrison, Father Alan, Larry Heisserer, George Schwass, 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

## November Birthdays

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 4 Glenn Worsham       | 17 Rene Anderson  |
| 5 Rob Meeks           | 19 Farrell Hass   |
| 5 Dcn. Bob Standridge | 22 Ed King        |
| 8 Doug Hall           | 23 Dennis Bosch   |
| 8 Frank Janaskie      | 25 David House    |
| 11 Vance Arlotta      | 26 George Purifoy |
| 15 Fr. Jack Vu        |                   |

## November Calendar

- 6 Living Rosary, *Giampoletti Hall*, 6:30 p.m. (See Fourth Degree article, p. 2)
- 9 First Degree Exemplification, *Giampoletti Hall*, 3 p.m. (See Grand Knight's article, p. 4)
- 11 Flag Raising, Calvary Cemetery, Veterans Day, 7:00 a.m.
- 13 Council Meeting, *Giampoletti Hall*, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Fourth Degree meeting, *Giampoletti Hal*, 6:30 p.m.



Happy Thanksgiving!

## Flags for Veterans Day



Remember the flag raising scheduled at Calvary Cemetery at 7 a.m. on Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11. Flags will be lowered at 4



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## Larry and Diane Nieman, concluded

Larry’s church-related activities have been numerous. In Dallas he was on the Advisory Financial Board of Dallas Jesuit High School as well as for Dallas Ursuline Academy. He was president of St. Patrick’s Parish School Parent Association, president of St. Patrick’s Parish Council, and member of the Financial Committee and has served in the latter two roles with The Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist here in Hot Springs. Both he and Dianne are Eucharistic Ministers at St. John’s Church. His teaching experience included Finance and Economics to seminarians as well as to various pastors in the Diocese of Dallas.

Larry is a member of Knights of Columbus Council, having been a Third Degree Knight since 2002 and has

since become a member of the Fourth Degree Assembly, including the ceremonial Honor Guard. He is prominent among active membership, serving the council in a variety of way. The Charity Rummage Sale organizers are in particular grateful to Larry for his extreme generosity in providing replacement glass when needed for glass-top tables, etc.. During the annual Drive for People with Disabilities (Tootsie Roll Drive) Larry becomes involved with collecting donations and counting money. He is frequently on to help with cooking and serving at council-sponsored food events. Larry and Dianne have become valued contributors to Hot Springs, the Church, and the Council/Assembly.



**Fourth Degree Exemplification, October 4, St. Mary of the Springs Parish Hall**

## “Does This Amaze You?” concluded

I wept.....

“Janet and I have never gotten over the experience of this first Mass. I will never forget the seat that I sat in. We drifted out in a daze and had lunch afterward, enchanted with the liturgy we had just experienced. We couldn't wait to return the following week to Christ the King Catholic parish. We had no idea that Masses were celebrated every day of the week in hundreds of thousands of locations. We thought you could go only on Sunday. Our children quickly joined in our enthusiasm and have grown to love the Church as we do.”

Does Stephen’s and Janet’s reactions to participation in their first Mass amaze you? Catholics who have never known anything but the Mass may be surprised at their emotional response. Sometimes, in the face of regular routine, we become complacent; we come to take what we have for granted. Converts to the Faith, remembering what they had before Catholicism, remembering how inadequate it was, probably are more likely to relate to the inner and outward joy experienced by the Rays.

For those interested, there is a highly interesting website (for converts especially). “Why I’m Catholic” is found at [whyim-catholic.com](http://whyim-catholic.com). When the page opens, click on “Conversion Stories” at the top. Then from a dropdown, choose from the various Protestant denominations for the stories you want to hear. Stephen and Stephanie Ray’s story is among those under “Baptist.”