



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

Knight Watch



VOLUME 27, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2015

Inside this issue

From Father George, p. 3

From Our Insurance Agent, p. 5

Fourth Degree—Footnotes, p. 5

Pray for Our Sick, p. 7

August Calendar, p. 7

August Birthdays, p. 7

July 11 Fourth Degree Exemplification, p. 8

Apologetics in Action, p. 8

Grand Knight's Article

July in the Hot Springs area is a time to remember for more reasons than the sweltering heat, especially if you happen to be an involved member of Hot Springs Council 6419 or Village Council 10208. The big evidence of this July is the result of the annual bi-council July 18 Charity Golf Tournament played at Magellan Golf Course in the Village and chaired again by **Hans Purkott**. The recipient of this Knights of Columbus charity regularly is St. John's Catholic School. [See separate article below.] Hans has already begun plans for the 2016 Tourney, moving the event to June instead of July. Perhaps that change will give us a playing temperature in the 80's rather than the high 90's we experienced on the 18th. On behalf of our council I thank Team Hans for all its work toward the successful outing. But even though he has a good team, Hans is always looking for new members. It took him a couple of years to land me, but he found a job I could do and I came aboard. (I

drove the golf cart while **Charlie Cook** took pictures. I didn't spill my tea or get a ticket for reckless driving, so perhaps Hans will allow me to return next year.] Our young men of Columbian Squires, in their second year of participation in the golf tournament, have made a valuable contribution to the cause. They have added spark to this event. Under the leadership of **Dayton Myers** and **Robert Drakes**, these Squires were all around during the day, serving where they were needed. St. Mary's has a new golf celebrity. If you have not heard, please ask **Father George** about his putting. I believe, however, someone suggested he hold onto his day job

July was more than the annual opportunity to play golf and to eat **Joe Giompoletti's** mouth-watering ribs. It was also the month we had a Vocations celebration. Last Saturday, July 25 the council carried out its plan to give our young Catholics—boys and girls—an opportunity to hear

about the religious life as a priest or a sister. **Bishop Anthony Taylor** was present to celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass, and following the Mass the Vocations program began. In addition to Bishop Taylor, present were **Father Erik Pohlmeier**, **Fr. James West**, and **Seminarian** (and council member) **Luke Womack** to discuss vocations. Six youngsters were present—four from St. Mary's and two from St. John's. State Master of Fourth Degree Assemblies **Newton White** was the moderator of the program.

If you happen to have business on the council property on Spring Street, you very well may see knights and their wives in the midst of one kind of council business or another. It may be grounds work, painting, unloading a trailer of rummage sale donations, or organizing donations that have come in previously.

continued, p. 2

Golfing for St. John's School

Hans Purkott, Chairman and Wonder Man of the area golf courses, has done it again! With a lot of help of course. Once again his efforts, coupled with those of a lot of fellow Knights, Squires, and others have produced another windfall for St. John's School. A windfall it is, albeit not to the degree of last year's result. Some unexpected last-minute complications cut into the total profit.

Unfortunately several ladies' teams canceled because of the heat. Another negative was that Hans was unable to collect as many prizes as last year and, as a result, had to use some proceeds to purchase prizes. On the other hand, our Squires had a fabulous day at the bank. For one thing their efforts resulted in a donation of 22 rounds of golf from the Grand Knight of the Russellville council. Hans purchased

those rounds for \$550. to use as prizes. Altogether he spent more than \$1300 for prizes. On top of that, the use of Magellan Golf Course for 140 golfers cost more than last year: **\$4549.97**. Other expenses, included \$500 for advertising and \$2800 for food. Final figures are undetermined, but at this point, after expenses,

continued, p. 2

Grand Knight, continued

The heat is an obvious hindrance, but ladies like **Liz Sass, Sue Wood, Carol Koch, Martha Lockwood, Carol Andrews, and Sue Stephens** just start early enough to get in three hours or so of work before the heat drives them out. Work ethic like this is one reason that Council 6419 will also be a leader, not a follower.

I thank Deputy Grand Knight **Vincente Gonzalez**, who due to my illness covered for me at the July 9 council meeting. He stepped in at the last minute to do my job, and reports of the following day assured me that he did a great job, holding the meeting to 45 minutes. I'm not sure how Vincente did that. He and I need to have a meeting about this soon. Thank you, Worthy Sir.

A lot of talk has centered on **David Myer's** approaching move to Little Rock with son **Dayton** in tow. The reality is that they ARE planning to move to Little Rock, but they assure me that they both plan to continue their roles in the Council, Assem-

Council Charity Golf Tournament, concluded

I can project an approximate **\$8700** for St. John's School and **\$2215** (20% of total) to be divided equally between Council 6419 and the Fourth Degree Assembly.

The Columbian Squires amassed a total of \$3000 for their combined business ventures. Of that total \$2400 is assigned to the Squires' Scholarship Fund and the remaining \$600 (20%) to their Recreation Fund. The Squires also raffled a 50-inch television set, bringing in an approximate \$500 for **Vicki Stanley's** Suicide Prevention Program. We are so proud of what the Squires are doing. They are learning a lot! Also I want to thank my daughter Angie and her friend Dawn Speas, who took in the most donations for the drinks on Holes 12 through 18. They collected \$235. So this is pretty much the nuts and bolts of the tournament mechanics. Those of us who participated I'm confident all had fun. As in previous years, **Chuck Wagon Joe Giompoletti** and his crew served the best BBQ and trimmings in town. The crew fed about 200 golfers and volunteers. Joe gives much credit to his crew, which included **Bob Koch, Jim Elder, Wally Frazee, Joe Kaptopsic, Don Sass, Don Sluyer, Larry**

bly, and Squires. To seal the deal, David has already ordered Tootsie Rolls to continue as chairman of our annual Drive for People of Disabilities. And Dayton, again, has accepted the position of chief Squire. The two of them have been and will continue to be important to us.

On July 20 Council 6419 treated the altar servers of St. John's Church to hamburgers with the trimmings at ARC-Isle, where they also enjoyed swimming. This is an annual council event for our altar servers. Those getting the job done were chief chef **Joe Giompoletti, Danny Morrison, Phil Genauldi, Bob Koch, and Dennis and Sue Wood.** Thanks to all. A good number of the Altar Servers are Columbian Squires. **Father West** has a wonderful relationship with his Servers, serving not only as their spiritual advisors but mentoring them

Stamps, Danny and Mary Morrison, Larry Nieman and Bob K o r t e n b e r . Chef Giompoletti bowed out in the afternoon, turning the reins over to the young Squires who served the afternoon golfers hamburger lunches. Chairman **Hans** acknowledges the heavy work done by **David Myers**, including his corporate sponsorship. And gratitude to **Jack Keck** for collecting prizes and for directing the afternoon golfers. He also thanks Village knight **Ralph Melenson**, who brought in more than \$3000 in cash and prizes from Village merchants. **G o o d j o b , m e n !**

So after all the smoke had cleared, who were the winners on the green? Just as last year, St. Vincent won the tournament with a score of 51. Coming in second

toward a mature Catholic life and possibly to religious vocations. Father, we all are grateful for the wise guidance you give to our young people.

Finally, unless you have been out in the middle of Lake Ouachita for the last couple of weeks or in another location with no phone, newspaper, TV, or radio, you have heard the outrageous news about body parts being harvested from aborted babies and sold for the benefit of "Planned Parenthood." It was a shocking revelation. Our own local good news comes from **JoAnn Carter**, Director of ChagePoint Crisis Pregnancy Center. JoAnn tells us that use of the ultrasound machine donated by our council in cooperation with the Supreme Council has resulted in this year alone the saving of 38 babies whose mothers, before seeing ultrasound images, were planning to abort. To hear such news is heartwarming./ **Andy Anderson, Grand Knight**

was a ladies' team with a score of 53. [One of the ladies canceling her team before the tournament began confessed that the team winning the tournament was the real reason for their cancellation, not the heat. "They are too good," she said.] **Drs. Don and Steve Bodemann** and their team came in 3rd. [Another side note: When they came through Hole 15—the hole the Squires were selling for \$20—this team did not buy the drive. Dr. Steve explained that he hit a 300-yard plus drive. "We do not need to buy the drive." All four men hit the ball out of sight. Unfortunately, not one ball could be found. They were all out of bounds. They gladly paid me \$30 for the drive so they could move forward without a penalty. God works in mysterious ways! In the afternoon competition the Village team of **Ed Miller** was the winner with a score of 55. **The really big winner of the day was St. Mary's own Father George Sanders. But that's another story. That miracle on the greens demands its own article!** [See page 7!]

Knight Watch Sponsors

Newton & Linda White
 Joe & Sandra Cenac
 Frank & Lynn Janaskie
 Paul & Mary Jo Selig
 Ed & Cheryl King
 Hans & Ilse Purkott
 Larry & Dianne Nieman
 David and Darla Myers
 Bob and Carol Koch
 Jody & Shelly Dvorak
 Paul & Evelyn Enderlin
 John & Denise Steinhaus
 Bob & Ethel Kness
 Don & Liz Sass

Zack & Stephanie Nehus
 Wally & Lucy Marroy
 Dennis & Chris Bosch
 Joe and Jayne Dierks
 Bart Newman
 Charlie and Carole Cook
 Harold Hager
 Mark & Stephanie Layton
 Randy & Marty Schnoebelen
 Jim & Martha Lockwood
 Audrey McDonald
 Gil & Karen Gibbons
 Dennis & Sue Wood
 Hugh & Pat Truesdale

Bob & Sandy Kortenber

Joe & Agnes Petruk

Louis and Vi Kosarek



Office: 501-915-0313

Cell: 501-204-9488

E-mail: randy.schnoebelen@kofc.com

Randy Schnoebelen Knights of Columbus

Field Agent

P. O. Box 8790

Hot Springs Village, AR 71910

From Father George Sanders: “Shiver Me Timbers”



I'm getting old. Don't tell me you haven't noticed. This old ship has logged many a mile, and it's been a wonderful and fulfilling journey thus far (not that it's that

close to port and dry dock yet, Mate.) But just the same, I've been thinking about what it means to get old(er) and near(er) to the completion of this life's journey and what awaits us once we leave this mortal life. As a pastor and hospital chaplain, I have been privileged to walk with some as far down the path as I could (the last few steps can only be taken alone) as they passed from this life to the next. So, for what it's worth, here are a few of my own conclusions.

First, none of us should be surprised that one day we will complete our life's journey on this earth. That's really not a surprise though some people seem to be shocked when they

come face to face with the eventuality either for themselves or for someone close to them. The other fact to bear in mind is that people die at every age. We all have an expiration date, although most of us don't really have any idea about how long we have left. This tells me two things. First, there is nothing unfair when someone dies “before his time,” since he really didn't die before his time. It's a fact of life. No one is promised a tomorrow. And, second, this very reality should motivate us to live well each day as a gift, not as something we take for granted. Remember to live each day as if it were your last and you will never be disappointed. And this leads me to a secret to living life fully that I would like to share with you.

I believe that life has a purpose, a higher call, a divine reason that gives it a fullness of meaning, a richness of being. That purpose is union with God. Like a runway, life's purpose is to allow us to leave behind the gravity of this world and to soar to free-flight into the boundless

presence of God. Life is the tarmac that aids our takeoff and readies us for that final leap from the terrestrial to the celestial realm. Realizing our own goal as union with God, the ancient adage of “seek not a good life, but a good death” starts to make sense. In this context a good death is one that is prepared for, one that is as simple as a follow-through of a great swing. When “finishing strong” is the goal, the finish line doesn't seem intimidating at all. No runner who is in his stride fears the finish line, but patiently anticipates it. You can't rush it or move its location backward or forward; you just have faithfully to run your race, whether a sprint, hurdles, or a marathon, with the goal, the finish line, in mind.

continued, p. 4



SCOTT'S

HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.

Lic. # 0113310708

Roofing • Painting
Fire & Water Restoration

Home 501-463-9114
Cell 501-617-1537

Owner
Scott Hrdlicka



P. O. Box 22927
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71903-2292

Phone: 262-2228 (K.C. Hall)
622-0191 (Grand Knight)

Charity, Unity, and Fraternity
“In service to one, in service to all”



ServiceMASTER Clean **John Steinhaus**

Commercial Cleaning Services **ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning**
 3655 C Malvern Avenue
 Hot Springs, AR 71901-6709
 501/262-4390
 501/360-5558 Beeper

TRUSTWORTHY HOME INSPECTION SERVICES

Joe Kanopsic
Licensed Home Inspector
 Arkansas license number: 1606

115 Westminster Pl
 Hot Springs, AR 71901
 Phone: (501) 262-5829
 Cell: (501) 276-1670

Arkansas Glass Company
Serving Hot Springs & Surrounding Counties Since 1945

Phone 501-623-3306
 Fax 501-623-3538
 24 Hr. Emer. 501-520-1300

217 Hicks Circle
 Hot Springs, AR 71913
 www.arkansasglass.com

LARRY NIEMAN

Store Fronts	Glass	Overhead Doors
Hollow Metal Doors	Mirrors	Shower Doors
Automatic Entrances	Plexiglass	Solariums
Hardware	Windows	Porch Enclosures

Father George, continued

And the great thing is that the end is the beginning. Our Christian faith tells us that our greatest experience in this life, our highest moment, our quintessential life statement is but a flicker compared to the light of his Presence. Our most fulfilling moment in this life is only a wisp, a fleeting taste compared to the Fulfillment of all of our desires, when we see Christ. It is this founded Christian Hope that

gives meaning and substance to everything and every moment in our lives. Buoyed by this sure and certain hope, we can endure the storms and uncertainties of life because our hope, our life is firm and secure in Him. Though the beams may creak and the timbers may shiver, there can be a certain comfort that this ship will eventually sail its last journey and finally come home to port, safe and secure forever, not because

we know the course or the length of the journey, but because we know and trust the Captain who has traveled these waters before and knows the way home.



From Our Insurance Agent: Different Life Stages, Changing Needs



Paying for college for your children may be one of your family’s current needs. You may be concerned about a comfortable, worry-free retirement. You may wonder

whether the need of costly long-term care will deplete your hard-earned assets. You want to have something to leave for your wife, children, or grandchildren.

At some point you may have had all of these needs on your mind. Over time, these thoughts make way for others as

your needs evolve, your finances change and you get older. What is important to you at age 20, may not be at 30, or 45, or 65. What is the best way to be prepared for these changes before they happen?

One of the easiest ways to be financially ready for changes that come with different life stages is to meet annually with your professional Knights of Columbus agent, and address the needs that his analysis uncovers. This can help you be ready to face the financial challenges and issues on the road ahead..

During that annual visit, I’ll take the time to review your needs, goals, and

budget. I’ll update all beneficiaries on your policies and be sure your coverage meets your needs. I’ll recommend a program of life insurance, long-term care insurance and guaranteed income annuities, disability income policy, that will help you rest easy at night.

Whatever your needs, whatever your concerns, whatever your stage in life, I can help.

A Brother Knight helping you and your loved ones!

I’m at 501-204-9486 or randy.schnoebelen@kofc.com. Call me—let’s talk.

Randy Schnoebelen, FICF

Fourth Degree—Footnotes



AUGUST SOCIAL: Our August Social will be held at Jose’s Mexican Grill and Cantina located at 5361 Central Avenue Jose’s is located just south of Lake Hamilton on Highway 7 South, Central Avenue on the left-hand side as you travel south. We will meet on Thursday, August 20 with arrival between 5:30 and 6 p.m. and dinner at about 6. Sir Knight and owner **Jose Soto** will be our host.

SEPTEMBER BUSINESS MEETING: Our meeting will be on Thursday September 17 at *Giampoletti Hall*. Doors will open at 5:30 with dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting immediately following. Sir Knights **Harley Martinelli and Joe Palmere** will be our cooks.

OCTOBER SOCIAL: The October social will be held at the Wok Buffet on Central. Johnny promises that we will again be treated to a delightful evening of good food. I look forward to seeing everyone there. If you went to last year’s

dinner there, you know how good it was. I am sure we will have a meal as good or better. If you didn’t make it last year, ask someone who did how good the food was.

2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY: We have voted into place a plan for our annual Christmas Party, which will be held on Saturday night, December 5. Cost of the tickets for the party will be \$30 each. We need to fill the hall this year and share in a great evening of dinner and dancing to the music of *Salt ‘n Pepper*. Tickets will go on sale in September so gather your friends and fill a table of eight. **Ilse Purkott** will be planning our menu, and our cooking team will be working with her. The menu will be German dumpings, goulash, cucumber salad, red cabbage and dessert. Knights, be sure to make plans to attend and encourage your friends to join us.

A TASTE OF FAITH: We are pleased to announce that the Fourth Degree Assembly of Hot Springs will be supporting our seminarians by sponsoring “A Taste

of Faith” Dinner to be held in the spring of 2016 at St. Mary of the Springs Parish Hall. The dinner is still in the planning stage, including the date. We are meeting with **Msgr. Scott Friend** to pick a date. Our dinner already has the support of a number of council members. Our hope is that enough members will step up and help sponsor the dinner so that we can contribute to the seminarians all the funds donated by those attending the dinner. If you would like to help with the dinner, contact **Chairman Dennis Wood** (623-8655) or Faithful Navigator **Joe Kanop-sic** (262-5829) Keep in touch for more details.

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS: We are planning a Pancake Breakfast for St. John’s Parish Hall on Sunday, September 13 and St. Mary’s on October 4. We will need to get the approval of the churches and as soon as the dates are set, we will let everyone know. The proceeds from the breakfasts will benefit the Fourth Degree treasury.

continued, p. 6

Officers & Directors 2013-14	
Chaplain	Fr. George Sanders
Grand Knight	Andy Anderson
Financial Secretary	Joseph Dierks
Deputy Grand Knight	Vincente Gonzalez
Chancellor	Robert Koch
Advocate	Ed King
Recorder	Charles Cook
Treasurer	Larry Stidman
Warden	Hans Purkott
Lecturer	James Reiter
Inside Guard	Don Sluyter
Outside Guard	Doug Bolwelk
TRUSTEES	
One-Year	Dennis Bosch
Two-Year	Newton White
Three-Year	Mike Tucker
APPOINTED	
Membership Chairman	Joe Kanopsic
Retention Chairman	Joe Kanopsic
Program Director	David Myers
Family Director	Mark Layton
Church Directors	Joe Kanopsic
	Wally Marroy
	Ron Zlotnic
Council Director	Dennis Bosch
Pro-Life Director	Joseph Cenac, MD
Outreach Chairman	James Reiter
Publicity	Charles Cook
Building & Grounds Care	Richard Smith
Bar Manager	Richard Smith
Webmaster	Dennis Bosch

Welch Funeral Home
 202 South Fourth Street
 Arkadelphia, AR 71923
870-230-1400
 www.welchfh.net

Joe Palmere  Funeral Assistant

COAKLEY COMPANY INC. 

KEVIN COAKLEY
PRESIDENT

Underground Utilities:
Sewer • Water • Cable

Excavating Construction:
Storm Drains • Site Work • Clearing

6822 Albert Pike Road
 Royal, Arkansas 71968
 Phone (501) 767-5800
 Fax (501) 767-0070
 Email: coakleyklc@aol.com

 **John Steinhaus**

Commercial Cleaning Services

ServiceMaster Commercial Cleaning
 3655 C Malvern Avenue
 Hot Springs, AR 71901-6709
 501/262-4390
 501/360-5558 Beeper

Fourth Degree, concluded

COLOR GUARD: Our Color Guard continues to be the go-to group for K. of C. ceremonies across the state. Guard Commander **Ed King** has filled a number of dates at the request of a number of people. We need to support Ed and our Color Guard. In short, we need more members to accept the honor of patriotic service and join the Color Guard. Contact **Ed King** or me./**Faithful Navigator Joe Kanopsic**.



Knights of Columbus 6419

P. O. Box 22927
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71903-2292

Phone: 262-2228 (K.C. Hall)
622-0191 (Grand Knight)

Charity, Unity, and Fraternity
"In service to one, in service to all"



INSTRUMENT & SUPPLY, INC.
P.O. Box 1679, Hot Springs, AR 71902
501-262-3282 Phone 501-262-4847 Fax
501-622-0191 Cell
Email: nwhite@isiequip.com
www.isiequip.com

NEWTON WHITE, P.E.
President/Owner

Water & Wastewater Treatment Equipment & Controls

Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: Deacon Lee Lechner, Tom Gilleran, Travis (son of Pat and Hugh Truesdale), Jim Reiter, Barbara Reiter, Oscar (Buddy) Gloor, Tony Shields, Doug Bolwerk, Joe Palmere, Carole Ecklund, Peter Lewis, 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, and Fr. Raymond Rossi

August Calendar

- 13 Council Meeting, Giompoletti Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 20 Fourth Degree Social, Jose's Mexican Grill and Cantino, 5:30 p.m. (See Fourth Degree article, p. 5)

Father George Sanders: Putter Slugger

He's on God's team all right! If not, there's no way the feat of this past Saturday on Magellan Golf Course could have happened. He's most commonly called "Father George," but a few observers of the Charity Golf Tournament would like to re-christen him "Father Lucky." Luck, skill, or simply God's will, whatever the explanation for his amazing putt—the tournament's unquestionable highlight—Father George went home with a handsome 60-inch Vizio television set.

So what happened? The winner of the putting contest would be the player whose putt came closest to the Hole on the practice green. The putt was an approximate 80 feet and slow. Each competitor had to pay \$10 for the first putt and \$5.00 for the second. The putt that came closest to the hole was 17 inches away. That is, until Father Lucky had his turn. With putter in hand, Father went into action. From the way the ball sailed over the green, it appeared he was using a driver rather than a putter. The ball hit the 30-inch flag stick dead center, climbed the stick to its full height, and fell into the hole. Folks, it was NOT a hole-in-one. It was a HOLY one. If that ball had missed the flag stick, it would have been 30 yards long!/**Hans Purkott, Tournament Chairman**



Alecia W. Stecks
REALTOR®

Cell/Text 501-831-7143
Office 501-623-2511 • Fax 501-623-3536
Alecia.Stecks@era.com

ERA Rushing McAdams Polychron REALTORS®
4039 Central Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
erahotspings.com




August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Don Heck | 22 Walter Frazee |
| 7 Jack Keck | 23 William Edgar |
| 13 Danny Morrison | 24 Andrew Casey |
| 15 Simon Jordan | 24 Paul Noel |
| 15 Conrad Stein | 25 Scott Hrdlicka |
| 16 James Womack | 25 Larry Nieman |
| 21 Nicholas Kowalkowski | |




THE WINE RACK & SPIRITS SHOPPE

1910 ALBERT PIKE
HOT SPRINGS

"We offer Great case pricing"
(501) 624-2080

Hot Springs Fourth Degree Assembly Hosts Successful Exemplification

On Saturday, July 11 the Hot Springs Fourth Degree Assembly welcomed 33 candidates for the Exemplification ceremony in the Parish Hall of St. Mary of the Springs Church. The Degree team included **Newton White, Bob Koch, Joe Kanopsic, Doug Hall, and Larry Nieman of Hot Springs, Jacob Delay of Cabot, Jimmy McKinnon, Marc Rios, and Jim Limbird of Little Rock, and Father Bill Elser** of Hot Springs Village Sacred Heart Church.

Candidates hailed from Texarkana, El Dorado, Little Rock, Van Buren, Conway, St. Vincent, Morrilton, Hot Springs Village, Arkadelphia, Pine Bluff, and Hot Springs. Of the 33 new members 16 now belong to our own Assembly. It was a larger class than ordinary and those from our Assembly comprised a particularly large group, perhaps a record.

It was a full afternoon through early evening of activities, beginning with an 11:30 a.m. light lunch for men and their wives. When the preparation for the Exemplification began at 1 p.m., activities for the ladies began and continued till 3 p.m. At the conclusion of the Exemplification all participants attended the 4 p.m. Mass at St. Mary's. Activities concluded with a banquet at 6 p.m.

In Case Someone Asks You: Apologetics in Action

A good number of Catholic beliefs are not explicitly supported by the Bible. Intercessory pray to saints, particularly to Mary, is one of our practices that Protestants often find offensive and insist are non-Biblical. Belief in Purgatory is strongly implied in the Bible but, again, not explicitly defined. And since non-Catholics typically believe the Bible is the only source of the truth, that difference often makes difficult a reasonable discussion of our differences. Divine Tradition—those truths found in non-Biblical writings from the earliest centuries—are not always found in the Bible. But they are critical in any discussions we have with Protestants of why we believe certain things that they do not believe. Invariably they turn a deaf ear to the idea of a Divine Tradition passed on from the earliest writers of the Church following the death of the last original Apostle, John.

But our belief in Tradition is clearly substantiated in the Bible. The Bible does tell us that Jesus said many things that are not

stated in the Bible. John 21:25 “Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them was written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.” St. Paul says, 1 Corinthians 11:2 “Hold fast to the traditions that I handed on to you.” And again, 2 Thessalonians 2:15 “Hold on to traditions, whether ORAL or by letter.”

As for Protestant belief that the Bible is the only source of divine truth, quite simply it is not. It's the **Church** that is the "pillar and foundation of truth." (1 Timothy 3:15). For 393 years after Christ there was absolutely no Bible. The Canon of the Bible was determined in two Church Councils--The Council of Hippo (393) and the Council of Carthage (397). By whom? The CATHOLIC CHURCH. Many Protestants have not a clue that the Bible they treasure came to them through the Catholic Church. So the determination of the Canon is a perfect

illustration of the Church being the "pillar and foundation of the truth." not the Bible. The Church is and always has been guided by the Holy Spirit. The truth is that the Church could exist to this day and to the end of time, still spreading the truth, even if the Bible had never been written. For centuries before the availability of the Bible, the Gospel was spread through the power of the spoken word as well as through written letters.

Editor's note: This is the kind of material discussed each Friday morning, 6:30, at St. John's Parish Hall by the group known as "Men of Faith," led by Deacon Robert Wanless. Please come join us.

Grand Knight's article, concluded

