



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL 6419

# Knight Watch



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## Grand Knight’s Article

It's very difficult to believe that the month of November is over already and, like clockwork, an e-mail asks for my monthly report. On any given month I can sum up by saying Council 6419 is the most active council in Arkansas if not the entire United States. During November we were simultaneously going in different directions, sometimes seemingly with no rhyme or reason. But with a team of knights like ours, often with input from their wives and our two parishes, invariably it all comes together for us. Ultimately, of course, it is God who makes good things happen for us and to us.

Certainly November did not disappoint. There was the record-setting Charity Rummage Sale with well over \$31,000, leapfrogging over our previous \$28,000 record. The final installment of the Tootsie Roll sale, while not the best ever, was very good as

well. Add on to these events a Pancake Breakfast, a Chili Cook-off and a potluck and Rosary at *Giompoletti Hall*. And as these things were happening, the Assembly was putting together its plans for our annual Christmas Dinner Party with dance. [See Fourth Degree article, p. 2] The party is on December 5 at *Giompoletti Hall*. The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Please join us!

Also underway, with Deputy Grand Knight **Vincente Gonzalez** and his wife **Gladys** leading the way was—and IS—the planning an construction of our council float entry in the December 7 Hot Springs Christmas Parade. Accompanying our float will be knights in regalia and a collection of pupils from St. John’s School as well. The theme of our float will focus on “Keep Christ in Christmas.” I wish to thank in advance **Kevin and Lisa Coakley** for al-

lowing us to use one of their trailers for our float. We have need of a few more folks to help with the float. Please contact **Vincenti [545-5942] or me [501-425-9368]** to find out when the working will take place.

**Special note to some of our new Knights:** Thank you for stepping up and helping at the Chili Cook-off and at the recent Pancake Breakfast. **Greg Swale, Tom Baird and Dennis Berry** joined some of the always-there cooks and servers to show their support of the knights’ activities to support the Church and our community.

Of course it is always gratifying to see so many of our council members serving as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers. It is especially pleasing to note that new council

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## Council Charity Committee to Have First Meeting Since Sale

The Charity Committee will have a breakfast meeting this Friday, 7:30 a.m., at Phil’s Restaurant across from Oaklawn Track. This will be the first meeting since the Fall Charity Rummage Sale ended November 7 and will be occasion to assess the nine local charities presently receiving our monthly disbursements totaling \$3400, plus two semiannual gifts

of \$2000 each to St. Vincent de Paul Society.

With the recent Sale having brought in a record \$31,000—plus, members will consider whether we can either increase individual donations of present charities or potentially even to add a new charity. Also of possible consideration will be whether any funds should be directed toward

improvement of our sale buildings.

Charity Committee members are **Chairman Stan DeGruccio, Dennis Bosch, Jim Reiter, Tom Gilleran, Joe Giompoletti, Bob Koch, and Jim Lockwood**. Ex-officio members are **Grand Knight Andy Anderson and Treasurer Glen Worsham**.

## Grand Knight, continued

member **Dennis Berry**, a relatively new member of St. John's Parish, has already established himself as a frequent Eucharistic minister at the 10 a.m. Mass. It is also gratifying to note that of five active deacons in St. John's and St. Mary's, four are council members—**Deacon Joe Harrison, Deacon Robert Wanless, Deacon Lee Lechner, and Deacon Robert Standridge**.

I wish to thank **Father West** for coming down to the Chili Cook-off and enjoying the downtown community and a little Chili to boot. We did not win but the KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS banner was prominently displayed as were our knights in Knights of Columbus shirts showed our belief in Christ as well as our support of the community.

During November Hot Springs was the host of the Family Icon which is now traveling throughout the country, courtesy of our Supreme Council in New Haven. We were able to display the Icon for two weeks with the support of both parishes here in town. We very much thank **Father George and Father West** for all their support.

We are coming up on the best time of the year with the commemoration of the birth of Christ. Once again our council, in full evangelistic mode, will distribute 1000 gift copies of Matthew Kelly's *Rediscover Jesus* from Dynamic Catholic to Mass-

goers at all Christmas Masses at both St. John's and St. Mary's Churches. Two hundred twenty-five of those books will be Spanish translation. Also at both churches Fourth Degree members in regalia will provide an Honor Guard—at the St. John's Midnight Mass and St. Mary's 11 p.m. Mass.

I hope and pray that all have had a blessed Thanksgiving and that your Christmas finds you and your family anticipating the celebration of the birth of our Lord./**Andy Anderson, Grand Knight**

## Fourth Degree—Footnotes

A special thank-you to **Hans Purkott**, and especially to his wife **Ilse**, for a wonderful meal prepared for our November 19 business meeting. The currywurst was great.

The preparations for our annual Assembly-sponsored Christmas Dinner and Dance are underway. Everyone—and I mean every knight, no matter what degree, any member of our two local parishes as well as those of Sacred Heart Church, and any friend of a knight—is welcome. In short, everyone! Tickets are still available but are selling fast at \$30 a ticket. The party is set for Saturday night, December 5 at *Giampoletti Hall*. Social hour begins at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. I hope all of you will come for a wonderful evening of good German cuisine, dance music by *Salt 'n' Pepper*, and beautiful Christmas decorations.

Dues notifications will be in the mail soon. You can save the Assembly postage by paying your dues at the Decem-

ber joint Council/Assembly meeting. Dues remain \$20. We will collect dues at the meeting. Please be prepared to pay with a \$20 bill or with a check made to Hot Springs Assembly 1892.

We did not win the big downtown Chili Cook-off last week, but all involved had a great time. Many thanks to our cooks **Chuck Pavlovich, Tom Baird, Phil Genauldi, Joe Dierks, Danny Morrison** and servers **Dennis Berry, Tom Baird, Andy Anderson, Greg Swale, Jack Keck, Vincente Gonzalez** and, finally, to **Joe Giampoletti**, who lent the team his much-needed cooking equipment.

We have an exciting and eventful calendar shaping up for the next year. I look forward to having fun with all of you.



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**Randy Schnoebelen**  
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 Hot Springs Village, AR 71910

You may have heard that we are forming a Second and Third Degree Exemplification team. We need members with at least Third Degree status to participate as members of this team. Team membership will involve a once-a-year Exemplification in our council hall and potentially three or four elsewhere. We are forming the team with the Village, Benton, and Arkadelphia. Please step forward. Some men have expressed willingness to serve, but we need more.

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**From Father George Sanders: “When Wholesome Games Take a Nasty Turn”**



The following article from Father George was printed in December 2013. His current article will return in January.

Back in the day when kids actually played outside after school and games like “Kick the Can,” “Hide and Seek,” kick-ball and sandlot baseball were all the rage, we often got together for a friendly game of “King of the Hill.” On our block in the 60’s, it was more entertainment than competition. These epic battles normally took place in my front yard, since it was a quickly sloping yard that terminated in a grassy drainage ditch before joining the seldom traveled road, providing a fairly wide, ready-made and safe field of combat. The noble pugilists included knights, maids and squires (from 5 to 12 years old) with the imagined story line more important than athletic ability. In our war games, women and children competed as well as the men in the well-timed and executed Hollywood stunt roll. (You know, the kind John Wayne might have done jumping from a crashing stage coach (being much more appreciated by the crowd than pride of place at the top. )

In our neighborhood of kids, it was really a lot of fun, and everyone was welcomed to join. But what was great kids’ play loses some of its innocence and charm when we continue trying to play the same game as adults. No longer for fun, this game can be serious business with the players willing to do anything to get to the top. You probably know what I mean. In the adult game, being King of the Hill is all that matters, whether in friendly conversations, social engagements, or life in general. The weapons of warfare are jobs or positions or friends or vacations or educational/professional pedigrees; it’s a matter of who you are, what you have, who you know and what you have done that gets you to the top. Reminiscent of professional wrestling, there are no friends, only foes in this free-for-all. Though many find themselves drawn into the game, there are two things that one should know before thinking about joining the fun.

First, the only way to get to the top is to pull everyone else down. The only way you can win is by making sure no one stands higher than you. You must dominate all contend-

ers. Seasoned players of the adult type of this game are experts at one-upmanship. If you went to Chicago, they have been to Venice. When you re excited about the new Ford you just bought, the words can barely escape your mouth before they begin to opine voluminously on the benefits of their BMW (“It costs quite a bit more, but it is certainly worth the price difference.”) It’s the rules of the game. No one can pretend any advantage over you. He must be cut down at all costs.

One other thing that you might want to know before committing to this game is that no one ever really wins. Your coronation is but momentary, a fleeting fame, because as soon as you scrap your way to the top, someone else will try to discredit or malign you so as to ascend to your rightful throne at the crest of the hill. That’s just the way it is played. For those veterans of the game, I have noticed that they are all too often wounded, bleeding and battered, but they are still climbing that hill hoping against hope that they will finally win on the next try. In this adult game of King of the Hill, the only winners are those who have stepped far enough back to see the reality of the game and have come to see that the real winners in life have left this game in the innocence of childhood, where it belongs.





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## From Our Insurance Agent:



We are getting closer and closer to the end of another year. Have you met all of your goals of preparing for your retirement and have enough insurance to cover *your family's needs*, in case something happens to you? Tempus Fugit!!! It's *easy to say next year when things get better*. You know as well as I know that another year goes by and *things are the same*. **Let's face it!** No one wants to think about

one's own mortality, but the fact of the matter is that nobody lives forever. The *best gift* of all for your family is doing something about it. When you buy a Knights of Columbus Insurance Policy or Annuity you are not only preparing your retirement and your family if something happens to you, but you are helping give to charity. This last year **\$173.5 million dollars** was given to those who are less fortunate. Believe in the LORD as he hath said, "Whomever you help in my name you will reap ten-fold". Where can you do both: help those less fortunate and take

care of your family. Where else, but *Knights of Columbus Insurance* and Annuities!

**GOD BLESS ALL! Have a Blessed Christmas Season!!!**

**FRATERNALY YOURS ,  
Randy Schnoebelen, FICF,  
Field Agent - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
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**P.S. Pray for our Troops!**

## Plans in Infancy for Major Fund Raiser Toward Support of Seminarians

Many of you know that the Diocese of Little Rock for several years has sponsored a large dinner party aimed at generating funding for our diocesan seminarians. The event is called "A Taste of Faith." For a few years it was held at the Little Rock Embassy Suites, where it drew several hundred Catholics from parishes around the state. Then in August of 2014 the dinner was moved to the Little Rock Convention Center, whose banquet room can seat considerably more than Embassy Suites, and the attendance for 2014 and 2015 must have been 7 0 0 - 8 0 0 p e o p l e .

Their formal dinners are lovely, including ample beers and wines. Also included are talks by key clergy members, including **Msgr. Scott Friend**, the diocesan Director of Vocations. Present are **Bishop Taylor** and many priests. Our seminarians are always introduced and they provide a nice program, including music, and a few of them tell their vocation stories. **Of course, the attendees have responded in advance of their plans to be present, an absolute essential item of information for the**

**planning committee**. While there is no charge for tickets to the dinner, everyone knows the purpose of the dinner and, therefore, an appeal for a monetary commitment is forthcoming. Msgr. Friend has the honor; and if you know, Msgr. Friend, you know he knows how to make a strong appeal.

St. John's and St. Mary's Parishes have had excellent representation at these annual dinners from the beginning. **But now we would like to initiate a similar fund-raising dinner locally**. Of course we have had a couple of such dinners in our council hall, but now Council 6419, with consideration of the major importance of the cause, would like to expand the size of our local contribution in support of our future diocesan priests.

The Diocese of Little Rock has chosen Saturday, November 12 as the date for our first fund-raising event. That is the first date that representatives from the Vocations Department can be present. It is hoped of course that **Msgr. Friend** can be present as well as **Father Erik Pohlmeier** and others. Msgr. Friend's health is a pos-

sible conflicting issue.

So our plans are very preliminary, with most details still to be determined. The Diocesan Office has requested that we choose an event name different from "A Taste of Faith." At least tentatively, that name will be "Our Living Supper." The dinner is being sponsored by Hot Springs Fourth Degree Assembly 1892 and the chairman of this first event will be Faithful Navigator **Joe Kanopsic**. So far, members of Council 6419 and Assembly 1892 have pledged over \$1700 toward financing the dinner.

The chosen site is the Parish Hall of St. Mary of the Springs Church, which has a seating capacity of approximately 250 people. A principal organizing couple is **Sue and Dennis Wood**, who are requesting other volunteers to step forward to join the organizational phase. Having expressed interest to date are **Alecia Lockwood, Lisa Lary, Carol Koch, Martha Lockwood, Amy Hafer, Karen Praetzel, Sessie Hrdlicka**. **To help, please call Sue at 623-8655.**

The Diocese of Little Rock has an outstanding record of securing new


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**Officers & Directors 2013-14**

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Deputy Grand Knight	Vincente Gonzalez
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Advocate	Ed King
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Please pray for the following council members, wives/relatives, and council friends who struggle with health problems: Deacon Lee Lechner, Tony Pollock, Tom Gilleran, Marge Knoth, Jim Reiter, Barbara Reiter, Oscar (Buddy) Gloor, Tony Shields, Doug Bolwerk, 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



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## December Calendar

- 5 Christmas Dinner/Dance, *Giampoletti Hall*, 5:30 Social, 6:30 Dinner
- 7 Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation
- 8 Pearl Harbor Day, Flag Raising, Calvary Cemetery, 7 a.m.
- 10 Joint Council/Assembly Meeting, *Giampoletti Hall*, 6:30 p.m.
- 18 No Assembly Meeting
- 25 A Merry, Blessed Christmas to All!

## December Birthdays

- 3 Rusty Baltz
- 6 Dick Antoine
- 7 Stanley Kowalkowski
- 9 Bob Ward
- 12 Sam Saddemi
- 13 Mike Schnauffer
- 13 Luke Womack
- 15 Charles Failla
- 16 Salvador Dilorenzo
- 19 Todd Shiver
- 20 Tim Doocy
- 21 Thomas Baird
- 26 Jim DeGeorge



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## Fourth Degree—Footnotes, concluded

### Fourth Degree Calendar

**December 5:** 2015 Christmas Party: Ilse Purkott is 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. All knights be sure to make plans to attend. Music will be provided by Larry Womack and the band. It will be great food and great fun.

**December 7:** Pearl Harbor Day. Flags up. Also the Hot Springs Christmas Parade

**December 10:** Combination Council and Assembly Meeting, *Giampoletti Hall*.

**December 17:** No Assembly Meeting

**December 24:** Honor Guard for Midnight Masses at St. John's and St. Mary's.

**December 25:** Merry Christmas!

**January 21:** Assembly business meeting, *Giampoletti Hall*, 6:30 dinner.

**January 23:** Rib Tickler Din-

ner, *Giampoletti Hall*

**January 30:** Fourth Degree Exemplification, Bella Vista

**January 31:** Fifth Sunday Living Rosary

**February 10:** Ash Wednesday

**February 14** Valentine's Day

**February 18:** Assembly Social, Steinhau Keller

**March 12:** St. Patrick's Party/Joe Kanopsis, Faithful Navigator

## “A Living Supper,” Aimed at Support of Diocesan Seminarians

seminarians and seeing them through the long journey to ordination. Consider this: **In 2014 the population of Arkansas was approximately 3,000,000 with 122,842 (4.1 percent) Catholics. In contrast, the Diocese of Galveston-Houston at the same time had 6,249,000 people of which 1,181,000 (20%) were Catholic.** In spite of this huge difference in the Catholic population, while the Diocese of Little Rock currently has 41 seminarians, Galveston-Houston has 47, just six more. Clearly, the efforts by the Vocations and Seminarian Office of

our diocese have been incredibly fruitful. Certainly **Msgr. Friend** has had remarkable results, as have his assistants, including **Father Erik**.

While our “Living Supper” plans are in their infancy, this undertaking is of huge importance. We’re talking about support of our future priests. In a world that has seen a big decline in our priests and other religious, our Diocese is obviously doing something right. The seminarian increase in recent years has been gratifying. But we

realize that we must do what we can to make easier the long journey from the discernment stage to ordination and a lifetime vocation.

Our hope is that local interest in this undertaking will reap great rewards for future diocesan vocations. This mission is too important to neglect. Conceivably there could be more people wanting to participate than we have present space to accommodate. Wouldn't that be a nice problem to have? In that event, who's to say that we can't eventually relocate to larger venue? Please help us do this work for the Lord.



## Ben Stein's "Confessions for the Holidays"

Apparently the White House referred to Christmas Trees as 'Holiday Trees' for the first time this year, [2005] which prompted Ben Stein, to say, on CBS Sunday Morning, "I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a nativity scene, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

"I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from, that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

"Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship celebrities and we aren't allowed to worship God? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where these celebrities came from and where the America we knew went to.

"In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke; it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking.

"Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the 'Early Show' and Jane Clayson asked her 'How could God let something like this happen?' (regarding Hurricane Katrina). Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, 'I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?'

"In light of recent events... terrorist attacks, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found a few years ago) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. The Bible says thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

"Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave, because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said okay.

"Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves.

"Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW.'

"Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says.

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“Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

“Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

“Are you laughing yet?

“My Best Regards, Honestly and respectfully,

Ben Stein”



**Ben Stein is an actor, writer, and political commentator. Stein’s “Confessions for the Holidays” first aired on Charles Osgood’s CBS program “Sunday Morning” on December 18, 2005. It has circulated on the Internet and is one of those essays that we can enjoy again and again. The message remains valid.**