



# KNIGHT LETTER

January 2016

COUNCIL 816 MARY QUEEN OF THE KNIGHTS

## Grand Knight's Report

My Brother Knights,  
Hope all my Brothers and their families had a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. I personally had a Blessed New Year. On January 1<sup>st</sup> my mother celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

I just want to review some of the highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Columbian year 2015/2016.

1. Alter Server Awards for Ascension and Holy Innocents Parish.
2. Benefit Breakfast for Seidel children
3. Certification of a First Degree team
4. Held the Councils' First Degree ceremony
5. Installation of Officers
6. Benefit Dinner for the Piancone Family
7. Membership Drive at both parishes
8. Memorial Mass and dinner
9. Turkey Baskets
10. Christmas Party
- 11.50 / 50 Raffle

At the start of the New Year we all make some resolutions. Most of us probably do not succeed in fulfilling the results for one reason or another. AS disciples of Jesus, I would like all of us pledge to:

[www.kofc816.org](http://www.kofc816.org)



1. Pray regularly for greater justice and peace
2. Learn more about Catholic social teaching and its call to protect human life, stand with the poor, and care for creation
3. Reach across boundaries of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, and disabling conditions
4. Live justly in family life, school, work, the marketplace, and the political arena
5. Serve those who are poor and vulnerable, sharing more time and talent
6. Give more generously to those in need at home and abroad
7. Advocate for public policies that protect human life, promote human dignity, preserve God's creation, and build peace
8. Encourage others to work for greater charity, justice, and peace

There is one more item that I would like to mention and that is recruitment of new members. In one of our earlier meetings, I asked the members present, if each could recruit one new brother during the year. I am asking all members to do the same. Thanks to the efforts of our Financial Secretary, Raymond Barnes, the Supreme Council has finally deleted 30 individuals from our rolls. These individuals were arrears in their dues. A majority were over three years. The council had pay per diem fees to the State and Supreme for the years we did not receive dues payment. Now our slate is wiped clean and can start new. Now our goal to reach Star council again this year is increased to almost 30 new candidates. That is why I am reaching out to you. This would be a great accomplishment for the council and to show the sincerity and pride of Council # 816.

**Do not forget to send in your Raffle money & tickets. The first drawing is Sunday, January 24, 2016. The winning tickets will be pulled at 11:30 AM at the end of the monthly breakfast.**

Thank You and God Bless Our Council and members  
Herbert D. Hagmann Grand Knight  
Vivat Jesus

# The Spiritual Corner

by Deacon John Kopcak PGK

## Day of Prayer

January 22 has been designated a day of prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. This day recalls the plea made by Pope John Paul II for the people of the United States to remember the principals on which this country was founded and turn away from a "culture of death". What is the culture of death? Simply stated it is the intentional killing of an innocent life as a solution to social and economic problems e.g. the broad acceptance of abortion, assisted suicide, mercy killing, embryonic stem cell research, and the marketing of the morning after pill as a contraceptive even though it causes an abortion. Dr Kervokian is no longer an issue but his impact is felt in our country today. Several states have approved doctor-assisted suicide. It even came to a vote in New Jersey.

Another controversial issue and one often misunderstood by Catholics is that of stem cell research. A stem cell is any cell that when it divides makes another cell just like itself with a specialized function. They can be used to replace damaged tissue in such things as the heart. The media constantly tells us that the church is against stem cell research and treatment. Nothing could be further from the truth. What the church is opposed to is the method used to gather some stem cells. There are several sources for stem cells. One source is our own bone marrow and skin cells. Another is from the placenta and umbilical cord after child birth. These two types are called adult stem cells and another source is from human embryos. It is this source that is opposed by the Church. Why? Because by creating an embryo you are creating a human life. That embryo must then be destroyed to harvest the stem cells. The advantage proponents tell us is that these embryonic stem cells can be used to produce all the cells in the human body. But what they are not telling you is that ordinary adult skin cells can be reprogrammed to do the same thing. They are also not telling you that embryonic stem cells form tumors, are genetically unstable, and are rejected by the immune system. None of these side effects are produced by adult stem cells. In fact of all the positive things you may have heard about the use of stem cells, not one thing has come from embryonic stem cell research.

On the abortion front there have been an estimated 56 million abortions since the enactment of Roe v Wade. The good news is since 1991 the number of abortions has declined steadily. Recent polls show that most Americans favor banning abortion or limiting it to special cases. The bad news is that there have been attempts to remove laws which protect the conscience rights of nurses, doctors and hospitals that are opposed to abortion and force the American taxpayer to fund abortions throughout the United States.

The question is as Catholics what are we to do about it? There are several things. To begin with we can continue to pray for life. Many of us, however, have a tendency to come to church on Sunday, profess our beliefs and act contrary to those beliefs during the week. How often have you heard it said "Right or wrong has nothing to do with it this is business," Or "I am personally opposed to abortion but I voted for the bill because I don't want to impose my religious beliefs on some one else." Personally I don't see abortion as a religious issue. I see it as a moral one. There are plenty of atheists against abortion. The point is we can not continue to confine our religious beliefs to our places and times of worship. Christianity is not just worship. IT IS A WAY OF LIFE AND WE MUST ACT ACCORDINGLY. We must teach our children and grand children to respect all human life from the physically and mentally handicapped to the homeless. To denigrate anyone's life is to diminish their importance and preciousness and will lead us down that slippery slope to the culture of death. Finally, we must exercise our right to vote with an informed conscience. Certain issues like the life issues should weigh more heavily in our decisions. But it's not always easy. You may have one candidate against abortion but he could be for embryonic stem cell research. In addition we also have to factor in other life and cultural issues such as war, poverty, homelessness, healthcare, hunger and unjust immigration policies. It's not easy. Our decisions must be prayerful, thoughtful, and grounded in a culture of life.

## January Birthdays

Brothers,  
Happy Birthday!  
Louis Berardi  
George Bruder Jr. PGK  
Peter Dinardo  
Michael Donovan  
Raul Hernandez  
David King  
Chris L' Heureux  
Robert McDonald PGK  
John Orlando  
Jeffery Petz  
Walter Rapka  
Robert Rizzo  
Edward Rocco  
Richard Rogalski  
Edward Sullivan

## January 24, 2016 Blood Drive at the Breakfast Buffet

9AM till 12 Noon

Donate a pint of blood and get a free Breakfast and a \$10. gift card from Luigi's .

Call Brother Felix Spano  
732-585-8281 for more info

**Why aren't all Catholic men Knights?**

**They weren't asked!  
Ask a fellow Parishioner,  
You'll be surprised!**

### January Events

**Jan 7 Officer's Meeting**

**Jan 14 Regular Business Meeting**

**Jan 24 Council Blood Drive and  
1st Raffel Drawing**

**Dinner Alert!  
Surprise!!!**

7 PM before the meeting

### Editor's Note:

I am honored and grateful to be named Knight of the Year by the Council. Thank you! I just wonder what happened to us. Membership participation in our programs is lackluster at best. We all have busy lives with jobs and family matters but, for us to join the Knights and not participate in any Council functions is not what we are about. There is a solid core of Brothers that is there for every program we run. Thanks to you. But they need your help. We have our Raffle that is the best opportunity to raise money for charity since Bingo and only a handful of us are attempting to sell tickets. There are two weeks until the first drawing. Come to the Business meeting on Thursday Jan 14th and get a couple of tickets to sell or stop by the breakfast and purchase a ticket before the drawing. Remember your commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Thank you and God bless, Joe Lynch PGK

### Good of the Order

"As a reminder, it is the responsibility of all Brothers to inform either the Grand Knight Herb Hagmann 732-245-5388, or the Financial Secretary Ray Barns (732-998-0882) upon the learning of the death of any K of C Brother, so proper actions can be taken. Don't assume that the GK or FS automatically know about all Brother's deaths, sometimes they need your help!"

### Troop Morale-Soldier Boxes

Council #816 is dedicated to supply our troops with "care packages". These donations are collected year-round and are sent to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan four times a year. Unscented toiletries and personal care items are needed, individual snacks and entertainment items or anything that shows them that we care. We will be shipping the next collection in February, which is also Girl Scout Cookie month. Donations of cookies and care items are on the list. God Bless our Troops.

Have Some Fun and Help The Knights of Columbus  
Council 816 Neptune City

How would you like FIVE opportunities a month to win a prize? That's FIVE opportunities EVERY MONTH for A YEAR! In other words SIXTY shots at a prize in 2016.

Buy just one ticket and you're eligible to participate for the whole YEAR. A maximum of 300 Tickets will be issued in total - Drawings will begin in January 2016 (cost \$50.00) After the Breakfast Buffet.

The amount of the prizes will be determined by the actual dollar value of the ticket sales and will follow a 50/50 format.

For Illustrative purposes only:

If all 300 tickets are bought, the payout each month would be

Prize 1....\$250, Prize 2 and Prize 3....\$125 each

Prize 4 and Prize 5..... \$62.50 each

If fewer than 300 tickets are purchased, the dollar amount of the prizes will be reduced proportionately.

Tickets will be sold until 11Am Jan. 24th at the Breakfast Buffet.

If you need tickets Call: Joe Lynch 723-682-1331.