



# Knight News

## Mother Seton Council 6724



March 2018

Nativity Catholic Church

### Grand Knight's Message

Brothers,

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to attend the Stations of the Cross. Growing up, attending the Stations of the Cross was an accepted part of the Lenten season. I guess it was much easier then because all I had to do was walk down a city block to my parish church. Today, most of us must get into our vehicle and drive to Nativity.

Inside the church there was plenty of room which surprised me. Deacon Bob led the service with numerous readers helping in English and Spanish and they all did a magnificent job.

The service was very moving because the Stations of the Cross were described as seen through the eyes of our Blessed Mother Mary. I cannot even imagine the agony that our Blessed Mother experienced seeing her son tortured and put to death on the cross. At the end of each meditation, a statement reflecting our Blessed Mother's thoughts were read and they were all like this one, *"I knew this had to be, so I walked on and wept silently."*

A prayer at each station then followed and this really hit home. Allow me to give you an example: *"Lord Jesus, it is hard for me to imagine the anguish your mother felt at your condemnation. But what about today, when I hold a grudge? "Crucify him!" When I judge others? "Crucify him!" Doesn't this bring tears of anguish to both you and your mother? Forgive me, Jesus"*

What I walked away with from the Stations of the Cross is that it is sometimes the daily things I do or do not do that hurts others, our Blessed Mother and Jesus. If you can find the time to attend the Stations of the Cross, I guarantee you that your heart will be more accepting and that you will have a better understanding of what our Lord and Savior went through for the forgiveness of our sins.

Vivat Jesus!

Tim Kasprzyk

Grand Knight 6724

### Membership Drive

On Sunday, February 18, we held our membership drive. The fine video starring our own Knights Vinnie Urso and Karlos I Del Aguila and filmed by Neil Waid never made it onto the announcements, so we had to do some scrambling. We contacted the celebrants of the remaining Masses and they made a short announcement for our Council.



**WE ARE  
CALLED**  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Even with the obstacle that we did not expect, we were able to recruit 6 new candidates and 4 transfers to our Council. An Admissions Committee will be conducted prior to our Business meeting on March 12 and if the new candidates are approved, they will be presented to the Council membership.

Thanks to the Brothers that were able to show up and help with the recruitment drive.

## Parish Penitential Service

On Monday, February 26, Nativity Catholic Church held a penitential service in preparation for Easter. Fifteen priests were on hand to hear the confessions of Nativity parishioners.



As you can well imagine, coordinating this event to provide privacy to all present is a difficult task. This is where our Council was able to help.

SK Ray Quinones coordinated the volunteer Knights who showed up to assist. Thanks to Mark Cote, Stephen Curcio, Tim Kasprzyk and Billy Navas for helping. This was another opportunity to serve our parish and display who the Knights of Columbus are.

## Win a Trip to Dublin!

Recruit a new member and you just might win an all-expense paid trip for you and your wife to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin next August!



Only 10 Knights will be selected for this trip, but the more men you recruit, the higher the chance to win: If you recruit one member, you're

entered once — if you recruit 10 members, you're entered 10 times! The drawing will take place on July 1, 2018, and anyone who has proposed a new member this fraternal year is eligible. For

information on the World Meeting of Families, please visit [worldmeeting2018.ie](http://worldmeeting2018.ie).

## Donations for Veterans

James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital is no longer able to accept donations of food for the veterans. However, there is still a continuous need for other items that can be brought and donated at our Council business meeting.

Items that are acceptable are: body wash, lotion hand and body, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant, combs, hair brushes, shampoo, back packs (new), alcohol-free mouthwash, denture cleaner and adhesive, sunscreen, tote bags (new), new athletic pants and shirts, new shorts, new t-shirts, new underwear, new socks, new shower shoes (no flip flops), pre-paid gas and phone cards, gift cards (Visa, Publix, Wal-Mart, etc.), gift certificates/cards to restaurants, new word search puzzles and adult coloring books, new reading glasses, magazines (no more than 3 months old), playing cards and new shoes.

Remember, the above items are needed by both males and females and financial donations are also accepted.

## Florida State Council Raffle

The Florida State Council is conducting a raffle to raise funds for Council charities as well as for Florida K of C Charities, Inc. Raffle book containing 12 raffle tickets have been distributed directly to Councils by the FSC. The number of books each Council received was based on 75% of the Council's membership.



Tickets are \$1.00 donation each. Council member's collect donations for tickets and the Council turns \$6.00 per book to Florida K of C

Charities, Inc. while retaining the other \$6.00 designated for the council's charitable programs.

Raffle ends May 6, 2018. All tickets, donations and raffle tickets must be in by May 12, 2018. Final drawing will be held at Annual Convention Dinner May 26, 2018 in Orlando, Florida.

#### Total Prizes \$45,000

1st Prize \$25,000; 2nd Prize \$10,000; 3rd Prize \$5,000; and 4th to 8th Prize \$1,000 each.

#### Solicitors/Sellers Prizes

1st Prize winning ticket gets \$1000; 2nd Prize winning ticket gets \$750; 3rd Prize winning ticket gets \$500; and 4th through 8th winning tickets get \$100 each.

Status as of February 15:

Books received by our Council	245
Books distributed	134
Books returned	99
Books in play	35
Books available	111

That's \$594 in our coffers.

This is an excellent opportunity for our Council to raise extra money for our charitable endeavors. Please attend our next Business Meeting on Monday, March 12 to pick up the tickets if you have not already done so. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may contact our Worthy Financial Secretary, Don Carpenter who is the keeper of the tickets at 618-581-4154. If you are unable to pick up some raffle books, you can obtain tickets from your Brother Knights.

Remember, checks for the donations should be made out to Mother Seton Council 6724 for tickets bought.

## **Nativity Outreach Donation**

On Thursday, February 15, GK Tim Kasprzyk presented a check for \$500 to Judy Bodinet of Nativity Outreach.



The money was donated by Mother Seton Council to support the work that Nativity Outreach does to feed the hungry. The donation was very much appreciated by Judy and the many volunteers present.

## **Venerable Father McGivney**

### **The Myth of a "Priest Shortage"**

Father McGivney's story helps to unveil the myth of a priest shortage. The number of Catholics attending Mass and requesting the sacraments during his lifetime was not dissimilar to our present priest-to-parishioner ratio. (An 1875 Catholic almanac estimated the priest-per-Catholic population at one priest for every 1,298 Catholics; the report did not include statistics from the large dioceses of Brooklyn and Baltimore. In 2006, the ratio is one priest for every 1,636 Catholics.)

Likewise, the contemporary situation of priests having more than one parish was not uncommon during Father McGivney's era. He pastored two parishes himself after he left St. Mary's in New Haven (and, I might add, he did not have a car to travel between both).

Our most common mistake is forgetting that God will always provide for his Church. He will send us

the priests we need to convey the grace he wishes to give us. Indeed, a case could be made that there has always been a priest shortage. After all, we originally started off with only 12. The problem is that we were spoiled by an unusual abundance of vocations during the middle part of the 20th century.

An interesting set of statistics can be found in Paul D. Sullins 2002 study, "Empty Pews and Empty Altars: A Reconsideration of the Catholic Priest Shortage." Sullins tells us that the decline in vocations began before Vatican II, and he points out that the decline in the priest-to-parishioner ratio after Vatican II has been largely offset by the decline in Catholics attending Mass and requesting the sacraments. He then reminds us of the many deacons who now help with preaching, baptizing, marrying and counseling — help that past generations of priests did not have. Finally, he reports this sobering fact: "...up until about World War II, about a third of Catholic churches did not have a pastor in residence; after mid-century, that proportion has gradually declined to about a fifth. As is evident, far from being unusually high, the rate of non-residing priests is current at its lowest point in the century."

The current fabrication of a priest shortage is being promoted as an excuse by those who wish to remove the celibacy requirement and/or want to open the priesthood to women. This alleged shortage has induced a psychological sense of hopelessness in many priests, causing them to acquiesce to the idea of expanding ordination beyond celibate males. Jesus knew that lies are the devil's tool and warned against buying into this defeatist attitude. He said, "The harvest is indeed great, but the laborers are few" (Mt 9:38). He also said to St. Paul, "My grace is enough for you" (2 Cor 12:9).

Would it be nice to have more priests? Sure! But the shortage has existed from the beginning of the Church and look what has been accomplished! We should never be immobilized by seemingly overwhelming odds. Challenge is exactly what heroes thrive on.

## Insurance Corner

### The Catholic Difference



Many companies claim their founder was a saint.

As brother Knights, our claim is not simply hyperbole: We know that our beloved founder lived a virtuous and holy life. We hope

and pray that he will be raised to the dignity of the altar.

In fact, by proclaiming him Venerable in 2008, the Catholic Church has declared that Father McGivney exercised Christian virtue above and beyond the call of duty.

As members of his brotherhood, it is incumbent upon all brother Knights to act in a way that pays homage to Father McGivney, carries on his mission and works with the same virtuous spirit that animated his life. That duty applies to all aspects of Columbianism, whether it be our charitable work, our fraternal work or our business endeavors.

Those two concepts — Catholic virtue and profitable business — may seem incompatible, but the Knights of Columbus has long been a shining example of how businesses can succeed by placing faith and values before financial gain.

Our Catholic heritage permeates our business. It's part of what makes us so unique. We call it our Catholic difference.

Asked recently about the Knights of Columbus and its Catholicism, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson replied:

It means that we are different. We talk a lot about the "Catholic difference" of doing business with the Knights of Columbus. We present our members with a clear choice between doing business with us



and doing business with a secular insurer. We are proud of our identity as a Catholic company. ...

Our ethical practices, in fact, received international recognition in 2014 and 2015, when the Ethisphere® Institute designated the Knights of Columbus as a World's Most Ethical Company®.

We stayed true to our principles and knew that if we did the right thing for the right reasons, we would get the results that we wanted — and we have. Last year marked our 15th consecutive year of insurance sales growth.

The signature way in which our Catholic identity impacts our business is in our investment strategy. We put our money where our faith is. We have established a strict screening process that prevents us from investing in any of the following lines of business:

- abortions and abortifacients
- contraception
- human cloning
- embryonic stem cell research
- for-profit health care that pays for any of the aforementioned
- pornography

We also do not invest in junk bonds or in risky investment instruments. We do not believe that the potential for profit is worth jeopardizing our Catholic faith or our solemn promise to our members and their families. "It is a principled approach to investing," the supreme knight said, "that highlights the depth of our commitment to our faith. And while following these principles, our investment team has consistently achieved positive and competitive financial returns."

That's integrity.

Not all insurance companies are fraternal benefit societies. Not all fraternal benefit societies are Catholic. Not all Catholic insurers are like the Knights of Columbus — we *are* different.

We are different because of who we are. We are different because of what we believe. And we are different because of the way we act on those beliefs.

It's a difference that traces its way back to Father McGivney, and that ought to be a point of pride for all brother Knights and their families.

For any questions or any insurance needs you may have, contact our Field Agent, Jack Kelly at 727-504-1142 or by email at [jack.kelley@kofc.org](mailto:jack.kelley@kofc.org).

## Prayer for the Sick

Please keep the following in your prayers:

SK Richard Shoby

Cyndy Kutcher

Jay McCabe

SK Dick Hardesty

Christina Orsillo

SK Don Cseh

Tom McGoldrick

Fr. Terry Lee

Randall Forshee

Paula Zemko

SK Jerry Westbrook

SK Greg Gambor

Deacon Jerry - St. Francis Parish

Humberto Alvarez – GK St. Francis

Mark Cote

Ceil Holley

Brother Knights who have no one to pray for them

*Dear Jesus, Divine Physician and Healer of the sick, we turn to you in this time of illness. O dearest comforter of the troubled, alleviates our worry and our sick under your care and humbly ask that you restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. Amen.*

## Officers

Grand Knight: Tim Kasprzyk

Deputy Grand Knight: Stephen Curcio

Chancellor: Ray Quiñones

Treasurer: Karlos del Aguila

Financial Secretary: Don Carpenter

Recording Secretary: Bob Dunn

Chaplain: Father John Tapp

Warden: Neil Waid

Inside Guard: Frank Orsillo, Louis Rodriguez

Outside Guard: Tim Shoby, Steve Mirabole

Advocate: Howard Baum

1-year Trustee: Gene Watford

2-year Trustee: Bill Queenan

3-year Trustee: Jay McCabe

Lecturer: Vinnie Urso

## Upcoming Events

**March 12** - Council Business Meeting

March 17 – Altar Server Dinner

March 21 – Assembly 1850 Meeting

March 28 – Officers & Directors Meeting

March 31 – Tootsie Roll Drive, Publix, Brandon Mall, 939 W Brandon Blvd.

April 7 - Tootsie Roll Drive, Publix, Pavilion Crossings, 3863 US Hwy. 301 S, Riverview

April 15 – Coffee and Donuts

May 5 - Tootsie Roll Drive, Publix, Valrico Commons, 1971 E State Road 60

**Note:** Dates in red indicate a meeting date that is not on a normally scheduled meeting day.

# NATIVITY OUTREACH



1983 - 2016

## FOOD PANTRY

Nativity Social Hall  
705 E. Brandon Blvd.  
Brandon, FL 33511  
Ph: 813-694-0541

## FOOD BANK

13295 U.S. HWY 92 E.  
Dover, FL 33527  
Ph: 813-707-1523  
Fax: 813-707-1147



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