



## **The Courier**

**Montgomery Council 2323**

[www.KofC2323.org](http://www.KofC2323.org) • **March-April 2015** • 301-977-2644



### **On the Passing of PGKs & Family Members**

#### **GK Mike Joseph Asks: Are You Praying for the Dead?**

Fellow Knights, my brothers. We've seen the passing of three Past Grand Knights this fraternal year, including **Lewis Tillis, Henry "Hank" Mongelli, and Tom Reilly**, not to mention Knights **Albino Pecoraro, Thomas George, James B. Badini, and Enrique Balaguer**. Long-time Knight **Bill Toner** lost his daughter, **Rebecca**, just about two years after his wife Celia Mary passed on. As this issue went to press, we learned **Knight Paul Slobozien**, on our roster 18 years before moving to Florida, passed away March 5, a month after his wife, **Grace Smith Slobozien**, died Jan. 28. *May they all rest in peace.* May we keep them and their families in our daily prayers.

#### **In Memoriam / Dies Natalis**

**Paul Slobozien**, March 5, 2015  
**PGK Thomas P. Reilly**, Jan. 22, 2015  
**Albino A. Pecoraro**, Jan. 15, 2015  
**Thomas H. George**, Nov. 27, 2014  
**James B. Badini**, Oct. 9, 2014  
**PGK Henry J. Mongelli**, Oct. 4, 2015  
**Enrique Balaguer**, Oct. 1, 2014  
**PGK Lewis D. Tillis**, July 8, 2014

We've turned out in force for viewings and funerals. Praying the Rosary with these families is a comfort to those left behind, but it's also a sign of our unity as Knights to all who have come before us, those with us now, and those yet to join our ranks. **Ven. Fr. McGivney** founded an organization to provide support to the widow and child left after the death of the breadwinner. This ties to our Faith. The Catechism

of the Catholic Church (CCC 2447): "The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy ... The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, *and burying the dead.*" (My emphasis.) ***Yes, we're called not only to assist through material support, of which we do a heroic job here at Council 2323, but also spiritual support.*** I urge you to reach out to those who've suffered a loss, to offer comfort. Something all of us can do is pray for the grieving. We can pray for the departed, too, that God accept them all into His Kingdom.

**Remembering these Past Grand Knights, I warmly recall Lewis Tillis**, the Grand Knight before **David Ball**. Lewis was Grand Knight when I became Warden. He was



PGK Lewis Tillis

personable, held strong beliefs, and was a Catholic convert. He found a true home in the Church. As he went through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), he found great peace with the Catholic Church, in belief that the Church tenets were ones he needed to live. He decided to join the Knights and brought **David Ball** along, and Dave also became a Grand Knight. This is Dave's recall of this kind-hearted man:

"He was my RCIA sponsor. We hit it off right away. Lewis had the gift of making a person feel accepted. He saw me as a person and friend ... What a great guy! His manner of delivering a joke was masterful. He'd slowly weave a joke as if it were a spider web. Only when the listener began to 'get' what was going on, Lewis would slowly lift an eyebrow and grin at the slow-motion arrow in the bull's-eye. Lewis' wife, Cheryl, well, it was as if she were his girlfriend, although they were married for about 35 years! They were two friends. They really complimented each other. They had such a good time together."

**Lewis was someone who always stopped and talked to people**—he had a positive outlook, no matter what. Even through his fight with cancer, he kept a positive attitude. He survived kidney cancer and later learned he had pancreatic cancer. I'd just started my journey as a Grand Knight, and he was still upbeat, sharing ideas and caring about where the Council was going.



PGK Tom Reilly



PGK Hank Mongelli

**Tom Reilly had much more time to be a Past Grand Knight**, and he too was personable, always talking with people. At his viewing, I could see he was well-liked, a real community-minded man. His entire life was a life of service: he was in the Coast Guard, served as a police officer—he epitomized service. It was his life's grand theme. I didn't know **Henry Mongelli** as well, but his legacy lives on through his children, and all they've done for the Council epitomizes a service mindset. Henry clearly passed on this virtue of serving, living the Works of Mercy.

**Tom, for his funeral, asked in his directives** that we Knights not pray a full Rosary, just a decade at his viewing. He didn't want the Knights to come and "work." He wanted them to participate by consoling friends and family, to be there as his friends, and not work Color Corps at his funeral, which the police did. You could tell at his Leisure World reception, from all the police and many others, that Tom will be sorely missed.

**As we recited the Rosary at Henry's viewing**, packed with children and friends, I thought we really are praying for those left on Earth. It's a consolation and a grace to the family: while their loved one has gone on to something better and they'll miss him, they have an opportunity, as Christ taught, to join later on. In fact, there's comfort in community, Knights and others, getting together to support those who lost someone dear to them.

**So I offer this as a call to arms.** For me, personally, saying the Rosary with fellow Knights for the living and dead probably is one of the most rewarding things I've done. I'm making a difference by participating, praying for family, Church, in fellowship with my brothers, saying goodbye to someone who made a difference. You realize you're part of something much bigger than yourself, part of a fulfilling tradition, rooted in Holy Mother Church, and in the Resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter on April 5. ***Happy Easter, for we are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!***



**District Deputy  
Goldhammer**

### ***District Deputy Reflects On Lives of Legacy At Councils***

I was honored to attend the funeral **Jan. 29** of **Past Grand Knight Tom Reilly**, and to find out what a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, Knight, golfer, and community servant he was. The same month, I attended the funeral of **Sir Knight Robert M. Nyikos**. Rob was Past Grand Knight of Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 12127, from 2011-12. We lost him too soon. Besides Rob's family, the church was filled with Knights of Columbus, their spouses, and Color Corps.

**In his homily, Fr. Joseph Rogers**, St. John Neumann Church pastor, spoke of Rob's legacy as a Knight and said Rob epitomized what it meant to be a dedicated and involved Knight—an example for all of us to follow. He praised Rob for doing God's work on Earth through the Knights.

**That's what the Knights are all about: doing God's work**, like Tom and Rob, through our myriad charitable activities. For those of you who haven't been active in your Council's activities lately, the Council needs your help. Why? To accomplish its many charitable works. ***Please don't wait to be asked.*** When you see something on these pages that requires helpers, please put your faith into action by picking up the phone to volunteer, by calling the point of contact. Many hands make light work, and you'll be rewarded with satisfaction for helping your Council, as your Grand Knight says, in its Works of Mercy. ***Happy St. Patrick's Day. Happy Easter! Vivat Jesus! ~ S.G.***



### ***Tootsie Roll Founder Dies at Age 95***

**Melvin J. Gordon (left)**, who ran Tootsie Roll Industries in Chicago for more than 50 years, died Jan. 21. He ran the company with his wife, Ellen, who survives him and will take over his post. Gordon, a Harvard graduate, was born and raised in Boston.

**He married Ellen Rubin in 1950.** Her father, William, was president of the Sweets Company of America, maker of Tootsie Rolls and Tootsie Pops. Gordon joined the Sweets board in 1952, becoming CEO 10 years later. Soon after, the company became Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc. In 2013, the business posted more than \$539 million in revenue; earnings

topped \$60 million. Gordon is survived also by four daughters, and six grandchildren. He once boasted Tootsie Rolls were practically indestructible. “Nothing can happen to a Tootsie Roll,” he told the Associated Press. “We have some that were made in 1938 that we still eat. If you can’t bite it when it’s that old, you certainly can lick it.” Tootsie Rolls were invented in 1896 by candy maker Leo Hirshfield, who named them for his 5-year-old daughter, Clara—his little *Tootsie*.

**The Knights of Columbus have used Tootsie Rolls** to solicit donations during annual campaigns for people with intellectual disabilities, and have done so for decades.

### **Officer Profile: Chancellor John DeMaré**

### ***Strong Faith, Belief, Gives Peace, Joy & Friendship In Knights & Parish Life***



**Chancellor John DeMaré**

**Chancellor John DeMaré fully admits** he has a blessed life, bolstered by his Faith, family, and his Knights and parish families. His years with Knights of Columbus Montgomery Council 2323 have been fruitful. Should he be voted in this July, he’ll become Deputy Grand Knight. *(This officer profile is third in a series, to acquaint Knights with Council offices and officer duties, and those of program directors. We’ll next profile Financial Secretary Pat Cribbin, a Past Grand Knight.)* The Chancellor answered seven questions for the *Courier*, presented in Q&A format. Any officer or program

director is welcome to invite a profile, emailing [josephschuler@starpower.net](mailto:josephschuler@starpower.net). There are four *Courier* issues left in the 2015 calendar year.

**Q: Please share what you do for a living.**

**A: I’m a corporate trainer for a medical coding company.** When doctors bill an insurance company for a treatment or procedure, it’s coded. I train people coming into our company on what we do, how to use the codes. Before that, I worked 20 years as an Allstate insurance agent. I owned an agency, but sold it.

**Q: Please tell us about your family, and why your Catholic Faith is important.**

**A:** My wife, Janice, who I’ve been married to for 34 years, works as a school administrator. Our daughter, Elaine, and her husband, Coque, have a 2-year-old daughter, Reese. We have a son, Daniel. I’ve been a lifelong Catholic. My dad was a convert. My mom, Irish Catholic. We’re parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. I’m an usher at the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass. A strong faith and belief in God gives you a stronger undercurrent of ability to cope and deal with problems of the world—not to mention the joy and happiness—and it unites you with good people in the Knights of Columbus and in your parish. I’m happy and content and proud to be a member of St. Francis of Assisi parish.

**Q: How long have you been a Knight? What made you join?**

**A: I first got in in 2001, but for whatever reason, I wasn't dedicated,** like a lot of guys, and drifted away. But about two-and-a-half years ago, the head usher for St. Francis' 5 p.m. crew, **Ed Dudenhoeffer**, a Knight in the Council, said, "Hey, you ought to get into the Knights." **Gary Palmer** (membership director), also got me involved. I was a member, but I felt now was a better time in life. My kids were grown. I had more free time. It was easy to have my membership renewed. I got more involved, and it's something I'm very proud of. I'm a third-degree Knight. I hope to get my fourth degree in a couple of years when I retire.

**Q: How did you end up as Chancellor, in charge of hundreds of Tootsie Rolls and the campaign to help folks with intellectual challenges?**

**A: It's a funny story.** The first year, I just showed for meetings and volunteered on the campaign, and if there was charitable stuff, I got involved. I came to meetings, and enjoyed the social hour after meetings. A year after I (re)joined, I walked in one day and **John Leighton**, a Past Grand Knight, was looking for people to run for office. John looked at me—"You'd make a good Warden!" I didn't know what that meant. I said, "Why not?" They put me on the ballot. I didn't realize it led to Grand Knight. After I knew, I said, what the heck, I'll jump in with both feet. Being a Knight has become an important part of my life.

**Q: What have you learned?**

**A: It's a big learning experience.** I knew I liked people. I enjoy the brotherhood, the friendships. It's a kind of warm feeling, a prideful feeling. I take a lot of pride, even on my resume, I have 'Chancellor, the Knights of Columbus.' I've grown a lot. It's something that's a part of the rest of my life. I see Knights 85, 90 years old. And it's still an important part of their life. Like **Tom Reilly**, I didn't know him well before he passed, but it was an honor to stand with family and friends and relatives and represent something important to him, the KofC, at his viewing. I felt love and respect in that room. Our guys sacrificed time to honor Tom. This was part of his life, it was important to him. Knights respect the dead, the life we live. When I pass, I'll be honored to have Knights at my funeral. It'll give my life substance, meaning and pride. My dad was a Grand Knight in Aberdeen, Md., and he lived a long life.

**Q: What does a Chancellor do?**

**A: Well, it helps you get you more involved each step of way.** As Warden, you're in charge of the Lenten Fish Fries. I jumped in, and lots of guys helped me out. It was still a lot of work. I learned a lot on my feet. Next year, as Chancellor, it's the campaign to raise funds for those with intellectual challenges, and we use those Tootsie Rolls to receive donations. In July, I visited supermarkets, lining up opportunities. They're pretty strict about who stands outside and collects money. You need permission and dates. I lined up five-six Giants, and a couple of Safeways. You need to put sign-up sheets on the bar in the Hall, send emails asking for volunteers. It's logistics. You get the Tootsie Rolls to the guys, aprons and canisters, collect the money. It's a tremendous amount of work ... I was proud we collected more than \$5,000, with a goal of \$4,500. The Council bent backwards to help. We had great volunteers. I give them a great deal of credit for helping the Montgomery Chapter of the



Special Olympics. I have to say, though, I never want to see another Tootsie Roll for as long as I live! For three months, my car was loaded with Tootsie Rolls, placards and bibs. I didn't even wash my car there was so much junk in it. But it was fun. I will look back on it fondly."

**Q: What do you want to share with your brother Knights?**

**A: Just be a good example.** Technically, I was a member since 2001, but only since 2012 was I really involved. I say, give it a shot. Give it a chance. The first time out, two-and-a-half years ago, I was parked in my car, asking: 'What am I doing here?' You walk in, you don't know anyone. You're a stranger. Everyone is trying to be nice. Still, it's a nervous, lonely feeling. But I stuck with it. I kept coming to meetings. I'd meet one, then two, then four guys. After 3-4 months, I didn't feel nervous when I parked. I felt like I was meeting friends. I enjoyed it. I'd say: get over the hang-up of walking in and not knowing anyone. Stick with it three months. We have the social hour afterward. Come in and talk sports ... drink a beer or a coke, you'll be surprised how you feel ... like the Nike commercial, *just do it*.

## ***First Lenten Fish Fry Nets \$515 For Council Charities***



Photo credits: John DeMaré

On Lent's first Friday, Montgomery Council 2323 held its first of two annual fish fries at Father Cuddy Hall, Overbrook Road, Derwood. About 100 dinner-goers enjoyed a delicious meal: fish fillets, fish sticks, French fries, macaroni-and-cheese, and coleslaw. Beer, wine, soda and coffee washed it down, assisted by PGK Larry Royster (*right*). The night's festivities netted \$515, used for the Council's charitable projects. Special thanks to Knights who made it a success: Deputy Grand Knight Mike Bean, Guy Poirier, Chancellor John DeMaré, Warden Victor Sogah, Membership Director Gary Palmer, Grand Knight Mike Joseph, Steve Walker, Paul Lidberg, Mike Thomas, David Appiah and Tom McFarland. If you missed it, don't worry—the next one is March 20, from 6-8 p.m.

**Our Supreme Knights of Columbus Council Web site offers much useful, inspiring information. Please take time to visit [www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org).**

**Apologies for late delivery of the *Courier* this issue; it wasn't the winter weather! If anyone can assist the Editor, please write: [josephschuler@starpower.net](mailto:josephschuler@starpower.net).**

## Haitian Mission Relief Butters Its Bread, Draws 160, Raises \$2,175



**SECONDS ANYONE?** Mark Lynch assists with the chafing trays.



**FUN IN THE KITCHEN:** With the young Michael Bean washing dishes (rear), William Thomas (left) butters garlic bread while Matt Mongelli tosses a salad. His dad, Bobby, (right) cheers 'em all on with resident expertise.

Mike Thomas and dedicated volunteers served 160+ pasta-and-meatball meals on Feb. 8, marking the 17<sup>th</sup> year Mike has led this fundraising effort. The \$2,175 brought in was the second largest amount over that time span. About \$690 in food donations from local stores made the meal possible. Volunteers included Jim Gierula, Jimmy Gierula, Rich Schneider, Kevin Bean, Mike Bean, Deputy Grand Knight Mike Bean, Mike Frazier, Bob Mongelli, Matt Mongelli, Mark Lynch, Kevin Bean, Chris Von Stein, George Silvas, William Thomas, and Steve Willer. Merchants who donated gift cards or food included Giant of Maryland, Rockville Target, Safeway, Rockville Food Lion, Gaithersburg Food Lion, Walnut Hill Food Lion, Shopper Food & Pharmacy, Fred Begosh of Begosh Tax Service, Walmart, H & S Bakery, Sam's Club, Gaithersburg Costco, Harris Teeter of Olney and Taylor Farms.

## Family Night Moves Past \$30K Fundraising High; St. Ann's House Gets \$1,070



**BIG FAMILY:** No crock, these pots emptied fast.

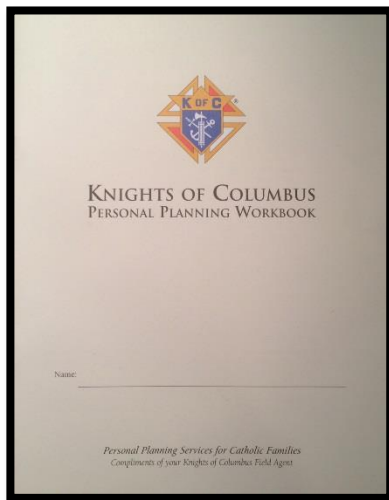
soda. The Family Night raised \$1,070 for *St. Ann's House*, which has programs that recognize and enhance human dignity and worth by providing residential care and services to abused and neglected children; also, single pregnant and parenting adolescents in crisis, as well as quality daycare to children of working families. There was no shortage of help from **Knights Guy Poirier, Mike Thomas, Ed Day, Paul Lidberg, Membership Director Gary Palmer, Matt McCormick, Bob Scanlon, Matt Mongelli, Mark Stiles, Deputy Grand Knight Mike Bean and Pat Gilroy.** Family Night has raised more than \$30,000 for various charities since its inception; the next one is Friday, March 27, serving pizza, fish sandwiches, fries and salad to benefit *Stepping Stones Shelter*.

More than 90 adults and kids braved winter weather for the Jan. 23 Family Night at Father Cuddy Hall in Derwood. The month's theme, "Chili Showcase," drew seven types of chili, brought in by guest chefs. By the look of the empty crock pots at the night's end, the crowd approved. Beside chili, the menu included hot dogs, pasta, French fries, salad and desserts, and the usual beer, wine and

## **Helping KofC Families Prepare Free Personal Planning Workbook Offers Tool To Handle ‘Tough Stuff’**

“Tempus fugit memento mori” ... *times flies, remember death*. The phrase, we’re told, reminds us to be conscious of our own mortality and to plan accordingly. As Roman Catholics, we keep death always in our minds, particularly during Lent, because it’s the gateway to paradise, but also to be sure we’re preparing accordingly and living just lives, conquering sin and living for God, so we may live with Him after death.

**Death isn’t always easy to think about.** While we live with Christian hope, we know our death also means sadness and trial for those we love. We know we’ll leave a void, and, depending on the circumstances of our death, we may leave loose ends. By thinking about the unthinkable, and planning for the inevitable, we may reduce those trials and tie up some of those loose ends. That’s why we’re excited to introduce the *Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook*.



**The *Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook*** is a no-cost tool. The 34-page book is a comprehensive guide that allows you to record personal information, identify personal wishes, and supplement legal documents. With this *Workbook*, you can:

- List medical information; identify your long-term care instructions and wishes; identify the location of records, documents, accounts, password, and other important concerns;
  - Identify charitable gifts; supplement your Will with instructions and information on the distribution of your estate, as well as information on guardians, executors, and power of attorney;
- Express your wishes for your funeral service, including identifying readings, lectors, gift bearers, pall bearers, and fraternal or military organization involvement; prepare a Survivors’ Action Items and Concerns listing for settlement of your estate and execution of your last wishes;
  - Establish a list of people to notify; record information on life insurance policies and other benefits; express your wishes for an Obituary; and, write a letter expressing your wishes to your pastor.

**The *Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook* may not be** the most enjoyable workbook you’ve ever filled out, but it may have the most impact. In a fast-paced digital age like ours, there are so many more things to plan for and record, and so much less time to do it. This Workbook is an easy and effective way to gather thoughts, details, data, and wishes for your loved ones’ benefit. It’s a great resource, another extension of our founding mission, set forth by Ven. Fr. Michael J. McGivney, of protecting Catholic families.

***Tempus fugit memento mori* reminds us we, with certainty, will die,** but we may very well not, with certainty, know *when*. Why not spend time preparing for the inevitable? You’ll have the comfort of knowing you did the right thing, and assurance that,



when death does come, you'll have made something difficult easier for those you love. To get a complimentary copy of the *Knights of Columbus Personal Planning Workbook*, contact me today. ~ David N. Luksic, Field Agent, Knights of Columbus, [david.luksic@kofc.org](mailto:david.luksic@kofc.org), 301-370-1907.

**Membership News**

***Komi Detse, Tom Woods Advance With Zeal; Nine Other Knights Get 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree***



**Komi Louise Detse**



**Tom Woods**

Welcome, new Council member **Komi Louise Detse** (far left), who attended a combined 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Exemplification on Dec. 18 at Mother Seton Parish. **Tom Woods** (right), received his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees on Feb. 19 and received his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree on Feb. 27 at Mother Seton Church, hosted by Fr. Horace

B. McKenna Council 11024. Nine other Council 2323 Knights also received 3<sup>rd</sup> Degrees, including: **Bernard Gomersall; Tom McFarland** (Council 2323's new Facebook and Website Coordinator); **Morgan Ambrosia; Stanley Kozlowski; Steve Walker; James W. Gierula; Jeffrey Huon; Jeffrey Brink; and David Appiah.**



Photo credits: Gary Palmer



Ten Knights participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification at Mother Seton Church Feb. 27. Pictured (from left): Bernard Gomersall; Tom McFarland (Knights 2323 Facebook and Website Coordinator); Maryland State Deputy Steve Adamczyk; Morgan Ambrosia; Stanley Kozlowski; Steve Walker; Tom Woods; James W. Gierula; and David Appiah. Missing is Jeffrey Huon; Jeffrey Brink, in photo right, was at the same ceremony. Montgomery Council 2323 member observers included State Special Olympics Chair, Sir Knight John Durbin (Stanley Kozlowski and Steve Walker's proposer), Council Chancellor John DeMaré, Membership Director Gary Palmer, Paul Omopariola (David Appiah's proposer), Mike Ambrosia (father and proposer of Morgan), James R. Gierula (father and proposer of James W.), and Leo Snyder (Tom Woods and Jeffrey Huon's proposer).

**Future Exemplifications:** In March and beyond, here are convenient exemplification locations and dates ... 1<sup>st</sup> Degree: April 21, 8 p.m., hosted by Montgomery Council 2323 at Father Cuddy Hall; 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, May 21, 8 p.m., hosted by Council 14297 at St. Rose of Lima.

**Council 2323 is looking for new members:** Council officers and membership staff are preparing for parish recruiting in March and April. Founder's Day, March 29, marks when Connecticut approved the Charter of the Knights of Columbus in 1882. It's a great time to bring new members in to the Knights organization. Events will be planned for St. Mary's, St. Francis and St. Martin's parishes.

**4th Degree (Patriotism):** Archdiocese of Washington District Exemplifications are held once a year. The next opportunity will be in Spring 2015. To request the 4th Degree, contact **Sir Knight John Durbin** at 301-762-4448, [jndurbin@msn.com](mailto:jndurbin@msn.com).

**Council Nametags:** If you've never received a Council nametag but would like one, please contact **Membership Director Gary Palmer**, 301-948-6494, [gtdbpalmer@verizon.net](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

#### **Council's Facebook Page Debuts**

#### ***UKnight Website Coming, Courtesy The Electrifying Tom McFarland***



*You gotta love this guy.* Introduced by his (now) wife, Janet Joy, a St. Patrick's parishioner, to the Catholic Church, he was Confirmed in the Faith last Easter 2014, April 19, about two years after his dad passed away. He and Janet Joy married on May 24. On Sept. 30, he received his 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and on Oct. 21, his 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, and the story above notes his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Exemplification. This man is on fire! *That's not all!*

**Not long after, Tom decided to take on a Facebook page** for the Council and receive the handoff of Website coordination from the long-serving Past Grand Knight Randy Drago, who set up the first Council Website years ago, purchasing the domain name.

**“As I'm still a new member to our Council,** I can easily recall filling out a Form 100,” Tom says. “I remember the question at the bottom, asking what I can contribute to the Council. What had always stood out to me about the Knights of Columbus, in general, was the lack of youth. After conferring with my KofC sponsor, my uncle, Bill Wire, I was given the impression there weren't a lot of young men in Council 2323. So, while filling out Form 100, I said I could contribute to getting the next generation of Knights involved by being the young face to draw them in. I didn't know how I was going to do that, but I had, and still have, a desire to see 18-year-old men join our Council immediately upon eligibility.”

***Tom is 22 years old.*** “I chose St. Joseph as my Confirmation name,” he says, “because he perfectly represents what it means to be a husband, father, and laborer.”

After his 1st Degree, GK Mike Joseph teamed him up with Membership Director Gary Palmer, and told him Gary was the one to get him started on his mission of recruit young men. He had conversations with Gary, explored the Council 2323's media outlets, and began brainstorming ways to recruit young men. "The absence of social media was an immediate problem I saw in communicating with my generation," Tom says. He opened up the Council's private Facebook group Feb. 4, and will have a public Facebook page opened soon, if not by the time of this publication. The Facebook group is a private messaging board for Council 2323 brothers only. To join the group, and to view posted material, you must be approved by the group's administrator: Tom McFarland. The group isn't the bread and butter of what he wants to accomplish with Facebook. The public Facebook page will be the flagship. That page will allow anybody to see what's posted. All parishioners of the three parishes the Council serves can follow the page and get updates on all Council activities. The page can be another tool to fill the Hall for events, and spread the word to those who "like" the page.

When Tom isn't busy with the Knights, he has his hands full, as he's entering his fourth year of a 5-year apprenticeship to be an electrician in IBEW Local 26. His last year will include journeyman classes. He also serves Saint Patrick's youth ministry. "The opportunity to be a part of the largest youth ministry in the county, a night with typically 50-plus teens, has been a great joy to me," Tom says. "It's allowing me to grow in my own knowledge of our Church. So 2014 was a great year for me. I was Confirmed, married, and joined the Knights in all of about five months." Next time you see Tom, give him a standing ovation. What a witness to the Faith, his family, and to his brother Knights! Reach him at [tjm812@gmail.com](mailto:tjm812@gmail.com), or 301-760-9687.



A working screen shot of the new Council 2323 Website shows work in progress. Updates will include better organization, easy access, dues payable online, and much more. At right is screen shot of "closed" Facebook Council 2323 page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kofc2323/>

Check out the beta Website at <http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/index.asp?CNO=2323>. Send comments and suggestions to Gary Palmer, [gtdbpalmer@verizon.net](mailto:gtdbpalmer@verizon.net), or Tom McFarland, [tjm812@gmail.com](mailto:tjm812@gmail.com).



*Many thanks to FDD/PGK/PFN Jack Giacalone; FS Don Hemke, and SK Paul D. McFarlane, PGK/Editor, Fr. Maher's Nightly News, all of Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council 6793, Olney, Md., for their counsel on current media efforts. ~ J.F.S.*

# Montgomery Council 2323 Calendar

## March

- March 9, Maryland March for Life, Annapolis, Md.
- March 17, 8 p.m. (St. Patrick's Day), Social Meeting
- March 20, 6-8 p.m., Lenten Fish Fry
- March 23, 7:30 p.m., Building Corp.
- March 24, 7:30 p.m., Executive Committee
- March 28, Founder's Day

## April

- April 3, Good Friday
- April 5, Easter Sunday
- April 7, 8 p.m., Business Meeting
- April 21, 8 p.m., 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Exemplification
- April 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Parish Education Donations Luncheon
- April 27, 7:30 p.m., Building Corp.
- April 28, 7:30 p.m., Executive Committee

## May Highlights

- May 1-3, Knights of Columbus State Convention, Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, Md.
- May 14, Ascension Thursday, Holy Day of Obligation

*All meetings at Father Cuddy Hall, unless indicated.*

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