



The Courier

Montgomery Council 2323

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November-December 2015 • 301-977-2644

Grand Knight's Message



Mike Bean, GK

Charity & Love Prevail In This Season Of Eternal Hope

It has been a good year. We've had many successes. Family Night is still running strong, having held three events in each month of September, October and November. We plan, in the months ahead, to support different charities. We supported Special Olympics Montgomery, Life Connections (dedicated to bringing hope and opportunities to impoverished children and adults in Haiti) and in November and December, the Christmas toy drives for Rockville and Gaithersburg. I'd like to thank long-time Family Night crew of **Pat Gilroy, Guy Poirier, Paul Lidberg, Matt McCormick, Mark Stiles, Bob Scanlon, Matt Mongelli** and **Victor Muzzatti** for their service to Charity.

The Senior Citizen dinner dance was another success (covered in our September-October issue), thanks to **Calvin Ogden** who has run the event for 17 years, organizing a sit-down dinner and dancing for more than 200 seniors. Calvin announced his retirement after the latest event. Calvin, I just want to say thank you to you and your wife, Mable, from our Council for the years of charity. And for finding your replacement, our current warden **George Silvas**. George stepped up to the plate. He said he has had so much fun working the event over the years that he is excited to take it on. Thanks to the many who work the Senior Citizen event. It takes a lot, and these guys make it happen without a hitch: **Leo Snyder, Robert Mongelli, Matthew Mongelli, George and Manli Silvas, Joseph Kempf, John Leighton, Kevin Ginley, William Rawson, Ed Day, Steven Willer, Michael Joseph, Victor Sogah, Mike Thomas Bernard Gomersall** and **Gary Palmer**. To date the Council has served more than 6,400 senior and disabled persons, contributed more than \$38,500 toward their physical and social enjoyment, and volunteered more than 4,300 work-hours to help better the lives of the elderly.

John Leighton and his wife **Lisa** have run the pumpkin carving for many years, and this year provided 30 pumpkins, stencils, carving tools, desserts for the Council youth. Thank you both for running this annual event. I think we had about 25 kids this year, and some adults.

The annual campaign to help the intellectually challenged is coming to an end. Thanks to our **Chancellor Ed Day, SK**, and the many Knights who helped collecting donations, and handing out Tootsie Rolls, it looks like we'll near the \$5,000 mark again this year. Running this charity event is difficult and time-consuming, and many thanks to SK Day and all our Knights who volunteered for stepping up to the plate.

Please visit our Website and Facebook page. Our membership chairman **Gary Palmer** and **Tom McFarland** work hard to keep these sites up to date. Latest on the web page, we now have an Amazon link. If you use it to get to Amazon, we get a percentage of proceeds from the sales to our Council and it just directs you to Amazon. A “no-brainer,” as they say. If you are reading this online, click here [Knights of Columbus #2323 UKnight](#) for the web page and here [Knights of Columbus #2323 Facebook](#) for the Facebook page. If you are reading this on paper, well, God bless you.

OK, that's half the year. Let's keep it rolling through 2016, but I hope you get my point: **CHARITY**. A quote from **Mother Teresa**: *It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.*



Fr. John Dillon

Chaplain's Message

A Christmas Invite To Bring Faith, Hope & Light into Your Family & Knights Brotherhood

I want to begin my column by sharing a message from Pope Francis. Our Supreme Council has encouraged all chaplains to share this message with members of our Councils. This is from Pope Francis' message to participants in the 47th Social Week of Italian Catholics: “For the Christian community, the family is far more than a ‘theme.’ It is life, it is the daily fabric of life, it is the journey of generations who pass on the faith, together with love, and with the basic moral values. It is concrete solidarity, effort, patience, and also a project, hope, a future. All this, which the Christian community lives out in the light of faith, hope and charity, should never be kept to oneself but must become, every day, the leaven in the dough of the whole of society for its greater common good.

“Hope and a future presuppose memory. The memory of our elderly people sustains us as we journey on. The future of society ... is rooted in the elderly and in the young—the latter, because they have the strength and are of the age to carry history ahead; the former, because they are a living memory. A people that does not take care of its elderly, its children and its youth has no future, because it abuses both memory and promise.”

Ask yourself:

- **Who is person in your family whose faith shaped yours?** What strengths does each member of our family have?

- **What are some ways our family tries to live our belief in God and his Church?**
Which virtue seems to be particularly strong in our family—faith, hope or charity?
- **Why is keeping alive the memory of our history, our family roots, important to shaping the future?**

Our family defines each and every one of us. Because our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents chose life, we are here today. I invite us, particularly during the months of November and December, to thank God for the gift of your family.

Supreme Council has developed a new program called the “Fifth Sunday Rosary Program.” We all know that the Rosary offers a great opportunity for Knights of Columbus members and their families to strengthen their faith. Community devotions also can give families opportunities to experience the faith and fellowship of the Order. In the spirit of the “Walk with Francis” pledge, I pledged to pray the Rosary on the fifth Sundays of the 2015-2016 Fraternal Year. The next one will be Sunday, January 30, 2016. I challenge my brother Knights to join me in praying the Rosary at 7 p.m. in the rectory chapel at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Derwood, Md. Other family members are welcome to pray with us as well. And I wish you and your family and Happy & Holy Christmas!



The Holy Door at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Holy Jubilee Year

Cardinal Wuerl Opens Door of Mercy

Cardinal Donald Wuerl opened the Holy Door at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, ushering in the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Calling the opening “a prelude to the profound experience of grace and reconciliation that awaits us this year,” the Cardinal was the first to walk through the newly opened Door, “a symbol of God’s loving welcome.”

The extraordinary Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis began Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and continues through Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

What is a Jubilee?

A special anniversary originating from the Jewish practice of celebrating God’s favor every 50 years. For Catholics, a jubilee is a time of special solemnity and piety. Ordinarily, a jubilee is held every 25 years. An extraordinary jubilee year may be declared by the pope to solemnize a particular period of prayer and rejoicing.

Why is it called a “Year of Mercy?”

Pope Francis has called it a Year of Mercy to highlight the importance of God’s loving message of compassion and pardon. The year-long celebration confirms the Church’s role in sharing God’s mercy, from which no person touched by grace can be excluded. Through the

corporal and spiritual works of mercy, the faithful concretely participate in extending this message of mercy.

What is a Holy Door? Where are they located?

Holy Doors are specially designated doors that symbolize the entrance into the presence of God. They offer an opportunity for concrete action: As each person physically enters through the doorway, he displays his desire to enter a new life of grace. Seven major Holy Doors are located in basilicas throughout the world. In addition, every diocese will have a special door or doors designated as a “Door of Mercy” to serve as a reminder that the experience of conversion and mercy is open to everyone throughout the world. An indulgence may be obtained by making a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors.

What is an indulgence?

An indulgence is the remission of temporal punishment due to sin. In the same way that priests may forgive sins through the Sacrament of Penance, the Church has authority to remit punishment of sin outside the Sacrament. While indulgences are associated with certain acts, these acts do not “earn” or “buy” forgiveness; they instead teach us that we must strive to make amends for our sins and show us the effect of good works in the life of God’s grace.

What are the works of mercy?

These are the works or acts by which we offer others physical or spiritual aid. The corporal works are: to give food to the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the imprisoned, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and to bury the dead. The spiritual works of mercy are: to admonish the sinner, to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to comfort the sorrowful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive all injuries, and to pray for the living and the dead. © *Knights of Columbus; reprinted with permission.*

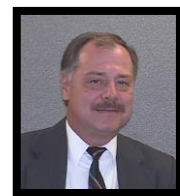


District Deputy’s Message

Be Ye Fishers of Men; You Catch ‘Em; He’ll Clean ‘Em

Congratulations, thanks, and welcome to our new District Warden, Brother **Joseph Krempasky**, PGK of Fr. Maher Council 6793, and his Lovely Lady, Susan! I’m glad to have Joe as my District Warden for the remainder of this Fraternal Year.

By now you may have heard that, on Aug. 27, after much soul searching and with a heavy heart, our Worthy State Deputy, **Stephen Adamczyk, SK**, and the State Membership Director, **Bryan Adamczyk, SK**, unexpectedly resigned from their Offices. They requested prayers and privacy. Our new State Deputy for the remainder of this Fraternal Year is former State Secretary **Stephen Cohen, SK** and our new Membership



Joseph Krempasky

Director **Thom Partenope, SK**. Please provide them with your prayers and support in this difficult time. (Information is available in the September State Bulletin.)

It’s hard to believe that the Fraternal Year is almost half complete. How are you doing on the New Year’s Resolutions that I suggested back in July?

Please make an effort to attend your Council's Business Meetings to keep abreast of what's happening in your Council.

Remember why you joined the Knights and what activities you indicated an interest in on your Form 100. Then get involved in at least one Council event this year to help your Council succeed. If you participated in one Council event this past year, make it two events this year. Don't wait to be asked to volunteer; when you hear about an event and who is the Chairman, call him to offer your assistance. Many hands make for light work. You'll have fun and you'll be appreciated.

Invite at least one Catholic gentleman that you know to join the ranks of our Order. He might just say yes!

Marilyn and I wish you a very Merry Christmas while you celebrate with and appreciate family members near and far! *Vivat Jesus! ~ Steve Goldhammer, DD30*



Maryland State Council

Joe Feakes Helps Unemployed Knights Find Work

Maryland State Employment Assistance Chairman

Joe Feakes is on a quest to have every Knight seeking work gainfully employed. On the State Council Web site, www.kofc-md.org/docs1415/HelpABrotherKnight.asp,

Feakes provides companies with openings and also lists, anonymously, the skills of Knights looking for work. **Brothers in Need include these:**

- **Brother Knight 1:** Several degrees in marketing including post graduate training in related fields.
- **Brother Knight 2:** Degrees in business management including basic word skills, software, and incident investigator. Additional 25 years' experience in working with adults and children with intellectual disabilities in public and private environments.
- **Brother Knight 3:** Degree in education, available immediately.
- **Brother Knight 4:** Sales professional with experience in new business development and all associated skills in sales and marketing.
- **Brother Knight 5:** Wide range of experience in designing, engineering, and implementation of multiple applications of aircraft design and technology.

Feakes also lists companies offering employment, including:

- **VEND LEASE COMPANY;** seeking a Loan/Lease Documentation Specialist; responsibilities include accurate preparation of paper and electronic documents; preparing and reviewing lease documents; detailed follow up on documentation; written and verbal communication with customers; Requirements: at least two years office experience and a high school diploma, working knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel, excellent communication and organizational skills.

- **SERVICE CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL;** Driver/Funeral Assistant, available in several locations throughout the state.

Feakes can be reached at 301-642-2919 or JosephFeakes@aol.com.



Annual Tootsie Roll Effort Near \$5K

Montgomery County Council 2323 has been conducting its annual Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities, in which it hands out Tootsie Rolls for donations to support of adults with developmental disabilities.

By God's grace and Knights' selfless service, we had a successful year. Solicitations held at St. Francis, St. Mary's and St. Martin's parishes, as well as local food stores, gleaned \$3,700. Thanks to efforts of team leaders **Mike Joseph, PGK; Larry Royster, PGK; Jack Johnson; John DeMaré, DGK; and George Silvas, SK**, we were able to staff collections

at several grocery stores and weekend Masses. Many brother Knights gave up precious weekends to man collection sites. Their example of Charity, Unity and Fraternity inspired the generosity of many, and will act to encourage others in our Order to answer the call to service, for which our Council and Order are known. A dinner/dance is planned in the near future; proceeds will go to this worthy cause.

Special thanks to Grand Knight Mike Bean for his leadership and inspiration. Council 2323 owes a debt of gratitude to all those who participated in this year's Tootsie Roll effort. Their time and dedication should act as an incentive to achieve greater things next year. ~ *Vivat Jesus! Chancellor Ed Day, SK*



Medical Mission For Haiti

Council Hosts Dinner On Jan. 31, 3-7 p.m.

The Council will host its Annual Spaghetti Dinner to support St. Francis of Assisi's Medical Mission to Haiti. The Mission needs funds for prescription drugs and medications; vitamins; medical supplies and equipment; salary for a nurse; hospital expenses for patients; and more.

The dinner will be held on Sunday, Jan. 31, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Father Cuddy Hall. It includes spaghetti with sauce and meatballs, salad, bread, sodas, beer and wine. The cost is \$10 for adults (14 & above); \$7 for children (ages 7 to 13); free for children 6 & under; and \$35 maximum for a family. Please call/email Mike Thomas in advance (301-330-5970 or cinnabarmike@verizon.net). If you cannot make the dinner, but would like to make a donation, please write a check payable to Knights of Columbus, and mail to P.O. Box 5626, Derwood, MD 20855-0626.

Only Having Insurance “Through Work” Doesn’t Really Work

Do you know anyone whose life or career has drastically changed during these years of economic downturn? It’s very likely that someone in your immediate or extended family or group of friends is facing financial uncertainty. Maybe there’s a possibility that you (or your spouse) could lose your job or change employers.

Too many people have often relied on group term life insurance as their only safety net. Often, this insurance is an employee benefit provided at low or no cost. The existence of this coverage might convince someone that personally-owned life insurance is not necessary.

But only having “through work” insurance can leave you and your family vulnerable. Most group life insurance policies are limited in amount, which may be tied to salary or some other benchmark. These numbers are often capped, and this cap may be dangerously low when compared to your family’s actual needs. In fact, a detailed needs analysis that evaluates your specific situation, will likely show that any employer-provided coverage falls short.

In addition, the amount of group insurance offered is almost always reduced, sometimes dramatically, when you retire. You could one day find yourself without coverage, and if your health has changed (which it will as you age), you might also find yourself unable to secure individual protection. At the very least, it will definitely be more expensive.

While group life insurance can help, it does not replace the need for individually owned life insurance. I’ll be happy to meet with you and provide a no-cost needs analysis, so you’ll know exactly where you stand. ~ David N. Luksic, Field Agent, Knights of Columbus, 301-370-1907, david.luksic@kofc.org.



HELP WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Gentlemen, Brother Knights:

We have nearly 400 members, and the current Editor surely isn’t the only one who can move words and pictures around on a page. We have many, many talented people in this Council. I’ve always made it known that I’m interested in all facets of being a Knight and didn’t want to become a “lifer” as Editor.

It’s a fun job, but requires dedicated time. Each issue can take up to 40 hours to produce, depending on its complexity. It’s certainly rewarding in that you get to know how the Council works, and who does what. That newsboy image to the left (top) is a placeholder for **YOUR** picture. See, I’m looking to vacate my post by mid-year 2016, giving us three issues to work on, together, and three for you to start with, while I guide you along the way. I’ll even contribute stories as able. **I would enjoy hearing from you.** I can be reached at 301-963-4789 or via email: josephschuler@starpower.net. ***Great adventures await, in print and online!***



Courier Editor
Joe Schuler, Jr.

Past Grand Knight Soiree Honors Courageous, Dedicated Leaders

Grand Knight Michael Bean, Deputy Grand Knight John DeMaré and Membership Committee Chairman Gary Palmer hosted the Past Grand Knight Dinner, attended by eight Past Grand Knights and their spouses. The honorees in attendance at the Nov. 14 event at Father Cuddy Hall were Pat Cribbin, Guy Beaven, Shannon Doherty, Kevin Ginley, John Leighton, David Ball, Larry Royster and Michael Joseph. A delicious, four-course meal was prepared by Council 2323's master chefs, including Matt and Bobby Mongelli, Mark Lynch, Kevin Bean, Mike Thomas and Chuck Durbin.

The meal included marinated scallops and assorted hors d'oeuvres, salad, steak, rice and mixed vegetables; also, ice cream, pound cake and spiced apple for dessert. There was open bar for beer, wine, soft drinks, and coffee. Nattily attired maitre d' Michael Thomas personally served this fine meal and saw to everybody's satisfaction and enjoyment. Everyone attendance agreed this is one of Council 2323's finest and most enjoyable annual events. ~ *John G. DeMaré, Deputy Grand Knight*



Mike Thomas serves Mr. and Mrs. Cribbin.



GK Bean & PGK Joseph.



A Grand Past

Seated (from left): Kevin Ginley, Pat Cribbin, David Ball, all PGK.

Standing (from left): Guy Beaven, Larry Royster, Michael Joseph, John Leighton, and Shannon Doherty, all PGK.

Council 2323 News Briefs

- ✓ **KNIGHT'S GEAR & MORE.** Check out Knight's Gear at www.knightsgear.com; remember every time you wear the Knights of Columbus logo on your shirt, cap, tee-shirt or jacket, you are evangelizing for the Knights. Your actions could encourage a man to join the Order. Be ready with a Form 100 and offer him a chance to be a Brother Knight.

- ✓ ***READ ALL ABOUT IT.*** Check out the Web site and Facebook page! **Tom McFarland** and **Gary Palmer** put lots of work in to keep them up to date. [Click here](http://kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/membersOnly1.asp?CNO=2323) for access (kofcknights.org/CouncilSite/membersOnly1.asp?CNO=2323) and [click here](http://www.facebook.com/kofc2323) if you're online to access Facebook (www.facebook.com/kofc2323).

- ✓ **DUES DUE.** If you have not paid your dues, please send them via mail to Financial Secretary **Pat Cribbin**, 1802 Henry Road, Rockville, MD 20851. Or bring the dues to a meeting.

- ✓ ***BUY A CROSS FOR SYRIAN CHRISTIANS.*** Crosses are being sold to benefit Christians in Syria and Iran. Contact **Grand Knight Mike Bean** for details.

- ✓ **FOOD FOR FAMILIES.** So far this Fraternal Year, 1,250 pounds of rice has been donated to St. Martin's Food Pantry since July. **Leo Snyder** says St. Martin's Parish is sponsoring a coat distribution for children and adults that all Fraternal Brothers could participate easily in. You bring coats to be donated to Council meetings, and Leo delivers them for you to St. Martin's. It couldn't be easier, thanks to our SuperVeteran Leo!

- ✓ ***HELP THEM TO SEE.*** **Mike Thomas** says used eyeglasses are still being collected. Any donation is good, even glasses with scratched lenses. Money also is also accepted.

- ✓ **SIX NEW MEMBERS.** Six new Council members on Nov. 17 received their 1st Degree: **Jim McCann**, deacon at St. Francis; **Richard Murphy**, St. Francis; **Richard Staab**, St. Mary; **Charles Choyce**, St. Mary; **Daniel Gannon**, St. Mary; and **Marcus Brown**, St. Martin.

- ✓ **MEMBERS ONLY.** Contact **Gary Palmer** at 301-948-6494 or send him an e-mail at gtdbpalmer@verizon.net for any membership needs.



A new documentary illustrating how St. John Paul II was a driving force in liberating Central and Eastern Europe from communist rule, inspiring a “revolution of conscience” that was pivotal in the collapse of the Iron Curtain in 1989, made its national debut Dec. 6. *Liberating a Continent: John Paul II and the Fall of Communism* had its TV premiere the following night on WTTW in Chicago. The film generated a high rating for the PBS member station and will be distributed nationally by PBS this coming March.

Narrated by actor Jim Caviezel and featuring original music by renowned composer **Joe Kraemer** (*Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*, *Jack Reacher*), the documentary features rare archival footage and exclusive interviews with former Polish president and Solidarity founder **Lech Wałęsa**; papal biographer **George Weigel**; John Paul’s lifelong assistant, **Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz**, archbishop of Kraków; **Richard Allen**, Ronald Reagan’s National Security advisor; and numerous others.

“The spiritual dynamic that John Paul II brought behind the Iron Curtain was absolutely essential in the liberation of the continent,” said **Carl Anderson**, the film’s executive producer and CEO of the Knights of Columbus.

“We often think of political or economic forces changing history, but John Paul II understood that men and women live and die for great ideas. They live and die in defense of human dignity, and therefore, he was essential to this new birth of freedom on the European continent,” he added. Anderson worked closely with John Paul II as both head of the Knights of Columbus and during his service as a White House official under President Ronald Reagan.

The 90-minute film chronicles Karol Wojtyła’s remarkable rise from an underground seminarian and amateur playwright to cardinal archbishop of Kraków. Further, it brings to light how Wojtyła’s ascension to the papacy in 1978 struck fear in the heart of the Soviet Politburo. As archbishop, Wojtyła developed tools for resistance to communist rule that were grounded in defense of human rights and the reclaiming of Poland’s Catholic identity. Historians and journalists, with access to recently declassified KGB documents, help to illustrate the vast Soviet campaign to counteract John Paul II’s moral crusade. The documentary follows the wave of free thought that

swept through the Soviet bloc as a result of the pope's epic nine-day pilgrimage to Poland in June 1979.

“John Paul II sowed the seeds that would later give birth to the Solidarity movement,” said Anderson. “Without his spiritual support Solidarity’s success would not have been possible, and without Solidarity you do not have the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Revolution of ’89.”

A national TV distribution in the United States and a theatrical distribution in Poland is planned for spring 2016. For more information about the film, visit jp2film.com.



A Past Grand Knights Dinner photo too good to pass up: PGKs with their wives and PGK widows.



May Your Christmas Be Happy & Holy!

Montgomery Council 2323 Calendar

January

- Jan. 5, Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
- Jan. 18, Social Meeting, 8 p.m.
- Jan. 31, Spaghetti Dinner for Haiti, 3-7 p.m.
- Jan. 31, 5th Sunday Rosary, St. Clare Chapel, St. Francis Church, Derwood

February

- Feb. 1, Business Meeting, 8 p.m.
- Feb. 15, Social Meeting, 8 p.m.

Upcoming - Highlights

*** Special Activity: Jan. 19 Social Meeting, "KofC 101," or, "Anything You Ever Wanted to Know About the KofC." Special event for new/veteran members to learn more about their Council.***

Degree Ceremonies:

- Jan. 15 (Fri), 3rd Degree, Rock Creek Council, Bethesda (7/7:30 p.m.)
- Jan. 27 (Wed), 1st Degree, St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg (7:30/8 p.m.)
- Jan. 29 (Fri), 2nd Degree, St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg (7:30/8 p.m.)
- Feb. 24 (Wed), 1st Degree, Fr. Peter Paul Maher Council, Olney (7/7:30 p.m.)

*Note: Dates/locations change. Visit <http://www.kofc-md.org/> for latest information.

All meetings at Fr. Cuddy Hall, 17001 Overhill Rd., Derwood, Md. 20855 – unless indicated.

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